



# HI NOTES

## Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society Newsletter

MAY 2020

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

### 'Sound of Music'

It seems a very long time ago now, with everything that has happened in the last couple of months – but we have to say how very sad we all were to have the curtain brought down on the 'Sound of Music' on Monday 16 March because of the Coronavirus lockdown announced on that day. However, looking on the bright side, we did see 5 performances and the people who saw them thought the show was terrific! Once again, Sheila and Gill did us proud – Sheila gave us such a wonderful show and, once again, the orchestra was superb. It was probably the children who were the most upset, some not really understanding what was happening; they had all worked so hard during rehearsals – it was devastating for them, as, of course, it was for everyone involved.

### On to 'Chess' – the Autumn 2020 production

At the time this is being written, we are all still in lockdown, but, nevertheless, we've been active over the last few weeks and been holding 'Chess' rehearsals via the Zoom platform which have proved very successful in keeping us altogether at, what is, a difficult time. We held auditions for the 5 main principal parts last weekend via Zoom. This was a totally new experience for all of us – the audition panel consisted of Jeremy Tustin, Kat Stevens, Sheila Driver, Sarah Lowery, Lucy Crane, Pauline Warren, and outsider Lyn Lockyer. Auditionees were asked to submit audition videos and everyone thoroughly enjoyed watching them. The standard was extremely high and we have now cast the main parts.

Congratulations go to –

Erin Darling-Finan	Florence
Sarah Middleditch	Svetlana
Carl Holdway-Bradley	Freddie
Anatoly	Rob Reid
Arbiter	Jess Stephens

So we are moving forward with a rehearsal schedule, once again via Zoom over the next few weeks, until we can all meet and socialise once again in Edwards House.

### Video!!

The cast of 'Chess' have been very busy making a fabulous video of them all singing 'Thank you for the Music'. A **huge** 'thank you' to Kat Stevens for organising all this and also to Jess Stephens for the video. You can watch this now either on Facebook or on Instagram. Hopefully it will show everyone that YAOS has been very active in these strange times and we all continue to care for the community.

Below are a selection of comments the video has already received.

### Members comments:

Naomi Lawton: Goodness, this actually brought a tear to my eye hearing you all sing, miss you all, stay safe and happy xxx  
Leah Driver: This made me really emotional!!! Love this so much guys

Di Jamieson: That was brilliant people brought a tear  
Annette Hamilton: Well done everyone and a fantastic job by Jessica and Kat, what a team.

Simon Ball: Brilliant, well done everyone involved. Brought a lump to my throat

### Friends, family and YAOS audience comments

-Love this - thank you...can't wait to see Chess  
-Thank you all, that's really cheered me up today  
-Fabulous, lots of familiar faces and so much talent, thank you  
-That was amazing. Can't wait to see you in the actual show  
-Lots of friends performing here to brighten your day (Adam Burgan)

**The Octagon** also shared the video with the following statement:

'We would like to thank Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society and the cast of 'Chess' for brightening our day with their wonderful new video.

YAOS Productions will present 'Chess The Musical' at The Octagon Theatre from Tuesday 6 - Saturday 10 October'.

### Well done all!!

### On to 'Kinky Boots' – the Spring 2021 production

We welcome, once again, Jeremy Tustin as Director and Kat Stevens as Musical Director.

The show dates are –

Wednesday 17 to Saturday 27 March 2021 (slightly later than usual) so put these dates in your diary.

### NODA Long Service Awards

Please let Paula know if you are due for a NODA long service award this year. I am sure you are now fully aware that these awards have to be paid for. The awards 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. I know Mary will be sending out the subscription letters soon together with a letter regarding an impending increase in future subscriptions. Please give or send your sub to our Membership Secretary, Mary Nichols at 3 Lower Wraxhill Road YEOVIL Tel 425735.

## Now a few words from Geoff -

Dear All

I hope you are all keeping well during these strange times. What a disappointment it was that 'The Sound of Music' had to be stopped after 5 performances. I know everyone was very disappointed but as things have turned out it was the right thing to do.

It has been decided that unfortunately we cannot resurrect 'The Sound of Music' we have looked at various options but none of them were practical. At least we managed five performances I have heard of shows that got pulled at their dress rehearsal. I just want to say a big thank you to everyone involved in SoM it was a great show and audiences were thoroughly enjoying it.

And know onto 'Chess', online rehearsals are going very well now that everyone has got used to the technology. I would like to thank our MD Kat for setting up the zoom rehearsals and for all the work she has put into it. We have set a deadline of the end of June to make a decision about going ahead with the show.

To keep up to date with everything YAOS watch our web site YAOS.org and our social media pages.

Please stay safe and I hope we will all be together soon.

Geoff

## YAOS Bonus Ball Draw

I want to thank everyone who has subscribed to the Bonus Ball Draw which is helping to bring in much needed funds for the Society.

A big thank you goes to Joe Draper for all his help.

If there is anyone who hasn't joined and would like to we have five numbers available 1,5,10,39,49. Please email me [geoff-thresh@lineone.net](mailto:geoff-thresh@lineone.net) or call 01935 840380.

This is a list of winners so far:-

No. 6 Malcolm Britton  
18 John Macklin  
3 David Hallett  
8 Mary Ross-White  
23 Ken & Mary Nichols  
36 John Farr  
9 Catherine Cassells  
21 Hazel Draper  
33 Malcolm Britton

13 Ali Enticott  
7 Sharon Hansford  
25 Jackie Parsons  
25 Jackie Parsons  
20 Graham Chant  
5 Rollover  
14 Charles Clive-Ponsonby Fane

Good luck everyone!

**Our condolences go to** the family of the late Tony Hobbs who passed away in December

**Our congratulations go to** Guy and Sue Burgess who have just become grandparents again to a little girl, Daisy Annabelle - and

**Our commiserations go to** Jay Westaway and Sarah Andrew whose wedding was postponed at the beginning of this month because of the lockdown.

## Don't Forget –

the Suggestions Box in Edwards House (when we can socialise again!!) Let the Committee know if you have any tangible comment to make or email Paula at the address below.

**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)

Until then stay safe and well and have a good summer

