

ALEX DONNER
SOCIETY BAND LEADER



How did you get your start?

My first job out of college was as the band-leader/singer at El Morocco, and then I went to law school. I did divorces during the week as a lawyer and weddings on the weekend with the band before playing my first major destination wedding in India in the '80s for a former divorce client, which was hosted by the Maharajah of Jaipur. I decided to pursue my love for music full time and have never looked back.

How has the music you play for parties changed over the years?

We always come in ready to play what the host has requested but we also "read the crowd" and play everything from contemporary to classic rock to Motown to Sinatra to Bubl  to Big Band. That's why the bandleader is so important. The goal is to make every event musically magical and memorable and keep a good flow on the dance floor. We pay special attention to appropriate sound levels so people will want to dance but also be able to talk at the tables. We're doing more small parties than ever before, with our top musicians playing multiple instruments and singing so the small band sounds bigger with a very broad repertoire.

Tell me about your musicians and singers. They are the best in New York. Most of them went on the road in their 20s with big names like Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, and Michael Jackson. But when they got into their 30s they wanted to raise a family and have a more stable work-life balance with Alex Donner Entertainment.

What's new?

During COVID I bought a place in West Palm Beach, where I spend the season. I put together my Florida band, which is in demand for parties, weddings, and benefits down there. We also do a lot of house parties there and in the Hamptons with just one or two musicians or a DJ and a band.

What are you most proud of in your career?

I am proud that we have helped raise millions of dollars playing for charitable events. I am also proud of having performed as the headline singer at the Caf  Carlyle for 10 sold-out performances. And I do an all-music radio show based in Palm Beach County at "Legends Radio" 100.3 FM, which also streams.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

VANESSA NOEL
SHOE DESIGNER EXTRAORDINAIRE



Vanessa Noel is an American luxury shoe designer, philanthropist, and founder of the first shoe museum in the United States.

How long have you been designing shoes, and where is your store?

I've been designing my own label for nearly four decades, and my shoe salon is at 158 East 64th Street in New York City. It's an incredibly special place to visit—the first room is covered in emerald green python skins, and the main room is painted with a liquid gold metal finish. We have a private speakeasy, the Stiletto Podcast Bar, in the back where special clients are invited for lunch or for afternoon cocktails. Fashion and retail shopping have become so corporate, so I created a space that is opulent, exclusive, and represents my truly luxurious shoes and everything I design.

What else do you design along with your beautiful shoes?

I began designing handbags and small accessories several years ago, and I'm launching my new, extraordinary jewelry collection this winter using top-quality lab-grown stones. It's very glamorous and so different! I'm also creating one-of-a-kind gemstone buckles for shoes and handbags. Everything I produce is one of a kind or in limited runs. That is true luxury!

What do you feel luxury is?

True luxury accessories are exceptionally well made from the best materials, handmade by artisans, and not mass produced—things that are special and not found everywhere. The big mass-market labels are not luxury. The products they produce are common, overpriced, and corporate and the manufacturers cut corners to increase profit and don't appreciate quality, artistry, or their clients.

Tell me about your shoe museum.

The Noel Shoe Museum is the first and only shoe museum in the U.S.! This is my legacy project, and I am so thrilled to be opening the most exciting new nonprofit institution in New York City! We're hosting our third annual fundraising gala this October in New York. We also just produced our second curated exhibition this summer on Nantucket, which was hugely successful, and we're thrilled to be planning future exhibitions while looking for a permanent home.

Did I hear you are also starting a podcast?

Yes! I'm starting the podcast this fall—you will begin to hear all about that soon. I'm also writing the first book on wedding shoes. I love creating—it's not work for me!

LAURA GELLER
FOUNDER &
MAKEUP ARTIST



Laura Geller, veteran makeup artist and founder of Laura Geller Beauty, launched her namesake brand in 1997 with a mission of demystifying the daily makeup routine and creating transformational products that bring joy back to beauty for women who are 40-plus.

How did you get started in the beauty industry?

I actually began my journey as a makeup artist on Broadway, which significantly expanded my clientele. From there I opened a makeup studio on the Upper East Side, where clients frequently asked to purchase the products I used on them. This ultimately inspired me to start producing and selling my own line, and 20 years later here we are!

What makes your brand different?

We cater to women 40 and over—from the carefully chosen ingredients in our products to the models and celebrities we feature to the content we share on social media. Everything we do is designed to celebrate and support mature women. Many may know the brand from our bestselling Spackle primer collection, but we also specialize in baked makeup—a unique process where we blend cream pigments and bake them for 24 hours on terra-cotta tiles. This results in a formula that's significantly creamier and more hydrating than traditional pressed powder, making it perfect for mature skin. Our Baked Balance-n-Brighten Foundation has become a must-have in countless makeup collections.

When did you decide to exclusively market to mature women and why is that important to you?

Choosing my target audience was never a question; my customers are my peers, women age 40 and up. It's common for mature women to feel unseen as they age, so we wanted to create products that represent and celebrate our ladies over 40. We take pride in creating easy-to-use makeup that is well-known for its ability to flatter and enhance mature skin.

Baked Balance-n-Brighten
Color Correcting
Foundation \$36

DR. HOWARD SOBEL
HAIR TODAY,
HAIR TOMORROW



Dr. Howard Sobel, Manhattan's top cosmetic dermatologist, is known for pioneering the latest advances in face and body treatments and is a leading expert on the Alma TED treatment for hair loss.

Why do men and women experience hair loss?

Millions of Americans suffer from hair loss every year due to a host of reasons. It's normal to shed up to 100 hairs per day, but when it goes beyond that, it starts to affect your quality of life. Genetics, stress, menopause, medical illnesses, and even childbirth or birth control cessation may be the cause. A noteworthy hair-loss treatment known as the Alma TED device, which uses a transdermal delivery system, is a noninvasive hair restoration option that is painless, and results can be seen soon after several treatments. It has taken the place of PRP [platelet-rich plasma] injections because it is pain free. The TED treatments contain growth factors that stimulate hair growth, decrease hair loss, and increase the thickness of the hair.

How does the Alma TED ultrasound restore hair growth?

The Alma TED system is unique in that it relies on ultrasound technology that produces low-frequency ultrasonic sound waves plus air pressure to drive a special topical hair-growth formula containing growth factors deep into the scalp and hair follicles. The treatments also increase blood flow throughout the scalp, which is crucial in helping hair growth. I have added exosomes, which contain thousands of additional growth factors. This treatment can be the answer for those who suffer from thinning hair, excessive shedding, or hair loss caused by hereditary genetic factors or medical conditions for both men and women.

What happens during treatments?

Each treatment is relatively simple and takes about 20 to 30 minutes. When the treatment starts, you feel a warm sensation and a slight vibration, and you'll hear a slight ringing sound. It is completely painless as there are no needles involved.

How many treatments do you need?

Protocol recommends at least three treatments, each performed a month apart. However, most patients will begin to see improvement in just a month. While three treatments are the average, some will require or desire additional treatments.

For appointments please call 212 288-0060 or visit Dr. Sobel's website: sobelskin.com.