

Upstairs - Downstairs



Presented by

Lucy Miller-White, Tom Evans & Harriet Alban

Accompanist

Robert Day

Saturday 21st May 2005

7.45pm

Woodside Hall, Walsworth Road, Hitchin

The Singers

The Ladies

Harriet Alban

Tracey Gwynne

Lucy Miller-White

Melanie Plowman

Sian Spencer

Barbara Thomas

The Gentlemen

Stephen Chalkley

Tom Evans

Matthew Greenbank

James Hamilton

Colin Wilson

Forward

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. May we take this opportunity to welcome you to this evening's concert. We all enjoyed the “An Evening of Song” concert so much last year that we thought we'd repeat the experience.

We will start on our musical journey by welcoming you all to the strange world of “society”! As you will see the programme is very varied so there will be some very old and familiar tunes but also some that may be new to you. We have all thoroughly enjoyed getting together to prepare the music. We have left out some of our more interesting choreography for fear of you rolling around on the floor with laughter!

So all that is left for us to say is to sit back and enjoy the evening.

Harriet, Lucy & Tom.

Programme Notes

Be Our Guest

Beauty and the Beast

Music: Alan Menken Lyrics: Howard Ashman

This song is from Disney's version of Beauty and the Beast. We thought we'd transfer you all to a taste of high society and fine dining, where no want is left unattended! The composers of this musical score have also been responsible for other successful musicals such as Little Shop of Horrors – from which you will hear a number later in the evening.

Largo al Factotum

The Barber of Seville

Composer: Rossini

The Barber of Seville is a comic opera where we get a glimpse of how society used to operate centuries ago. Figaro is the barber, and whilst attending hair and other functions – such as manicures – his main job would appear to be a “matchmaker” or “fixer” of marriages. As he is admitted to many of the wealthy houses and is permitted to speak and meet the young ladies he is in a prime position of knowledge and is often asked to facilitate matches. This famous aria shows us how proud and slightly arrogant he is as a successful fixer but he is bemoaning the fact that he is always called upon for this and that, so much so that it is overtaking his life. To paraphrase his words “I am the best factotum in this whole town, so well known and respected that I only attend the wealthiest of folk. What a clever and astute business man am I! Well done to me!....I am always so busy, dashing here and there at all hours of the day and night – passing secret notes from ladies to men. People are always crowding and following me, they will just have to wait their turn. It's always “Hey Figaro”, “I'm always here, there, all over the city. Ah, but I *am* so good!”

Sull Aria

The Marriage of Figaro

Composer: Mozart

This aria is a duet between the Countess and her maid Susanna. Susanna is being actively pursued by the Count – wholly inappropriately –so she and the Countess are in cahoots in concocting this letter to him. The letter, written from Susanna, is entirely at the expense of the philandering Count. They arrange to meet in the pine grove one evening at dusk but unbeknown to him, he will meet his wife the Countess, disguised as Susanna. They take great delight in their mischief making!

Flower Song

Carmen

Composer: Bizet

Don Jose is an army officer who sings this aria about his love for Carmen, a gypsy girl. The match is, of course, not suitable on many grounds – but he feels that overcoming the class difference is worth doing for her! This may not have been the wisest decision he ever made!

Soave sia il vento

Così Fan Tutti

Composer: Mozart

The opera title literally means “Women are fickle”!..... Of course this is completely untrue. However, getting back to the opera, two sisters, Fiordiligi and Dorabella are in love with two soldiers who are often billeted away. The soldiers’ friend Don Alfonso makes a bet with his friends that the sisters will not stay true to them when they are away; in true opera style they come back in disguise hoping to trick the sisters etc.... This trio is sung by the sisters and Don Alfonso. They hope the soldiers have a safe journey as they go on another posting and ask that the winds be gentle for the ship’s crossing as it is their desire they return as soon as possible.

Brother Mine

Die Fledermaus

Composer: Johann Strauss

A huge party is taking place and all of the town’s society is to be there. Once again, there is much mischief about!

Sung by:

Falke - Colin; Adele - Melanie; Gabriel - Stephen; Frank - James; Rosalinda – Harriet; Ida – Sian

Rising Early in the Morning

The Gondoliers

Composers: Gilbert & Sullivan

The words of this ditty speak quite clearly for themselves. Life among the nobility must have been such a trial!

Perfect Young Ladies

The Boyfriend

Music & Lyrics: Sandy Wilson

This is a charming little song sung by the young ladies who are anything but perfect! Hortense, their maid, is always having to correct their conduct.

Green Carnations

Bitter Sweet

Music & Lyrics: Noel Coward

These four young boys are all from privileged backgrounds. The lyrics say it all!

What Do The Simple Folk Do?

Camelot

Music: Frederick Loewe Lyrics: Alan Jay Lerner

The nobility are really not in touch with the rest of society – and feel “simple folk” are a completely different species, conversing in an unintelligible language.

Act 1

All	Be Our Guest		Beauty & The Beast
Solo	Largo al factotum	Tom	The Barber of Seville
Duet	Sull Aria	Lucy & Harriet	The Marriage of Figaro
Solo	Flower Song	Stephen	Carmen
Trio	Soave sia il vento	Lucy, Harriet & Colin	Così Fan Tutti
Septet & chorus	Brother Mine		Die Fledermaus
Solo	Rising Early in the Morning	Stephen	The Gondoliers
Sestet	Perfect Young Ladies	'The Ladies'	The Boyfriend
Quartet	Green Carnations	Colin, James, Tom & Matt	Bitter Sweet
Duet	What do the simple folk do?	Melanie & Stephen	Camelot
Solo	The Miller's Son	Barbara	A Little Night Music
Duet	Everybody ought to have a maid	Colin & James	A funny thing happened on the way to the Forum
Solo	In My Own Little Corner	Sian	Cinderella
Solo	Just You Wait!	Tracey	My Fair Lady
All	Façade		Jekyll & Hyde



There will be an interval of 20minutes.

Please refrain from smoking in the hall. Thank you.

Act 2

All	Skid Row		Little Shop of Horrors
Solo	Life upon the wicked stage	Melanie + 'girls'	Showboat
Solo	Mac The Knife	Matt	The Threepenny Opera
Trio	There's gotta be something better than this	Barbara, Melanie & Harriet	Sweet Charity
Duet	In our own little den of iniquity	James & Sian	Pal Joey
Duet	We're a couple of Swells	Tracey & Matt	Easter Parade
Solo	If I were a rich man	Tom	Fiddler on the Roof
Solo & chorus	A Fine Life	Sian	Oliver
Duet	Class	Tracey & Barbara	Chicago
Duet	Waltz for Che & Eva	Tom & Sian	Evita
Solo	The Tale of the Oyster	Lucy	Fifty Million Frenchmen
Duet	The Night they Invented Champagne	Barbara & Tom	Gigi
Solo	Posh!	James	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
All	Masquerade		Phantom of the Opera



Intervals drinks may be pre-ordered from the bar



Produced by

Lucy Miller-White, Tom Evans & Harriet Alban

The Miller's Son

A Little Night Music

Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

This song is taken from one of Sondheim's many musicals. Petra tells us of her future ambitions – who should she marry, the Miller's Son, the business man or the Prince of Wales? But what should she get up to in the meanwhile.....?

Everybody Ought to Have a Maid

A Funny Thing Happened...

Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

Senex and Pseudolus discuss the merits of having a maid! Two fine upstanding slaves.....

In My Own Little Corner

Cinderella

Music: Richard Rogers Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II

Cinderella is not one of Rogers and Hammerstein's better known musicals. However, true to form, this is a beautiful song.

Just You Wait!

My Fair Lady

Music: Frederick Loewe Lyrics: Alan Jay Lerner

Such a famous musical and it is still being performed on the professional stage. Eliza Doolittle needs no introduction and in this particular number is rather unhappy with the treatment she is receiving from Professor Higgins!

Façade

Jekyll & Hyde

Music: Frank Wildhorn Lyrics: Leslie Bricusse

Jekyll and Hyde, the musical has recently been on tour and is soon to be released for amateur production. There is some wonderful music in the score and three of the numbers we performed a year ago. This song tells the age old story of keeping up or perhaps more accurately, hiding behind, the façade.

Skid Row

Little Shop of Horrors

Music: Alan Menken Lyrics: Howard Ashman

1960 is a difficult year for Seymour Krelbourn. Brought up by a man named Mr Mushnik, Seymour is an orphan and an outcast. Living on urban Skid Row, he works at Mushnik's Skid Row Florist alongside a poor battered young woman a few years older, named Audrey. After waiting around all day from 9 'til 5 for customers; the inhabitants of Skid Row share their feelings about life.

