

Oxted Operatic Society

The Music Man

I found myself strangely promoted to FOH duties for our Autumn 2009 production *The Music Man*, but it was a great opportunity to chat to the punters first hand and listen to their comments, as well as view some of the actual performances. I am glad to say that I was as impressed as our audience and reviewers were with the quality of the production, under the direction of Neil & Fran Reynolds and David Grubb. Whilst the show can only have served to promote the Society in a favorable light, unfortunately it seems many of our regular patrons were not tempted by the show, resulting in a rather poor box office. We can only hope that we will win back that support this Spring.

Mack & Mabel

Tues 20th - Sat 24th April 2010 (Evenings - 7:45pm)

Hot on the heels of our Autumn production, we jumped straight into preparations for our Spring 2010 production *Mack & Mabel* with sing-alongs, auditions and main casting all done and dusted before the Christmas break. Rehearsals are now well under way, and as they say, the feeling in the camp on this one is that it's going to be something special, and everyone seems very excited, including our production team of Peter Reed, Colin Warnock and Andrea Green.

For those who don't know, *Mack & Mabel* is Jerry Herman's story (and arguably his best score) of silent movie producer Mack Sennett (creator of the Keystone Kops) and the rise to stardom of Mabel Normand. The music is legendary – the Overture was the music used by Torvill & Dean when they won the 1982 World Ice Dance Championships. Musical numbers include - *Look What Happened to Mabel*, *Tap Your Troubles Away*, *Time Heals Everything* and *I Won't Send Roses*.

It will be 23 years since Oxted did this show, and many will recall it featured the late Jimmy Rogers and his wife Chrissie. This time around we have the wonderful talents of Bob Wilson and Melissa Cox in the title roles – so DO come along and support us. Book early to get the best seats. Tickets from £10 are available from the Ticket Secretary (01883 714103) until 30th March, thereafter Ibbett Mosely (01883 712241).

Autumn 2010...and onwards...

Just as a rolling stone gathers no moss, we continue to forward-plan our future productions, and dates are already booked at the Barn for 3 productions in 2011 – to include an OJOS Show. Whilst we can't reveal what they will be until we have the licences, we can confirm that our November 2010 production will be *Jekyll & Hyde*.

PJR

Opera Nova comes to the Barn

Saturday February 13 marks the first visit to the Barn by Bromley based opera company Opera Nova. In a treat for Mozart lovers it will be presenting its *The Magic of Mozart* concert.

The company was formed in 1990 by Carole Fisher-Grant and Geoffrey Boyd. Carole grew up in Bromley, and studied singing with Frank Felton. Carole's professional work has included chorus in *Aida* and *Carmen* at Earl's Court with the Ambrosian Opera Chorus, Extra Chorus at the Royal Opera House, the title role of *Tosca* for Opera Options and *Leonora (Forza del Destino)* for Court Opera at Holland Park, and much solo concert work at home and abroad, including an opera concert tour in 1993. Since its inception the company has produced nine fully staged operas and numerous concerts. It marries an amateur chorus with professional and semi-professional principals (none of whom take a fee).

Recent opera productions have been *Tosca* (2000); *Carmen* (2001); *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* (2005) and *The Magi Flute* (2007).

Between productions Opera Nova produces, or participates in, concerts as fund-raising for its own staged productions or to support local enterprises and charities.

Recent concerts have included *Around the World in 90 Minutes* (opera and musical excerpts from every continent); *Easter Promise* (opera and musical excerpts with an eastern theme); *Familiar and Less Familiar Arthur Sullivan* and *Double Take* (pairs of operas and musicals with the same story).

The Magic of Mozart will feature excerpts from *Così fan Tutte*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Idomeneo*, *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Tickets price £10 are available via the Barn website or on the door.

Accompanying the singers will be the Opera Nova Ensemble under the baton of Opera Nova's musical director Ed Lewis. As well as Opera Nova Ed works with several choirs and orchestras, including the Bromley Oecumenical Singers, Blackfriars Sinfonia and the Choir of the Oxford University Press. He also works as a composer and sound designer for theatre, film and radio as well as a music critic for several websites and music magazines.

Ed will also be music director when Opera Nova returns to the Barn in June with *The Marriage of Figaro*. This will be directed by James Hurley and designed by Rob Mills. A new English translation is being written for the production.

The New Foxtrot Serenaders



make a welcome return to the Barn on Friday 19th March 2010 at 7.45pm with "On The Air", celebrating the radio stars of the 30s and 40s. They are delighted to introduce special guest singer – jazz diva, Hannah Northedge. (pictured left).

Tickets £12.00 available from 01959 561811 until 1st March 2010 and thereafter from Ibbett Mosely 01883 712241 or book online via Barn Theatre website.