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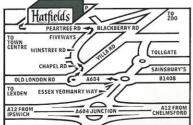
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Colchester Operatic Society presents

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

Music by Jacques Offenbach Music adapted and arranged by Ronald Hanmer New Book and Lyrics arranged by Phil Park

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THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A warm welcome to Derek Collins, Director and Alan Humphrey, our Musical Director. My thanks to members and friends who have contributed so much to this production, and in particular Phyl, Clare and Peter for their sterling work at rehearsals.

As from 1995 the Society will no longer be able to produce an Autumn show in the Mercury Theatre. I wish to bring this to your attention, as you have, since 1925 been so loyal in your support of the Society's productions. The Mercury Theatre Management have offered us two weeks in June, which we have accepted. A further week in late August has also been accepted by CO2 for their production of "West Side Story". At the time of writing it is hoped that the Society will be able to produce a one week show in the Autumn of 1995 at an alternative venue to the Mercury Theatre.

Finally, on behalf of Colchester Operatic Society I look forward to your continued support at our future productions.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 1995.

John M Enfield Chairman



THE STORY

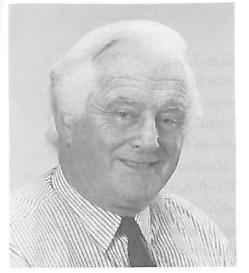
The legend of Orpheus in the Underworld is rooted in Greek Mythology, and is as well known as an example of tragic love as Romeo and Juliet and Tristan and Isolde.

Orpheus, the son of Calliope, the Muse of Epic Poetry, loses Eurydice, his beautiful wife to Pluto, King of Hades. Pressurised by his Mother, Orpheus seeks the help of the Gods who direct him to Hades to reclaim his wife and they both take off in a balloon for Mount Olympus.

All on the Mount are sleeping watched over by Jupiter, who is alarmed at the amorous antics of the Gods and Goddesses, who are bored with Olympian life. At dawn Mercury appears and tells him of Eurydice's abduction and Jupiter sends him to summon Pluto, whom he reprimands. Orpheus persuades the deities to denounce Pluto, and Jupiter promises to return Eurydice.

Hades has been a disappointment to Eurydice, but Jupiter is anxious to see her and woos her invisibly. Eurydice falls for the attentions of Bacchus during the Bacchanalian revels in the Underworld. Jupiter has forgotten his promise to Orpheus who was made to agree not to turn round to look at Eurydice before their return to earth. However Jupiter makes sure he does, and so thereafter the choice of lovers will be Eurydice's - Jupiter or Pluto.

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD



DEREK COLLINS Director

PRODUCTION TEAM

Chorus Master and Accompanist PETER HUMPHREY





ALAN HUMPHREY Musical Director



PHYL DEEBLE



PETER HUMPHREY

			PREVIOUS I	S PRODUCTIONS		
1925	Gondoliers	1948	Waltz Dream	1965	They Came to a City	
1926	Mikado	1949	New Moon	1965	The Student Prince	
1927	Princess Ida	1950	The Wind and Rain	1966	Hay Fever	
1929	Iolanthe	1950	The Desert Song	1966	La Belle Helene	
1930	Yeomen of the Guard	1951	The Student Prince	1967	Carousel	
1931	Trial by Jury and	1952	Harmony Hill	1968	Count of Luxembourg	
	Pirates of Penzance	1953	Show Boat	1969	Oklahoma	
	Les Cloches de Corneville	1954	Brigadoon	1970	Kiss Me Kate	
1932	Quaker Girl	1955	Pink Champagne	1971	Die Fledermaus	
1933	Mikado	1956	Vagabond King	1972	Mikado	
1934	Gondoliers	1957	White Horse Inn	1973	Robert and Elizabeth	
1935	Merrie England	1958	Summer Song	1974	Orpheus in the Underwor	
1936	Duchess of Danzig	1959	The Merry Widow	1975	The Merry Widow	
1937	Vagabond King	1960	Song of Norway	1976	My Fair Lady	
1938	Country Girl	1961	Naughty Marietta	1977	The Great Waltz	
1946	Beggar's Opera	1962	The Dancing Years	1978	Fiddler on the Roof	
1947	Tom Iones	1963	Kismet	1979	The King & I	
1947	The Arcadians	1964	The Most Happy Fella	1980	Show Boat	

