

HI NOTES

Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017

Send any information for Hi Notes to: secretary@yaos.org.uk

'9 to 5'

What a great, fun loving show '9 to 5' was! Such a very happy show from start to finish! We welcomed Martyn Knight as director for the first time, which was a huge success – the whole company enjoyed Martyn's rehearsals immensely. We were also delighted to welcome back Lynne Merrifield as Musical Director – it was great to have Lynne back in the fold after such a long time. The box office was 82% which was good but, even so, we have made a loss of several thousand pounds mainly because of the cost of performing rights. Our grateful thanks to all concerned – on stage and off stage – and particular thanks to Sheila Driver for all her hard work in assisting.

So on to -

'**Top Hat**' - another Irving Berlin musical which we know will be popular with our audiences! We welcome Brian Epps as Director for the first time and Gill Merrifield as Musical Director with our own Sheila as Choreographer.

The 'Top Hat' season commenced with the Open Evening on Monday 6 November and the auditions took place on Sunday 19 November. We have a great cast for this very special 'dancing' show –

Jerry	Shaun Driver
Dale	Naomi Lawton
Beddini	Zack Welfare
Horace	Jay Westaway
Bates	Nick Mountjoy
Madge	Ali Enticott
What is Love? Soloist	Sarah Andrew

Tickets will be going on sale to members from Tuesday 9 January (high bookers) for a couple of weeks and will then be on sale to the public at the Octagon Box Office from Monday 22 January. (Tickets £19 for all performances apart from Tuesday 13 March and all matinees, where they will be £17. **Don't forget - there will be three matinees for this show – Saturday 18th, Sunday 19th and Saturday 24th March but no performance on Monday 19th March.**

Lisa Gage has very kindly offered to undertake the duties of Show Secretary for Top Hat and is already doing a fine job!! Thank you Lisa!!

Photo call The photo call will be held on Tuesday 30 January commencing at 7.00 pm with an **optional** photo call on Thursday 1 February. **Please make every effort to attend.**

Then on to -

'**Sweeney Todd**' in Autumn 2018. For this show we welcome back Martyn Knight as Director and Lynne Merrifield as our Musical Director.

Auditions will be held on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 April with setting rehearsals in June, July, September and October (email Secretary if you need the actual dates). The show will open on Tuesday 9 October and run until Saturday 13 October with a matinee on the Saturday.

After '**Sweeney Todd**' we have been extremely lucky to have been granted the licence to perform '**42nd Street**' in March 2019, because it is currently running in the West End until late 2018. We are sure this show will be popular with members and the public alike!! A Director and Musical Director are yet to be appointed.

Committee News

Our AGM was held on the 23 October when there were changes to both Officers and Committee. Thanks were extended to Mark Rudd who stood down as Chairman and also to the Society's new Chairman, Geoff Thresh. The Society also thanked Jean Rudd, who relinquished the post of Business Manager and welcomed Lorna Murphy-Durran as the new Business Manager.

Your new Committee is as follows:-

President: John Curry

Chairman	Geoff Thresh
Vice Chairman	Mark Rudd
Secretary	Paula Budzynski
Treasurer	David (Hal) Hallett
Business Manager	Lorna Murphy Durran
Stage Director	Nigel Bussell

Committee Members: Sarah Andrew, Guy Burgess, David Burke, Lucy Crane, Clive Jesty and Nick Mountjoy

If you wish to contact anyone then please do so through our website: www.yaos.org.uk or contact secretary@yaos.org.uk

Silver Show Singers

Please remember the Silver Singers who meet every second Tuesday at 2.15 pm, Edwards House.

Let Mark know if you are interested in joining the group by ringing him on 01935 422231.

NODA Long Service Awards

Congratulations go to recent **NODA long service** award recipients.

Michael Francis	10 year badge
Lauren Francis	10 year badge
Ann Harris	10 year badge
Nick Mountjoy	25 year medal
Geraldine Bullock	35 year silver bar
Patricia White	35 year silver bar
Chris White	35 year silver bar
Wreford Stainer	50 year gold bar
Ray Bartlett	50 year gold bar
Paula Budzynski	50 year gold bar

Edwards House news

Wreford Stainer, our Edwards House Manager, retired in October after many years' service. We would like to thank him, and his Marian, for all the years of hard work and maintenance and for looking after our premises so well. We are delighted that Nick Mountjoy has now taken on this role – many thanks Nick! Additionally, Mary Ross-White relinquished the position of Edwards House Treasurer and this is now in the capable hands of Ann Harris. Thank you all; the work you do is much appreciated.

Social News

We are delighted to say that we now have a Social Committee in place under the instigation of Lorna Murphy Durran. Members are – Matt Palmer, Jamie Lock, Fiona Pamplin, Chris Owen, Erin Darling-Finan, Kathy Smyth and James Cullum.

Social events are being planned including two this December –

Mega Christmas Bingo with the Beatnik Theatre Company on Thursday 14 December at The Red House, Yeovil. £10 all in. Eyes down 7.30 pm and

Carol Singing at Yeovil Hospital – Tuesday 19 December. Meet in the Foyer at 6.45 pm

Look out for more Social Events in the months to come!!!

Our congratulations go to: –

Naomi and Steve Lawton on their marriage – 29 July

Chris Holman and Matt Holmes on their marriage – 21 October

Hal (David) Hallett and Liz Stallard on their marriage – 27 October

Hal also celebrated his 50th birthday on 6 December!! Congratulations!

Our love and best wishes go to:-

Trisha Perry, Wreford Stainer, Pauline Withers, Jackie Parsons, Dave Riley & Pauline and Graham Warren who were all indisposed during the last few months.

Condolences go to

Russell Chatwin on the death of dear Barbara in September.

Nick Mountjoy on the death of his dear Mum last month.

Trudy and Nick Dyke on the death of Trudy's dear Mum also last month

Margaret White, on the death of her dear husband Graham also last month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Don't Forget

The Suggestions Box in Edwards House! Let the Committee know if you have any tangible comment to make.

Website Keep your eye on our website for all information and updates. Guy would welcome any feedback on the website – content, design etc. If anyone would like to make comment, good or bad (!) Guy would be very interested to hear it!!

The next edition of Hi Notes will be published in the early summer. Please let Paula know if you have any comments to be included.

Email: secretary@yaos.org.uk

Website: www.yaos.org.uk

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO
ALL!!**

