

April 9, 2015

U.S. | NEW YORK | NY CULTURE

New York Marks Billie Holiday's Centennial

Plus Gregory Charles, Lena Hall and more in this week's jazz scene

Lena Hall, 'Sin and Salvation'

[The Café Carlyle](#)

35 E. 76th St., (212) 744-1600

Through April 18

When "Psycho Killer" by the Talking Heads is one of the quieter tunes of the evening, you know you're as far as you can get from traditional Café Carlyle fare. There's been rock 'n' roll repertoire in the venerable venue before, but usually interpreted by the likes of Barb Jungr or Betty Lavette, in something like a more intimate, supper-club fashion. However, Lena Hall, known on Broadway for "Kinky Boots" and "Hedwig," comes out blasting like she's in a stadium. Still, for the most part, the rules are the same as traditional cabaret: It helps when the songs are relatively familiar and tell a clear-cut story, and when she works at creating an intimate connection even within the rock lexicon, as on "Maybe I'm Amazed." By that standard, what might have been the most inappropriate number, the 2010 rap hit "Tightrope," was actually one of the most successful.