

A NEW MUSICAL THEATER PRODUCTION!

"Soul Harmony"

June 20 – July 1, 2018

[TICKETS](#)



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Soul Harmony: The Story of Deborah Chessler, Sonny Til and The Orioles makes its World Premier at Uptown!, featuring the Orioles' classic R&B Songs, an original award-winning score and authentic dance. This new musical tells the very beginning of the Rock & Roll story that has captivated millions in Broadway shows like, *Jersey Boys*, *Motown the Musical* and *Million Dollar Quartet*. ***Soul Harmony*** takes the audience on a journey into the new era of American music and culture, an exciting time of challenge and change.



When a young Jewish singer/songwriter, Deborah Chessler, partnered with a dynamic black vocal group, The Orioles, they made history. Their #1 hit, "It's Too Soon to Know", gave birth to Rhythm & Blues, a new genre of music that ignited a generation. Deborah, Sonny and The Orioles were trailblazers, the R&B vocal group who "established the basic pattern for the Doo-Wop sound" (Rock and Roll Hall of Fame). More chart-topping songs, "Crying in The Chapel", "Tell Me So", and "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me", became part of an unforgettable story.

Soul Harmony Writers, Michael Allen Harrison and Alan Berg, set the stage for the sensational musical story in the social context of the times, that of rigid segregation in an industry that often failed to take women seriously or treat black performers equally. But Deborah and the Orioles had a sound and a stage presence that could not be suppressed. Their rise to music nobility was remarkable, as "race" songs crossed over into mainstream markets, and young fans of diverse backgrounds responded to the new sound. It is part of the American Story.



The role of Deborah Chessler is played by Monica Rodrigues, a gifted new musical theater talent from New York. Her previous roles include Lulu in *Cabaret*, Maria Elena u/s in *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story* at The Palace Theater, and Deborah Chessler in the 2015 debut of *Soul Harmony*, for which she was nominated for Best Actress/Featured Performer. Sonny Til clearly passed along musical talent to his grandson, De'Sean Dooley, who plays his grandfather's role. He won a Portland Area Musical Theater Award for Outstanding Debut in *Soul Harmony's* 2015 debut. He is a Principal Singer with RWS Entertainment Group, NY, Singer at Hank Lane Music & Productions, NY, and Celebrity Cruises Productions, Miami. Other cast members include "King of

Oldies", Philly DJ Ali Hackett, Music historian and Classic Urban Harmony owner, Charlie Horner and Joel Katz, who's *Classic Doo Wop* show sold out at Uptown! last fall.

The 2015 debut of *Soul Harmony* in Portland, Oregon won four Portland Area Musical Theater Awards (PAMTA) for Outstanding Original Musical, Outstanding Original Score, Outstanding New Song for "The Music Inside", and Best Orchestration. *Soul Harmony: The Story of Deborah Chessler, Sonny Til and The Orioles* was newly created for introduction to a broader audience. Harrison-Berg selected Uptown!, a new theater, for the world premiere of their new musical. In an area with a rich tradition of musical appreciation and history, and an audience for musical theater as well as Doo Wop and early Rock & Roll, they believe it will be a perfect match to tell the story of the origin of Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll and Doo-Wop! This could be the beginning of something that goes on to much bigger things.

For additional information, [watch this VIDEO](#) or visit SoulHarmonyMusical.com

Tickets: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=78066>