

Oxted Operatic Society

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their messages of support as I undertake the onerous task of Chairman until the AGM in July, one of several hats I now wear for the Society. Secondly, I would like to thank Peter for his dedication and hard work as Chairman over the last few years.

Chess (November 2012)

As predicted, not only did *Chess* prove to be unmissable but it was also probably the most vocally demanding show we have ever staged. Ultimately, I am very pleased to report on the tremendous success of this, our November production. Effectively 'sold out' for four of the five performances, the box office topped the 85% mark and audiences were full of praise. My thanks go not only to our fantastic production team of Paul Longhurst (Director), Steve Geraghty (MD), and Fran Newitt (Choreographer), but also to everyone who helped in the success of this show in any way. In his NODA review, Lance Milton wrote:

'The show has many such beautiful melodic moments but these are frequently punctuated with exceptionally challenging lyric lines and multiple harmonies with unusual intervals. While still mostly pleasing to the ear they are incredibly difficult to master. However, Oxted Operatic rose in their characteristic style to the challenge and delivered one of the best renditions of the score that I can remember.'

'...the top accolades have to go to the ladies on this occasion. Carly Thompson was a fabulous Svetlana, delivering a very complimentary vocal to the most commercially recognisable song from the show 'I know him so well' alongside the incredible silky and yet utterly controlled voice of the brilliant Helen Burgess-Bartlett. I could have watched and listened to her all night.'

The Sound Of Music (16 to 20 April 2013)

Following auditions from over 40 children and 30 adults, which were of a very high standard, the show is now cast, and rehearsals are well underway. A fantastic cast includes:



Jane Gautrey with the von Trapp Children

Jane Gautrey (Maria), Paul Bowles (Captain von Trapp), Sam Grant (Mother Abbess), Louise Fahey (Sister Margaretta), Carol Moss (Sister Sophia), Emma Denny (Sister Berthe), Ian Brown (Max), Lorin LaFave (Elsa) and Abigail Thomas-Verweij (Liesl); as well as several other character roles, 2 teams of children, a chorus of Nuns and several Nazi men. Our production team of Peter Reed (Director), Sue Rowlinson (MD) and Nicky Roberts (Choreographer) assure us that this family favourite will be a real smash hit of a show.

The Sound of Music was the final collaboration of Rodgers & Hammerstein and has become the world's most beloved musical. With hit numbers such as "Do-Re-Mi", "My Favourite Things" to "Climb Every Mountain" and "Edelweiss" these timeless musical favourites keep on coming.

We have taken the step of running a Matinee Performance on Saturday 20 April to enable as many as possible to get to the production, and introduced a 'Child Ticket Rate' for all performances. However, it is worth noting that TICKETS are selling VERY FAST, so please book now to avoid disappointment. 07530 528094 or online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Oliver! (19 to 23 November 2013)

Make a note now of the production dates for our second big blockbuster of the year. We welcome Jane Maisey (Director) and Martin Collard (MD), both with us for the first time, alongside Andrea Atkinson (Choreographer). Information regarding sing-throughs and auditions will be available shortly.

... And finally, but most importantly, this is an opportune moment for me to put an urgent plea to everyone that the Society is still in desperate need of someone to take on the role of Treasurer. Janette White has been 'nursing' the position all year but is unable to continue. Please, please get in contact as soon as possible if you think you may be able to help the Society with this issue. You can contact me by phone on 01883 625731 or by email at: chairman@oxtedoperatic.co.uk.

For further information regarding any of our productions or events please contact Samantha Grant (0208 668 6386) or email: secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk

Teresa Reed

Bottle by the Bar

I am sure many of you will have noticed that the large whisky bottle at the end of the bar has just been emptied. In total it contained £132.66 with 1930 pennies and 1363 two penny pieces. All the money will go towards DRIP, the improvement scheme for backstage which will be formally launched sometime early this year. It was about five years ago that the bottle was last emptied but as we now have a real need for the money it would be great if we could fill it up more quickly this time. So, if you collect small change and don't know what to do with it please bring it down – we are a charity, or if you are standing by the bar and have change in your pocket or are given it after you have paid for your drinks do please put it in the bottle. Every little helps!

Southern Counties Drama Festival

The Southern Counties Drama Festival makes its annual visit to the Barn Theatre from Monday 25 February to Saturday 2 March. This year this popular Festival of One-Act Plays will be playing host to sixteen entries, including Woldingham Players, Merstham Amateur Dramatic Society, Sevenoaks Players, Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club, Heathfield Drama and the Barn Theatre's resident groups The Oxted Players, Young Oxted Players and Glow Theatre. We also welcome new entrants Hazelwood School and Stack 10. Each play will receive a public adjudication from Helen E. Sharman, Guild of Drama Adjudicators. On the Saturday evening the Adjudicator will select a winner to go forward and compete in the All-England Festival of One-Act Plays.

Festival week is always a relaxed and enjoyable occasion and a time to meet fellow thespians. So why not come along and support these groups for a good evening of Drama. Tickets from 01959 561811 or online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk