

Prompt Corner

The Newsletter of Sidmouth Arts Club Operatic Society
October 2007

The Melody Lingers On

Well done to everybody who had anything to do with this show. The feedback from the general public has been quite outstanding. Perhaps one of the nicest comments came from an elderly couple who stopped Alec and told him that they had had a wonderful evening. They had been reliving their courtship! A good working relationship has been established with the Sidmouth Herald and Radio Devon for publicity. Gill and Lesley had made some stunning costumes – well done! And now, before we can get our breath back to: -

Anything Goes

Because Easter is very early next year (Good Friday is on March 21st) the show will open on March 22nd. This means that the first rehearsal will be on Wednesday October 31st with the **auditions on Monday November 19th** (not the 12th as previously advised). Audition material can be obtained from Brian (577433) before October 31st if you require it. We will revert to the more traditional rehearsal format for this show by having music rehearsals with Dorothy before we start the actual setting. As soon as the show is cast principals will start rehearsing on Wednesdays with company rehearsals on Mondays. This is because we have to use the church for rehearsals every fourth Wednesday and company rehearsals in the church are never very satisfactory. There are actually nineteen weeks between the first rehearsal and the first night which is plenty of time to put on a show of this nature so **don't start panicking!** There are lots of good parts and great company numbers. However, if too many people apply to be in the show it may be necessary to audition the company as well.

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, Chastity, Purity & Virtue - "Angels" (the blonde backing group for Reno Sweeney)

Captain – Skipper of the liner "SS American"

Purser – of the liner "American"

Ching – Chinese Christian convert addicted to poker

Ling – Chinese Christian convert addicted to poker.

Passengers, dancers and sailors.

The Christmas Party

This will be held at Littlecourt on Saturday December 15th. There is a charge of £5 to cover the cost of drinks and everyone is expected to bring some food. Please contact Selwyn (515279) if you wish to come and let him know what food you are prepared to bring.

The Bucket Collection

The Bucket collection at the end of The Melody Lingers On was for Sidmouth's Britain in Bloom fund. The collection amounted to £377.49 and the committee have agreed to round this up to £400 which Brian presented to the Britain in Bloom committee on Thurs. October 25th.

Autumn 2008

Your committee have given a lot of thought to the show we will present. A lot of consideration was given to "The Secret Garden". This is a delightful new musical based on the well known book written by Frances Hodgson Burnett. However it was decided that this was, perhaps, too big a project for the autumn show and the committee are now considering "Gigi" for autumn 2008. We have to look into the technical difficulties of presenting this show but providing this presents no major problems Gigi will be the committee's choice.

The Website

Have you looked at our website? You will find it at www.sacos.co.uk. You will be amazed at what you find!

The Wardrobe

Gill Baker, our wardrobe mistress **needs help!** Whilst not wishing to relinquish the job completely she is finding the job a little arduous. Sewing skills are a help 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 of its own 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 Otterregians are regular hirers and we have, 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. Talk to Gill on 01395 578902.**

And finally – Break a Leg

Do you know the origin of this expression? In Victorian theatres the curtains were swept up in two drapes by ropes which ran through plain blocks. These ropes were called legs. If you were so good that you took many curtain calls the friction caused by these ropes pulling the curtains up and down would cause the rope to break. You therefore "broke a leg" if you were so good that you took lots of curtain calls!