



# HI NOTES

## Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society Newsletter

MAY 2018

Send any information for Hi Notes to: [secretary@yaos.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yaos.org.uk)



### 'Top Hat'

What a great show with many superb moments! The dancing, the music and the costumes were fantastic and everyone who saw the show thoroughly enjoyed the great Irving Berlin songs!! However, the show did not sell well at all and the box office take was, quite frankly, abysmal – just under 54% and we have certainly lost money – something between £7,000 and £10,000 (why was this we ask ourselves?) Nevertheless, our congratulations to all concerned for what was an excellent show – on stage and off stage – we are lucky to have such a great team. Sheila did a fantastic job of the choreography, and our thanks also to Gill for the fabulous orchestra! Well done all!

**Programme** Programme sales amounted to £2,130 and a very reasonable profit on these will be made when the advertising revenue is added.

**Show Secretary** Our very grateful thanks to Lisa Gage for carrying out the duties of Show Secretary so admirably and keeping everyone up to date with goings on.

**Raffle** A wonderful figure of £1,532.67 was made on the raffle – congratulations Chris Owen and helpers!

Our **Charity** for the show, the Freewheelers, will benefit from £1 from all the seats sold on Charity Night (232) and from the bucket collections (which amounted to £418.68). We also supported **Beatnik** Theatre Company who were raising money for their forthcoming production of 'Avenue Q' and £336.41 was collected for them through the bucket collections.

### 'Sweeney Todd' – 9 – 13 October

We are pleased to welcome Martyn Knight again as Director, and also Lynne Merrifield, as Musical Director. Lovely to have you both back again Martyn and Lynne!! Sarah Andrew has volunteered to be Show Secretary this time. The assisting will be in Sheila Driver's capable hands once again.

We held auditions on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 April and after great deliberations have a fantastic cast as detailed below:

Sweeney Todd	Edward Creswick
Mrs Lovett	Kern Champion
Anthony	uncast
Johanna	Sarah Middleditch
Tobias	Lewis Ward
Judge Turpin	Duncan Wright
Beggar Woman	Charmaine Bray

(continued next column)

Pirelli

Beadle

Jonas Fogg

Well done everyone. May I add how wonderful it was that we had so many enthusiastic members came along to audition. It was very, very difficult deciding on a company of 21 ladies and 21 men and commiserations go to those who were not included in the cast.

Then on to –

**'42<sup>nd</sup> Street'** – next Spring. We are proud to have secured the licence for this show, which as you probably know is, at present, being performed in London. We are delighted to welcome our own Sheila Driver as Director and Gill Merrifield as Musical Director.

Put the show dates in your diary: **Wednesday** 27 March – Saturday 6 April 2019 which is a little later than normal. There will be a matinee on **both** Saturdays and **no** Monday performance. There will also be a matinee performance on Sunday 31 March at 2.30 pm.

**AUDITIONS DATE IS:**

**SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER**

Further on into the future –

### 'Chess'

We are thrilled to announce that our autumn 2019 production will be 'Chess', music by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus (of Abba fame) with lyrics by Tim Rice. Dates for the show are 8 - 12 October, 6 performances in all. A director and musical director have yet to be appointed. Once again, we are delighted to have secured this show which is due to be performed for a couple of months this summer in London.

### Congratulations to Jenny!

Members attended the annual David Beach awards in March at Somerset Cricket Club. We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Holland-Brewer won the Best Supporting Female (as Judy) in '9 to 5'. Many congratulations Jenny!!

### Social Matters

We are pleased that Lorna Murphy Durran has organised a social committee for us who are busy putting together events which, hopefully, will include a Dinner/Dance in July. Watch this space for details! If anyone would like to join the social committee they would be more than welcome – the more the merrier! Contact Lorna on 07943 831318.

Don't forget **'Avenue Q'** which will be presented by the Beatnik Theatre Company at the Octagon Theatre - Wednesday 6 - Saturday 9 June.

### **The Silver Singers**

The group are now meeting regularly on the second Tuesday in the month (not July and August) at Edwards House at 2.15 pm. If you would like to join them contact Mark and Jean Rudd on 01935 422231.

### **Condolences and our love go to –**

Fred McLoughlin and family on the death of Fred's dear wife, Anita, in February.

Alan Ferguson on the death of his dear Dad.

Tony Hobbs on the death of Mary in February. Mary was a long standing member of many years, took many parts and was our Musical Director on several occasions over the years.

### **Love and our best wishes go to –**

Roger Howell who had a spell in hospital in the spring.

### **NODA Awards**

Please let Paula know if you are due for a NODA long service award this year. They will be presented at the AGM in October.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS!! ....**

Your subscription (£20 or £10 for those aged between 14 – 18 years) is due 1 May and should be paid by the end of July. Please give or send to our Membership Secretary, Mary Nichols at 3 Lower Wraxhill Road YEOVIL Tel 425735.

### **Now a few words from Geoff -**

'It has been a very busy time for the society away from show performances. Things have changed or are changing on several fronts.

### **EDWARDS HOUSE**

As you will probably know Wreford and Marian Stainer and Mary Ross-White have stood down after many years from their positions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and leaving Edwards House in such a strong financial and structural position. I am pleased that Nick Mountjoy has taken over as Manager and Ann Harris as Treasurer, thank you both.

We are now in the process of updating the booking system and Lauren Francis has taken over from Julie Burt as booking officer. I would like to thank Julie for doing such a difficult job so well and she will still be involved by taking care of housekeeping.

The booking system is being computerised and all details will soon appear on our website YAOS. You can make bookings through Lauren at 07814 030558. Thank you Lauren.

### **PATRONS**

We have recently updated our Patrons scheme; again all details are on our website. I must say a big thank you to all our patrons whose financial support is such a bonus to the Society. If anyone knows of anyone interested in being a patron please contact Pauline Withers through our website contacts page. Another thank you this time to Pauline and all she does for our Patrons and thanks to those who helped with the updating.

### **TICKET SALES**

The system for ticket sales has been in operation for many years and has been very successful but we have always looked to update and improve it. Our new Business Manager Lorna Murphy Durran has many ideas, some of which will be implemented for 'Sweeney Todd'. One main idea is to get tickets on sale at the Octagon much earlier. I just want to assure our regular supporters that we will be reserving most of the best seats and they will be able to apply for them in the normal way upon receipt of the usual details from the society. Full details will be published soon.

It just remains for me to congratulate everyone involved in 'Top Hat' - what a great show.

What a wonderful turn out for 'Sweeney Todd' auditions, such talent! Congratulations to all who were successful and commiserations to those who didn't get in, always such a difficult thing to do. Can I just say there is always plenty to do in putting on a show so we always need help in other areas.

It just remains to say that if anyone wishes to discuss anything with me I am always around.

Best wishes and here's to another successful show.'  
Geoff

### **Don't Forget –**

the Suggestions Box in Edwards House! Let the Committee know if you have any tangible comment to make.

**Website** Keep your eye on our website for all information and updates. Our thanks to Guy Burgess for keeping this up to date for us.

The next edition of Hi Notes will be published in December. Please let Paula know if you have any comments to be included.

Email: [secretary@yaos.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yaos.org.uk)  
Website: [www.yaos.org](http://www.yaos.org)

