

Colchester Operatic Society
presents



The Headgate Theatre

12th to 15th February 2020 at 7.45pm & 2.30pm Saturday Matinee

Lion Walk Church

22 February 2020 at 7.45pm



We will beat
leprosy together

The
Headgate
T H E A T R E

Dare to be Different

DON'T CONFORM...PERFORM!

Welcome to our 2020 concert.

In a social media driven culture that aspires for everyone to be “normal” and “perfect”, I wanted to celebrate the fact that most of us are different and brilliant in our own ways. I put together a selection of songs that either set the scene of conforming or highlight the desire to break free from this and celebrate individuality or difference. I have taken a slightly different approach to our usual concert format by carefully choosing and ordering the songs to tell a story and included some dialogue linking some of the songs to help achieve this.

Our lovely cast are a prime example of a group of very different people who all come together to create and produce musical performances for the Colchester audience. I have challenged them with this concert using the chorus as much as possible throughout the show and giving them lots of harmonies, moves and words to learn! They have risen to this challenge, as always, and we've had lots of fun rehearsing ready for you to enjoy what we have produced. By the end of the show we hope to inspire our audiences to stand up and celebrate their differences too!

This concert would not have been possible without the help and support from the COS Executive committee, our publicity team, our cast & crew, the theatre staff, our musical director Richard & his musicians, and Langenhoe Primary School & Stanway Secondary School for providing rehearsal venues. A big thanks to all of them and to anyone else involved that I may not have mentioned!

Katie Cutmore

Concert Director and Chair of Colchester Operatic Society

Order of Programme

Act 1

Radio Ga Ga
I want to Break Free
Don't Break the Rules
Naughty
Whipped into Shape
Who will Love me as I am?
Popular
This is Me
Turn it Off
Titanium
Take me or Leave me
We're all made of Stars
Make your own kind of Music
The Life I never led
Skid Row
Come Alive

INTERVAL

Act 2

Step in Time
Footloose
Live out Loud
Steady as a Beating Drum
Just Around the Riverbend
I'll make a man out of You
I've got a Dream
Just the way you are
God I hate Shakespeare
True Colours
Born this Way
Expressing Yourself
Don't rain on my Parade
Freak Flag



This is Me!

LEARN ABOUT WHAT MAKES OUR CAST DIFFERENT

Amanda Powell *My nickname at theatre college was 'top C' due to how high I could sing.*

Barbara Ryan *At my age, I'm 'daring to be different' by still performing with this group of younger, talented people! As a Life Member of COS, I am delighted to be part of this concert.*

Becki Lee *I am unique because I have visual dyslexia, struggling with it as a child my mum decided to send me to stage school so I could express myself through singing, dancing and acting. I'm so pleased she did.*

Celia Greaves *I'm just very glad to be here on stage with this lovely bunch of talented people.*

Claire Jones *Being Bi-polar makes me different but it helps to make me an empathetic person and I am proud to have got through some tough times.*

Ellis Hynd *I'm pretty much completely fueled by coffee and muesli, I think bow ties rock, and I have a talent for traveling lightly.*

Emily Lane *One of my favourite quotes is 'don't be afraid of being different, be afraid of being the same as everyone else'.*

Fiona Bocking *I live my own life in my own way, daring to be just a little bit different. I am just me.*

Joe Fusi *Normally the thought of standing in front of a group of strangers would give me real anxiety, but COS & musical theatre has helped me grow in confidence.*

Kate Cavill *I'm proud to be performing again after a gap of several years and particularly proud to be performing with COS.*

Katie Cutmore *I have had Rheumatoid Arthritis since having my first child and am proud of overcoming the difficulties I face on a daily basis. I love being part of (and now as chair, leading) the musical family that is COS. I don't drink Tea or Coffee, but I am a proud Diet Coke drinker!*

Michael Cutmore *I have always struggled with my weight and the perception of it by others. Thankfully with age and wisdom I have overcome this and owned my difference. Mind over matter: If I don't mind, it doesn't matter!*

Kirsty Morgan *I was born with hip dysplasia so have one leg shorter than the other which causes me constant pain. I am proud of myself for not letting this pain stop me from doing what I want to do in life.*

P.T. Barnum "No-one ever made a

Lisa Pordham *Despite no formal qualifications or training in musical theatre, I'm proud to have stepped out of my comfort zone to be part of a talented cast putting on a great show.*

Lisa-Marie Milne *I am proud to be back on stage after a twelve year break in which I built an incredible business, married my soul mate and had two beautiful children. Does this make me unique? Maybe not, but it makes me, me.*

Maeve Borges *I'm exceptionally proud to carry on a long-standing family tradition of COS which has given me lifelong friendships, memories and lots of fun and laughter, plus the chance to be a different me to the one at work, and at home as a mum, and I wouldn't change it for the world.*

Olly Medicott *I've been openly gay since the age of 15, and have always campaigned for equal adoption and marriage rights, and LGBT-inclusive education. Having personally experienced homophobic violence, I know how much still needs to change, but I'm proud to have seen so much progress towards genuine equality.*

Richard Harrison *While most people love reading a good novel, I prefer to read music scores!*

Sally Cutchie *I love visiting new places – I have travelled to around 30 countries so far and have about the same on my 'to do list'. It's incredibly enriching to have regular adventures.*

Sarah Miles *Feeling super proud to be part of this concert which has reminded me of one of my favourite song lyrics (thank you Backstreet Boys); 'What makes you different, makes you beautiful'.*

Steve Woodward *By day (and night!) I am a police officer in Colchester which as you can imagine is a very serious job. So I find treading the boards gives me the opportunity to relax a little and allows my creative side to come to the fore.*

Stuart Williams *I'm completely ordinary. I'd be different if I were Batman... But you'd never know if I was ... Makes you think!*

Suki Fusi *My name makes me different – I've yet to find another Suki Fusi! I have performed with COS & in local amateur theatre most of my life, even conducting a concert 3 hours after giving birth to my fifth child.*

Val Cavanagh-White *My name is unusual which makes me different. I am proud to follow in my mother and grandmothers footsteps becoming a professional dancer then dance teacher, passing on my love of dance to others.*

Will Mugford *The only music I ever listen to is musical theatre! As well as performing with COS I'm proud to operate and run Mad Hatter Productions, giving lots of opportunities for young people locally to appear in high quality theatre.*

"difference by being like everyone else"

Production Team

Musical Director Richard Harrison

Richard has been involved in Essex theatre since 2012 and is Head of Music at The Stanway School. Local credits include: (Keyboards / MD*) *Hairspray*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Annie* (CO2/COS); *The Pajama Game* (Platform Musicals); *Annie* (Sudbury Musicals Society); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Basop); *Made in Dagenham*, *The Music Man*, *My Fair lady* (TOPS); *Les Miserables**, *The Phantom of The Opera*, *Joseph*...*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Oliver!*, *Annie*, *The King and I* (The Essex Group); *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables* (Tomorrow's Talent); *Sister Act*, *Legally Blonde*, *42nd Street* (CAODS, Chelmsford Young Gen).

Richard says: "It has been a pleasure to work with Katie and the cast and to watch this concert take shape. The diverse musical programme calls for such a breadth of style and technique, from Streisand to Matilda to Humpty Dumpty! Lots of challenge, lots of characters and lots of laughs!"

Director & Choreographer Katie Cutmore

Katie has been singing from the age of 5, plays the piano & guitar and writes her own songs, which she has performed solo & in bands locally. She has also performed locally with Platform musicals, COS & Encore company singers. She has been a member of COS for over 15 years and served on the Executive committee for the last 6 years. She became Chair of Colchester Operatic Society in June 2019. She made her directing debut in 2017 with the COS concert "Seasons with swing" which was performed at the Headgate and the Mercury Theatre.

Katie says: "I have really enjoyed taking on more of the choreography in this concert and seeing my ideas transform into reality through the cast's hard work & talent is very rewarding. I hope everyone enjoys the show as much as I have enjoyed creating it."

Additional Choreography Amanda Powell

Cast

Amanda Powell, Barbara Ryan, Becki Lee, Celia Greaves, Claire Jones,
Emily Lane, Fiona Bocking, Joe Fusi, Kate Cavill, Kirsty Morgan,
Lisa Pordham, Lisa-Marie Milne, Maeve Borges, Olly Medicott,
Sally Cutchie, Sarah Miles, Steve Woodward, Stuart Williams, Suki Fusi,
Valentine Cavanagh-White, Will Mugford

Keyboards Richard Harrison

Drums Michael Cutmore

Guitars Ellis Hynd

Stage Manager Diane Emberton

Backstage Assistant Doug Mockridge

*Lighting Design** Charlotte Butcher

*Sound** Jon Jordan

*Lighting Assistants** Becky Clemens & Sarah White

(*Headgate performances only)

Concert Artwork Marc Williams

Programme Becky Clemens

Colchester Operatic Society Second Edition (CO2)

CO2 WILL BE BACK AT

THE MERCURY THEATRE IN OCTOBER 2020

ARE YOU BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11-23 ON SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2020?
THEN COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE

FAME

THE MUSICAL

WORKSHOP

Sunday 15th March 2020

9.45am – 4.00pm

ABBEY FIELD CENTRE

Circular Road South, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UW

Cost £20.00

Pre-Audition Rehearsal Evenings

Wednesday 18th & 25th March

7.15pm – 10.00pm

AUCTIONS

Sunday 29th March – 9.30am

If selected to the cast a Show/Rehearsal fee of £70.00 will be charged
plus a £10.00 CO2 Membership

I WANT TO MAKE MAGIC AND MAKE EVERY MOMENT A SURPRISE

I'LL CAPTURE YOUR SENSES IN A SPELL

RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES

I WANT TO MAKE MAGIC

If you have any questions or concerns please email co2theatre@hotmail.co.uk
www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk



To find out more about our future productions or how you can become involved with the society, please visit our website or follow us on social media.

www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk



Colchester Operatic Society



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Colchester Operatic Society are proud to be affiliated with:

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre



Colchester Operatic Society Presents

SHREK

27th January to 6th February 2021
at the newly refurbished Mercury Theatre

Keep an eye on our social media for information on how to audition or get involved backstage.