

KINDRED SPIRITS is a 501(c)(3) incorporated in 1994 by  
Anne Phillips and Bob Kindred. The work of Kindred Spirits  
falls under the all-encompassing concept of  
THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

IN THE SUMMER OF 1985 the Rev. John Garcia Gensel, the "Jazz Pastor" of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York suggested Anne Phillips as the writer of a Christmas benefit to be held there. That was the birth of The Jazz Nativity. Dave Brubeck, Clark Terry, Gene Bertoncini, Tommy Flanagan, George Mraz Grady Tate and tap-dancer Honi Coles were in that very first show with Pastor Gensel as host and Bob Kindred as musical director. Bob's haunting rendition of "Silent Night" created the opening mood in the darkened church that very first night just as it does today. The entire production is sung and instrumentally played. It is truly a "jazz opera."

The following years, with a large cast and full choir, the show played in many venues including, St. Bartholomew's Church, Avery Fisher Hall, the Lambs Theater and even one year, the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York. Charles Kuralt from CBS Sunday Morning became the host and wrote the introductory piece that opens the show.

In 2006 we were asked to present the show in a jazz club, Birdland, in New York. Our director, Beth Ann Kennedy who began with us in 1997 created an ensemble production. Beth has produced, written, and/or directed over 100 custom designed theatrical productions, fund raising events, and educational conferences in New York, Washington DC and most recently in Santa Fe.

Never has such a combination of jazz and theater been done. It is both moving and "a rollicking good time" as one reviewer said, It appeals to children and adults, jazz aficionados and those new to jazz. As another reviewer said, "This extraordinary performance will keep Christmas in you heart forever." A live recording, featuring many of the jazz legends who have been in it is available.

**We are happy that this year we will be back in a church (where there will be no drink minimum) and we will have the wonderful audience of families again.**

**Anne Phillips** singer, composer, arranger, conductor, producer began her career as a member of the Ray Charles Singers on the Perry Como Show. Since that time her career has covered almost every area of the music business. In addition to recording several solo albums, from the classic "**Born To Be Blue**", to last year's release, "**Ballet Time**" on which she sings with such old friends as Dave Brubeck and Marian McPartland, she has worked as a singer and choral arranger/conductor with many of the music world's leading artists and is widely known in the industry as the writer/arranger/producer of many national commercials. In order to introduce today's youth to the Great American Song, Anne directs **Children's Jazz Choirs** with inner-city children. "**Bending Towards the Light ... A Jazz Nativity**," the Christmas story told through jazz, has been produced in New York and other cities for many years. Other works include "**What Are We Doing To Our World?**" a musical expression of concern for the environment, "**Damn Everything But The Circus**," a full musical written with playwright Stephanie Braxton, music and lyrics Anne Phillips, "**The Great Grey Ghost of Old Spook Lane**," a children's musical published by Samuel French and several short operas which have been performed at Weill Hall at Carnegie and Opera America.