

Prompt Corner

The Newsletter of Sidmouth Arts Club Operatic Society

July 2007

The Melody Lingers On

Rehearsals are now well under way for this show and both Brian and Dorothy are very pleased with the way the cast are dedicating themselves to this production. With so much choreography in the show, Vicky asked for some help. Both Donna Heard and Sam Morris agreed and the result is very refreshing as there are now three distinct styles. All the cast are saying how much they are enjoying the music so, hopefully, we will be able to convey the same enjoyment to the audience. Those of you reading this newsletter and who are not in the show may like to know that the musical numbers include: -

- Alexander's Ragtime Band
- What'll I Do
- I Love a Piano
- A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody
- Puttin' On the Ritz
- How Deep is the Ocean
- Always
- Heat Wave
- Easter Parade
- Let Yourself Go
- **And over 30 more songs!!!!!!!!!!**

Priority Booking forms will be sent out soon. Please respond as soon as possible and remember that every ticket sold by members of the society saves the society having to pay 10% commission to the theatre box office. The bookings must be with the Treasurer by August 31st, as the tickets will go to the theatre on September 2nd.

Paint needed

Do you have any part used tins of emulsion paint. I think we all have "a bit left over" in the garage or the cupboard under the stairs. Preferably colours (not black, white or magnolia) are required. If you can help, please contact our stage manager for this show, Ray Salter, on 01395 516686. Thank you.

We need a man with a van!

The Melody Lingers On does not use a conventional set but we have begged, borrowed and appropriated several large items. These will

need to be collected during the week prior to the show and one item a little earlier. Can anyone help? If you are able to help or know a man who can please phone either Ray Salter (01395 516686) or Eddie Simmins (01404 811675).

Subscriptions

The society's financial year ends on July 31st and this means that subscriptions for next year are due on August 1st. In the past it has been the custom for members to pay at the AGM but it would make life a lot easier for the Treasurer if members could pay their subs to Selwyn Kussman before that date. The society is arranging with HMRC and the Charity Commission to treat all subscriptions as donations which will allow the society to reclaim the tax paid by members on their subscription under the Gift Aid scheme. This can be backdated to the year 2000 but each member will have to sign the appropriate declaration. A membership renewal form is enclosed with this letter. Please sign the appropriate declaration before you send it back with your subs. **The good news is that the committee have decided not to increase subscriptions for 2007/8.**

Annual General Meeting

Yes! Believe it or not we are only two months away from this annual event and you need to get your thinking caps on. The meeting will take place on Friday September 14th at St Peter's Hall. **Pat Salter** has decided that she wishes to stand down as the society's secretary. Pat has done sterling work for the society for over 12 years and we shall miss her quiet efficiency. So! **HELP!** We need someone to take over the position. Ideally the job requires good organisational skills, computer literacy, some spare time **and commitment**. If you think you might be able to help or can suggest someone who might be approached, please have a word with our chairman, Selwyn Kussman on 01395 515279.

Gill Baker & Tricia Barclay, our wardrobe mistresses **needs help!** Whilst not wishing to relinquish the job completely they are finding it a little arduous. Sewing skills are a help in this job

but it is more question of organisational skills and an interest in costume. Many of you will know that the society has a large wardrobe from which it derives a considerable income by hiring costumes out to other societies and organisations in the area. Charles Vance, The Testudo Players, The Old Bull and Bush Company of Artistes and the New Ottregians are regular hirers and we have, in fact, hired out as far a field as Taunton. Moreover, our own wardrobe enables us to costume most of our shows for a few hundred pounds. If we had to hire every costume the average costume bill would be £1500 - £2000 per show! You can see why Gill needs help. **Don't be shy! There must be someone out there who can lend a hand. Why not talk to Gill on 01395 578902.**

The Website

Yes! With help of resident Stage Manager, Lighting Expert and Cyber Whiz kid, Eddie Simmins, we are dragging ourselves into the 21st century by building a website. Eddie already has the basic home page in place and is adding current and archive material. You can view a rehearsal schedule for our current show, find out "who's who" and view pictures from our past productions on www.sacos.co.uk

Take a look and tell Eddie what you think of it (politely, of course!). Eddie will welcome any ideas you may have. E-mail him on eddie@sacos.co.uk

Anything Goes

It seems hard to believe but, yes, we have to start thinking about our spring production before the autumn one is completed.

Because Easter is very early next year (Good Friday is on March 21st) the show will open on March 22nd. This means that we cannot have too long a break after The Melody Lingers On before we start rehearsing for Anything Goes. The first rehearsal will be on Wednesday October 31st with the auditions probably on Monday November 12th. Audition material will be available during the first week of October. Anyone who is not taking part in The Melody Lingers On will be able to collect it from the Brian at the theatre. There are some very good parts in this show for all kinds of performers.

Reno Sweeney – Stunning Night Club Singer and former evangelist

Sir Evelyn Oakleigh – English Aristocrat engaged to Hope Harcourt but captivated by Reno!

Billy Crocker – Whitney's general manager in love with Hope

Hope Harcourt – Society Heiress engaged to Sir Evelyn but in love with Billy

Moonface Martin – Public enemy No. 13 – a gangster disguised as a missionary

Bonnie – Gangster's Moll, travelling with Moonface. Attracted to any male especially sailors!

Mrs Wadsworth T Harcourt – Society Matron, dog lover and mother of Hope

Elisha J Whitney – Wall Street executive. Gritty womaniser in love with whisky.

Charity – An "Angel" (the blonde backing group for Reno Sweeney)

Chastity - An "Angel" (the blonde backing group for Reno Sweeney)

Purity - An "Angel" (the blonde backing group for Reno Sweeney)

Virtue - An "Angel" (the blonde backing group for Reno Sweeney)

Captain – Skipper of the liner "American"

Purser – of the liner "American"

Ching – Chinese Christian convert addicted to poker

Ling – Chinese Christian convert addicted to poker.

Passengers, dancers and sailors.

Wow! The auditions should be interesting!

Some of the best known numbers are: -

- I get a kick out of you
- You're the top
- Easy to love
- It's de-lovely
- Blow, Gabriel, Blow
- Anything Goes

What Next?

Your committee is already considering what shows we should be presenting in the Autumn of 2008 and the spring of 2009.

Several shows have been shortlisted for in depth study and they are: -

- Annie Get Your Gun
- Showboat
- Cowardy Custard
- Thoroughly Modern Milly
- Half a Sixpence
- Oh! What a Lovely War
- G&S (either Pirates or Iolanthe)

If you have any comments let a committee member know.