

HI NOTES

Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

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

'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'

What a fabulous show 'Chitty' was – the music, the comedy, the songs and the sheer spectacle of the car were all superb! What a great cast! Our grateful thanks to all concerned – on stage and off stage – and particular thanks to Jeremy Tustin, for giving us such an amazing show, to Sheila Driver for assisting and to Kat Stevens for her superb musical direction.

So on to -

'**Sound of Music**' - an evergreen musical which we **hope** will be popular with our audiences once again! We welcome our own Sheila Driver as Director again and Gill Merrifield as Musical Director with Ali Enticott assisting Sheila.

The 'Sound of Music' season commenced with New Members auditions/Open Evening on Monday 28 October and the principal auditions took place on Sunday 3 November. We have a great cast for this very special Rodgers and Hammerstein show –

Maria Rainer	Sarah Andrew
Captain Von Trapp	Ben Woof
Mother Abbess	Liz Stallard
Liesl	Grace MacDonald
Rolf Gruber	Callum Longmuir
Elsa Schraeder	Sarah Symcox
Max Detweiler	Stephen Roberts
Sister Margaretta	Elly Driver
Sister Berthe	Louise Thomas
Sister Sophia	Leah Driver
Frau Schmidt	Sally Matthews
Franz, the Butler	Nick Mountjoy

Over 40 children turned up to the auditions! After great deliberations the final 12 were chosen –

Friedrich	Ashley Comer & Nathan Hannay
Louisa	Rhian Spencer & Florence Milner
Kurt	Ewan Cassell & Charlie Woof
Brigitta	Megan Boyd & Lara Sayer
Marta	Alannah Lock & Mali Hissey
Gretl	Isla Rowswell & Elspeth Grice

Tickets are already on sale at the Octagon but the Society's ring fenced seats will be going on sale to high bookers on 15 to 24 January to members. (Tickets £20 for all performances (£18 concessions). Family ticket £65.

And now a message from Chairman, Geoff -

Dear all

I just want to say a huge well done to everyone involved with 'Chitty'. What a fantastic show probably our best ever. So thank you to all.

And so we move rapidly onto 'The Sound of Music' and rehearsals are going really well under the guidance of Sheila and Gill. It is great to welcome Ali Enticott as Sheila's assistant and Sharon Read as Show Secretary and Jenny Holland and Sonia Lock as children coordinators; thank you and I am sure, ladies, you will do a brilliant job.

Over the last few years we have found it very difficult to make shows profitable and finance was a hot topic at the recent AGM. We are very conscious we have to raise funds away from the Theatre and have made a start with Cabaret Evenings and Car-boot parking which has made in the region of £5000 thanks to Chris Owen and Lucy Crane for organizing.

To this end a patron Joe Draper has come forward with a suggestion of running a lottery bonus ball draw which once we have it up and organized he will run for us. Details are laid out on another page but is simply for a cost of £1 per week there is a weekly prize for the person who has the Health Lottery bonus ball number drawn each Saturday. This will bring in added funds to the Society so please look at the proposal and I hope you will be able to contribute to our funds and maybe win a prize.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

With all my best wishes.

Geoff

Then on to -

'**Chess**' in Autumn 2020. For this show we welcome back Jeremy Tustin as Director and Kat Stevens as our Musical Director.

Auditions will be held on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 April. The show will open on Tuesday 6 October and run until Saturday 10 October with a matinee on the Saturday.

We have not yet had confirmation of our show for Spring 2021 but I am sure you will be delighted with our choice! Watch this space!!

What shows would you like to see us perform in the future? Let any Committee member know your views.

Committee News

Our AGM was held on the 21 October and your new Committee is as follows:-

President: Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane

Chairman	Geoff Thresh
Vice Chairman	Mark Rudd
Secretary	Paula Budzynski
Treasurer	David (Hal) Hallett
Business Manager	Kay Taylor
Stage Director	Sarah Lowery

Committee Members: Simon Ball, Lucy Crane, Erin Darling-Finan, Clive Jesty, Nick Mountjoy and Pauline Warren. Co-opted: Guy Burgess.

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.

Julie Burt	10 year badge
Di Jamieson	10 year badge
Clive Jesty	35 year bar
Roger Bullock	50 year bar
Ken Nichols	50 year bar
Geoff Thresh	50 year bar

Please remember that, due to escalating costs, the Society is no longer in a position to pay for members' long service awards. In future if members apply for an award would they please submit an application through Paula who will let them know the cost.

Social News

Carol Singing at Yeovil Hospital – Thursday 19 December. Meet in the foyer at 6.45 pm

Hendford Car Boots You will be pleased to know that the magnificent sum of £3,038 was raised over the summer/autumn through helping with car parking at these events. Our thanks to all those who helped.

Our love and best wishes go to:-

Luke and Fawn on the occasion of their marriage in August

Erin and Reece on their recent engagement

Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane who will be undergoing another knee operation in the near future

Our condolences and love go to -

The family of Russell Chatwin, a long standing member, who passed away in September. A quiet and unassuming man, we will all remember Russell with love and great affection.

The family of Maureen Hyde, who passed away very recently. Maureen was our lovely tea lady; once again, a very quiet and unassuming lady who will be sadly missed.

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!!**

