



May 2007

Spring Concert: *Magical Musical Moments*
19th May 2007 - The Harlequin
At 8pm



Sing Through & Presentation, Monday 21st May 7:30pm
at Micklefield School

Chairman's Notes

Just a few words from me, as we head into a very busy period for The Opera Club. The concert "Magical Musical Moments" is well under way now and although we had our moments at the beginning of the rehearsal period, the concert is shaping up very well. As you may know we have a new production team for the concert namely Lynda Barrett and Judith Gonsalves, (although we also have Angela Barker and Helen Hardwick for the "Children of Eden" Section), and they are working extremely hard to put on a very good show. The concert features 36 members of the Club and we would like to see as many members and friends as possible to support us at The Harlequin on 19th May. As you all know the concerts are a show case for the Club and its autumn production and also an opportunity to raise some funds for us. So please do your very best to help us to try and sell as many tickets as possible.

Our autumn show is "Children of Eden" and is being produced by Helen Hardwick and Angela Barker. The show is another new one for The Opera Club and promises to be an exciting and interesting challenge for us. In addition to needing a large cast we are going to need a number of children to take part. Ideally we would like to have about 12 to 15 children of 11 to 16+ with two young lads to play young Cain and Abel. It would be nice to think that these children could be recruited from parents in the Club but obviously there is opportunity for new members to join us. Children will be welcome at the first rehearsal provided they are accompanied by their parents (whether the parents intend to be in the show or not). It is our understanding from the production team that this is very much a company show and that the cast should represent different generations in, almost, the form of various tribes. I am sure it will be a fabulous and uplifting experience for all who take part as there will be plenty for everyone to do. So do come to the concert on 19th May for a very small taster of Children of Eden in amongst some other excellent pieces of music and performances from shows like Wicked, Cats, Joseph, Phantom, Iolanthe, Sorceror, Magic Flute and Carmina Burana to name but a few.

Regards

Kevin

A Note From Angela

Chess and The Scarlet Pimpernel were new departures for The Opera Club, so surely is Children of Eden. The music is written by Stephen Schwarz - noted for his scores of Godspell and Wicked – the latter of which is presently running in the West End. This will be the first time we have tackled a biblical subject, apart from some excerpts.

It is written in quasi operatic form but with a little dialogue. The style is a mixed bag of Anthem, Calypso, Folksong, Recitative, Spiritual and Rock.

There is much chorus work which takes the form mainly of commentary and some of it in unison. The principal parts will, I hope, provide much interest and opportunity. There is an array of biblical characters to choose from, some all singing-and-dancing and fond of apples!

Undoubtedly the show-stopper is the hot spiritual "Ain't it Good", which comes towards the end of the show, and provides an energetic conclusion. I look forward with eagerness to starting rehearsals, to working with Helen and to see all of you then. Please encourage others who may be interested in joining us for this production.

Angela Barker



Birth Announcement.

David and Lynda Pond are pleased to announce the arrival of
Isabelle
on New Years Day
weighing in at 8lb 4oz

News Items?

If you have any personal items of news you'd like to tell the club about (births, marriages deaths etc.) do tell us and we'll put it in the next newsletter.

From our New Producer

I am really thrilled at the prospect of working on Children of Eden with Angela and the Company - it is such an exciting and rewarding musical and I know the wonderful singing and acting ability in The Opera Club will bring it to life.

Children of Eden is very much a company piece with all the characters well known to us but seen in a fresh light. It works on many levels - some will view it as a biblical piece, others as a series of fascinating stories. It explores in truly wonderful words and music the relationships between parents and children - love - to quote Noah - "the hardest part of love is letting go", conflict, and the reality of living with the consequences of our decisions! It is often moving, at times humorous, at times tragic and always thrilling.

I would love to see everyone in the Company involved, there are a large number of parts and in addition, Angela and I intend "breaking" some of the ensemble music into solos, duets, trios etc - so there are many opportunities for everyone - as I said, it is a Company piece! I hope to see you all at the first sing through and presentation on May 21st.

Helen Hardwick

Photo Gallery

We would like to create an historic record of The Opera Club shows through pictures on our website so please look through your dusty albums. If you have the technology please scan them and email to Kevin@kwood.me.uk otherwise just hand them over at rehearsal. We will also need the name and dates of the show.

Save Trees....

We have had a good response from those of you who are willing to let us use your e-mail addresses to receive future mailings.

But if you are still reading this from a piece of paper and would like to save some trees, and save the Opera Club admin costs, send your e-mail address to:

info@operaclub.org.uk

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

This subject always raises discussion because it is not easy to judge the effects of any advertising campaign, but the more we put our activities in front of the public the more likely we are to get larger audiences.

This is where **YOU** can help:

1. Make sure that colleagues and neighbours know what you are doing.
2. Ensure that you give them handbills AND wait until they have filled them in and returned them to you.
3. Promote yourself----'I'm doing this at the Harlequin Theatre --- come and see me' [Note: David Brown and Kathy and Roger are brilliant at this!!!].
4. Encourage your company, your place of work, your greengrocer, hairdresser etc to place and advert in their window. Do you have a retirement home near you? Encourage them to organise an outing.
5. Encourage them also to advertise in our programme[s]. There is a special offer for adverts in both MMM and Cof E... contact Margaret Churchley for details.
6. If your place of work has an advert, then some of your colleagues are more likely to attend.
7. Put fliers in your car..... NOW!
8. TALK ABOUT IT

It is worth noting that even the smallest advert in local press costs about £120.00. This eats into profit and we have no way of knowing the level of response such adverts generate. It costs nothing to talk, cajole and persuade and you will get personal feedback from the results of your efforts. Give it a try.

M = Make sure you tell people about the show

A = Announce what you are doing to everyone you know and those you meet casually

R = Regularly remind neighbours of your interest and make sure they have tickets

K = Keep on trying -- persistence pays

E = Ensure you get completed handbills from your contacts and get the tickets for them from the theatre

T = Try to sell one more ticket than your friends in the show

I = Insist that adverts go on the church notice board, the village hall, the local station, Fanny's Farm etc

N = Never give up!!!!

G = Generate enthusiasm

Ralph

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman – Kevin Hogg

Vice-Chairman & Committee Secretary– Margaret Churchley

Treasurer – David Pond

Business Manager – David Eccles

Production Secretary – Nicky Allen

Members – David Brown, Sarah Esser and Ralph Wycherley

With thanks to Lynda Pond – membership secretary, Kevin Wood – website and Kathy & friends for refreshments