1981 Hello Dolly

1983 Half a Sixpence Brigadoon 1985 Guys & Dolls

Carousel 1986 Pirates of Penzance

1986 The Sound of Music 1987 South Pacific

1987 Oliver 1988 The Desert Song

Annie Get Your Gun 1988 The Mikado 1989

1989 My Fair Lady The Pajama Game 1990 The Music Man 1990

Fiddler on the Roof Oklahoma Kiss Me Kate Godspell

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

CAST

Eurydice	Clare Joseph
	Angela Rankin
Cupid	Stephanie Thorne–Smith
	Helene Jones
	Barbara Ryan
Juno	Sandra Moorhouse
	John Ellis–Roberts
	Colin Thorne
Jupiter	Roger Dobson
	John Warburton
Mercury	Peter Elder
	Brian Keeble
Vulcan	Clive Smith
	Malcolm Crawford
	Graham Smith

CHORUS OF NYMPHS AND SHEPHERDS

Sally Leung Debbie Andrews Andries Bisdee Emma Lukey Jenny Lukey Howard Brooks Paul Chittleborough Jill Merry Sue Nicholson Irene Crawford Denise Pegnall Jason Davis Jane Pipe Valerie Ditchman Stephanie Pryor Helen Fox Don Rose Brenda Green Ann Rozier Alison Holmes Steve Whiteman Ken Houghton Jennifer Woolsey **Eleanor Howes** Brian Keeble

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Colchester Operatic Society HELLO DOLLY 7th - 17th June 1995

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29th August-2nd September 1995 WEST SIDE STORY

In Ancient Times

ACT ONE

A landscape near Thebes

ACT TWO

On Mount Olympus

ACT THREE

Scene 1 Scene 2 Pluto's Den

Hades

There will be two intervals between acts.

STAGE MANAGEMENT

For the Mercury Theatre:

Stage Manager - Sarah Rowe

Jim Bowman (Lighting), Kate Millward, Tracey Fleet, Graeme Morrison,

Martin Radmall.

Sound designed by Martyn J. Hunt

Alan Larner, Chris Barrell, Dave Clarke, Wally Edwards, Terry Lion, For The Colchester Operatic Society:

Jim Lynes, Dave Rosoman, Dave Spicer, Philip Spurgeon, Bob Wilkinson

F/S Paul Shaw, Kate Bagley, Jim Bagley

On the Book:

Mike Spurgeon

Prompts:

Dawn King, Nicola Mundell-Poole

Make Up Team:

Ken and Simone Smith, Jo Brown, Ann Dye, Linda Kendall, Margaret Norfolk

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Maggie Walton, Beryl Balls, Bernard Polley

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Wigs:

Stage Sets

Programme Editor:

Kathleen Davey

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Society expresses grateful thanks to all who have contributed, and in particular to:-

The Society's Non-Playing Members for their loyal support in Publicity, Programme Sales and other essential duties.

Mick Hemstedt for programme cover.

The Arena Sports and Leisure Club.

Chris Snow.

Staff and Management of the Mercury Theatre.

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Mark Frost for Programme Photographs and FOH,

also John Carr

Please note: Taking of Photographs during the performance is not permitted

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ORPHEUS – John Ellis Roberts has been treading the boards since he was 11, and has been in pantomime, who–dunnits, musicals and comedies. Since coming to live in Essex, John has appeared in This Happy Breed, Sisterly Feelings, A Man for all Seasons, and A Christmas Carol for Clacton, Brigadoon for Brightlingsea and Cabaret in Walton.

CALLIOPE - Angela Rankin has been a teacher of dancing for many years. Whilst at school she took part in Kismet and joined the Clacton and Colchester Operatic Societies in 1968. Angela has played many leading roles in over 30 shows, has been choreographer for Clacton, and director's assistant in Colchester. Her favourite roles have included in Ann in Half a Sixpence, Ado Annie in Oklahoma and Gladys in the Pajama Game.





JUPITER – **Roger Dobson** has played a number of supporting roles in the 17 shows in which he has appeared since joining the Society in 1978. An Old Tyme Music Hall exponent since 1973, he also performs G & S with Wivenhoe Society, plus pantomime (including two dames) and other shows on Mersea Island.

EURYDICE – Clare Joseph became involved with the Society in 1984 when she joined CO2 for their first production. Since then she has performed in numerous shows with both CO2 and the main Society, and has taken principle roles in several. Favourite roles are Miss Adelaide in Guys and Dolls, Reno in Anything Goes and Anita in West Side Story. This is the first time that Clare has had a leading role at the Mercury.





