

Colchester Operatic Society

The Society's first production was *The Gondoliers*, at the Hippodrome, in December 1925. Of the 14 productions which followed, up to the Second World War, 9 were of the G & S Operas, though since then only 2 have been performed, each twice. After the War, productions resumed, first at the Repertory Theatre, and then at the Playhouse in 1947. 1973 saw a move to the Mercury Theatre, and subsequently a long period of rising audiences (and standards), plus the birth in 1984 of the youth group, CO2. The 80's were boom times for the Society, with a wealth of talent, and regular donations to charities. Changes in the Mercury's availability, and a general economic downturn, led to significant financial problems in the mid 90's, from which the Society has now substantially recovered. With the success of our productions from *Me & My Girl* onward, including the excellent CO2 contributions of *Fame* and *Guys and Dolls*, and with the valued support of our sponsors and others, we look forward to the future with confidence.

50 Musical Years

Tonight's programme originates from considering Musical Shows that have attracted English audiences during the Queen's Golden Jubilee Years from 1952 to 2002. Some of these shows are major revivals of earlier productions that perhaps had only modest success originally e.g. *Anything Goes*. Others are outside the time frame because of our wish to also recognise the centenary, in June, of the birth of Richard Rodgers. So, strictly speaking, our list spans rather more than the title suggests. However, our wish is to entertain you with a medley of songs that will perhaps contrast the changes in style over the last 50 years or so, though we have resisted the temptation of running things through in chronological order – that would be far too much like a history lesson! Despite the impact of the British Musical on both Broadway and the West End over the last few years tonight's programme reflects the major contribution to Musical Theatre by America in the early and middle years.

Proceeds from The Officers Club performances will be shared between ourselves and the Club, who we thank most warmly for their help in preparations for this concert. I have no doubt, however, that some of those proceeds will help toward the final touches to the Headgate Theatre project, now so near completion.

Half of the box office proceeds for our two performances at the Mercury will be donated to the St. Helena Hospice. This was our choice of charity following an invitation to perform by the Mercury management, which we were delighted to accept and thank them for their generosity.

Finally, many thanks to all who have helped to get this (these) show(s) on the road and also to you, our audience. We look forward to your support for our productions in June and September and also to our main production (yet to be announced) at the Mercury from 22nd January – 1st February 2003.

John Warburton

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Caroline Fritz, Barbara Scully, Beryl Balls, Sally Leung,
Montgomery School, Alan Larnar, Michael Spurgeon, Chris Barrell,
Arena Leisure Centre, and David Moye

Colchester Operatic Society



Proudly
Presents

50 MUSICAL YEARS

A 'Golden Jubilee' of Musical Memories
From Stage & Screen



28th to 29th January 2002
Mercury Theatre

Act I

Grand Night For Singing	<i>State Fair</i>	Chorus
Comedy Tonight	<i>A Funny Thing happened On The Way To The Forum</i>	Chorus
Oliver & I Shall Scream	<i>Oliver</i>	Barbara Scully & John Enfield
Our Kind Of Love	<i>The Beautiful Game</i>	Caroline Frits
I Enjoy Being A Girl	<i>Flower Drum Song</i>	Soophia Foroughi
Pleasures Of Life	<i>Hunchback Of Notre Dame</i>	Chorus
Cabaret	<i>Cabaret</i>	Jane Pipe
Rassle Dassle	<i>Chicago</i>	Chorus
Sweet Heaven	<i>Copacabana</i>	John Olney
Beauty And The Beast	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Sally Leung
If Ever I Would Leave You	<i>Camelot</i>	Peter Jones
42 nd Street	<i>42nd Street</i>	Sally Fisher & Chorus
Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat	<i>Guys & Dolls</i>	Jonathan Deardon, David Moye & Chorus

INTERVAL

CAST

Ann Barrell, Barbara Ryan, Caroline Frits, Charlotte Rayner,
Christine Petroman, Emma Bradley, Kirstie Chase, Lisa Hamilton, Louise Wilson,
Lynda Beales, Sally Fisher, Sally Leung, Sarah Beards, Sharon Clarke,
Soophia Foroughi, Teresa White, Barbara Scully, Claire Jones, Diane Emberton,
Jane Pipe, Kate Gifford, Margaret Norfolk, Mandy Robinson, Pat Bruce,
Penny Mole, Sarah Appleby, Theresa Langridge & Zelia Rogers.
Colin Thorne, David Clarke, David Moye, Jonathan Deardon, James Mott,
John Olney, Steve Williams, Graham Bowden, John Enfield,
John Warburton & Peter Jones

Act II

One Brick At A Time	<i>Barnum</i>	Chorus
No Other Love	<i>Me & Juliette</i>	Chorus
Anything Goes	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Diane Emberton
With A Song In My Heart	<i>Spring Is Here</i>	John Olney & Sally Leung
Falling In Love With Love	<i>The Boys From Syracuse</i>	Caroline Frits
Wind Beneath My Wings	<i>Beaches</i>	Steve Williams
I Will Always Love You	<i>The Bodyguard</i>	Barbara Ryan
I Will Follow Him	<i>Sister Act</i>	Ladies Chorus
Tonight	<i>West Side Story</i>	Soophia Foroughi, Charlotte Rayner, Graham Bowden, David Moye & Chorus
Starlight Express	<i>Starlight Express</i>	David Clarke & Graham Bowden
Look At Me & Words, Words, Words	<i>The Witches Of Eastwick</i>	Sarah Beards, Sharon Clarke & Emma Bradley Kirstie Chase & David Moye
Sail On Titanic	<i>Titanic</i>	Chorus
'Annie' compilation Dressed Children Tomorrow Easy Street	<i>Annie</i>	Featuring: Soophia Foroughi, Charlotte Rayner, Emma Bradley & Chorus
'Carousel' compilation Blow High, Blow Low What's the use of Wondering / If I Loved You You'll Never Walk Alone	<i>Carousel</i>	Featuring: John Enfield & Chorus

Master of
Ceremonies



Graham
Smith

Musical
Director



Peter
Snell

Concert
Co-ordinated
by

John
Warburton

Lighting by
Jim Bowman

Sound by
Martyn J
Hunt

Sound
Assistant
Adam Taylor

Sound
equipment
sponsored by
mm
productions

Staged by courtesy of the **MERCURY THEATRE**
Funds raised from this concert in aid of **ST. HELENA HOSPICE**

'Carousel'

12th to 22nd June 2002
Mercury Theatre

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22nd to 26th October 2002
Mercury Theatre

'Annie'