Life Upon The Wicked Stage

Showboat

Music: Jerome Kern Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II & P.G. Wodehouse

Ellie is from a well to do background, but is captivated by performing on the stage. She is having a moan to her friends about how awful the life is – but they are far from convinced!

Mack The Knife

The Threepenny Opera

Music: Kurt Weill Lyrics: (German – Bert Brecht) (English – Marc Blitzstein)

A well known song – but very much from the seedier side of society!

There's Gotta Be Something Better

Sweet Charity

Music: Cy Coleman Lyrics: Dorothy Fields

In this song the three girls Nickie, Helene and Charity express their dissatisfaction with their work and lives. They are desperately looking and hoping for an improvement in their circumstances.

Den Of Iniquity

Pal Joey

Music: Richard Rogers Lyrics: Lorenz Hart

Joey can't quite choose between Vera, older and exceedingly wealthy, and a young beautiful, but poor girl. In this song Vera and Joey sing of their future life together – throwing society's disapproval to the wind.

We're A Couple of Swells

Easter Parade

Music & Lyrics: Irving Berlin

Meet our friendly tramps with very vivid imaginations!

If I Were A Rich Man

Fiddler on the Roof

Music: Jerry Block Lyrics: Sheldon Harnick

A well know song which needs little introduction. We hear Tevye's dreams and aspirations!

A Fine Life

Oliver

Music & Lyrics: Lionel Bart

Nancy sings about her life which is just on the edge of criminality. But as she remarks to Bet, it could always be much worse!

Class

Chicago

Music: John Kander Lyrics: Fred Ebb

Matron "Mama" Morton and inmate Velma sing of how people's manners are not what they used to be!

Waltz for Eva and Che

Evita

Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber Lyrics: Tim Rice

Eva comes back from her trip to woo Europe. She is now the sleek, all-business, ruthless Eva, who has built a shield to protect her from slings and arrows. Che questions her motives, but she says, "Everything done will be justified by my foundation" as Eva dispenses cash and other goods to the poor. Che notes that though the foundation funds are growing, so is Peron and Eva's Swiss bank account. The aristocrats appear for one more try to oust her, and she has her goons undress them, turning them into the poor. After a staged religious tribute, Che observes, "Get them while they're young, Evita. Get them while they're young."

This time, she whirls and confronts him and they berate each other as they do a waltz macabre (*Waltz for Eva and Che*), never touching, but with this electricity connecting them. No one wins as she tells him to get on his bus, then cries to God about her deteriorating physical health.

The Tale Of The Oyster

Fifty Million Frenchmen

Music & Lyrics: Cole Porter

This song comes from one of Cole Porter's lesser known musicals. When the musical was originally performed there were many complaints about this song saying how vulgar it was – all about regurgitation! However, the critics missed the entire point i.e. that it was all about social climbing. The song meanwhile was removed from the show and was only published again after Cole Porter's death.

The Night They Invented Champagne

Gigi

Music: Fredrick Loewe Lyrics: Alan Jay Lerner

Set in Paris at the turn of the last century Gigi tells the story of a young girl who is reared by her grandmother and great aunt to follow family tradition by becoming a courtesan. The family is scandalised, however, when the handsome and eligible Gaston Lachaille proposes marriage to her. Gigi is filled with classic songs and the film (1958) won eight Oscars.

Posh!

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Music & Lyrics: Richard M Sherman & Robert B Sherman

What a life this describes – fancy a trip?

Masquerade

Phantom of the Opera

Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber Lyrics: Charles Hart

All the theatre company have been invited to this beautiful spectacular masquerade ball. What a party.....!

Special Thanks

Lighting: Richard Cobb & Jack Lardent
Concert Manager: Philippa Tadman
Front of House: Social and Fund raising committee
Box Office: Vivienne Tadman
Page Turner: Helen Hodge
Choreography: Tracey Gwynne



Hitchin Thespians

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of Hitchin Thespians please contact:

Lucy Miller-White
Hon General Secretary
4 Half Acre, Hitchin, Herts SG5 2XL.

01462 458803

e-mail: rmillerwhite@hotmail.com