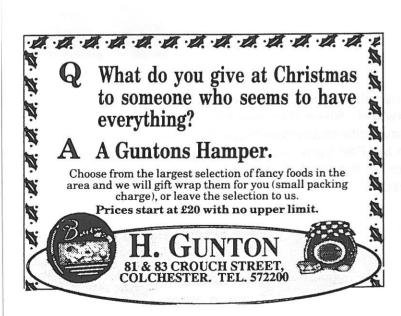
DIANA – Barbara Ryan joined the Society in 1974 and her first role was Cupid in Orpheus in the Underworld. Since then she has performed in most of the COS productions. Three favourite characters have been Nellie Forbush in South Pacific, Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady, and Ann in Half a Sixpence. Her other roles have been in Fiddler on the Roof, Ethel in The Music Man and Robin in the recent production of Godspell.

PLUTO – Colin Thorne has been a member of COS since 1968 when The Count of Luxembourg was produced. He has played many times in the chorus in addition to principal parts, the most important of which was Billy Bigelow in Carousel for the Diamond Jubilee production. He has also played parts in Clacton, and Gaston in Gigi at Ipswich. In last year's production of Kiss Me Kate he played Bill Calhoun.











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CUPID - Stephanie Thorne-Smith first appeared with the COS aged 14 in the Great Waltz, having made her amateur debut in Carousel 2 years previously at Clacton. She danced with COS in Showboat, Hello Dolly and The King and I. She assisted with school productions of the Boy Friend and Fiddler on the Roof before running her own dancing school in Norway. Her first principal role for COS was in Godspell earlier this year.





MARS – John Warburton's involvement with Amateur Theatre dates from the fifties, first with a North London Society, and later with Colchester, following a move in 1969. Since then John has appeared in many productions with the Society, including Robert and Elizabeth, its first production at The Mercury in Nov 1973 and served as a Committee for many years. He is the local N.O.D.A. Representative for the Colchester region. Orpheus is among his short list of favourite shows and this is the third production of it in which he has appeared.

VENUS – Helene Jones. Although born in Colchester this is the first time she has appeared with COS, singing mainly with Witham Operatic, South Anglia Savoy Players and Chelmsford Opera Group. Some parts she has enjoyed are Fiona (Brigadoon), Elsie (Yeoman of the Guard) Marsina (Kismet) Phyllis (Iolanthe) Casilda (Gondoliers). Helene also sings with the Phoenix Variety Music Hall Group.





STYX – Malcolm Crawford joined the Society in 1991 when his family moved from Chippenham; his previous experience was in pantomime and musicals. The experience he finds hardest to forget was the open air production of As You Like It in the Bath Festival – unforgettable because of the cold, wet weather. Since joining COS he has appeared in every production including the role of Rabbi in Fiddler on the Roof. He is also a member of Clacton and his favourite show is Camelot – the first show he saw in London.

JUNO – Sandra Moorhouse has been a member of COS for 11 years, but also belongs to other Theatre Groups in the area. Some of her most memorable roles have included Sylvia Potter—Porter in Annie get your Gun, Nora in A Doll's House, and Susan Ash in Siege. Recently she has performed with the Lexden Parish Players as Judith, the German air hostess, and as Jennifer Yeager in a concert performance of Do I Hear a Waltz.





MERCURY – Peter Elder performed in school plays and has been a member of COS for two years. He appeared in Kiss Me Kate last year, and in Godspell, the production the Society took to Delft. Peter also had a small part in one of BBC TV's Crime Watch programmes.

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY SUPPORTER'S GROUP

Colchester Operatic Society, founded in 1925, is very conscious of the fact that without public support it would cease to exist.

Luckily for many years we have enjoyed the loyal support of very many local people. Indeed public support has on occasions been so great that some patrons who have supported us year in, year out have been unable to obtain tickets for some productions.

The Supporter's Group was formed to meet this need. For an annual subscription of £1.50 supporters receive two newsletters a year and are entitled to book an unlimited number of tickets (except for the Saturday evening performance which is limited to 4 per member) for all productions, including our Youth Group CO2 productions.

These tickets are booked in priority to the general public, but after Society members have booked their limited allocation.

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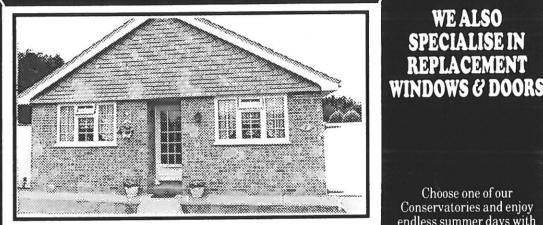
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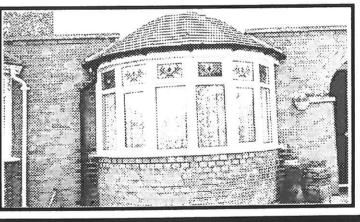


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