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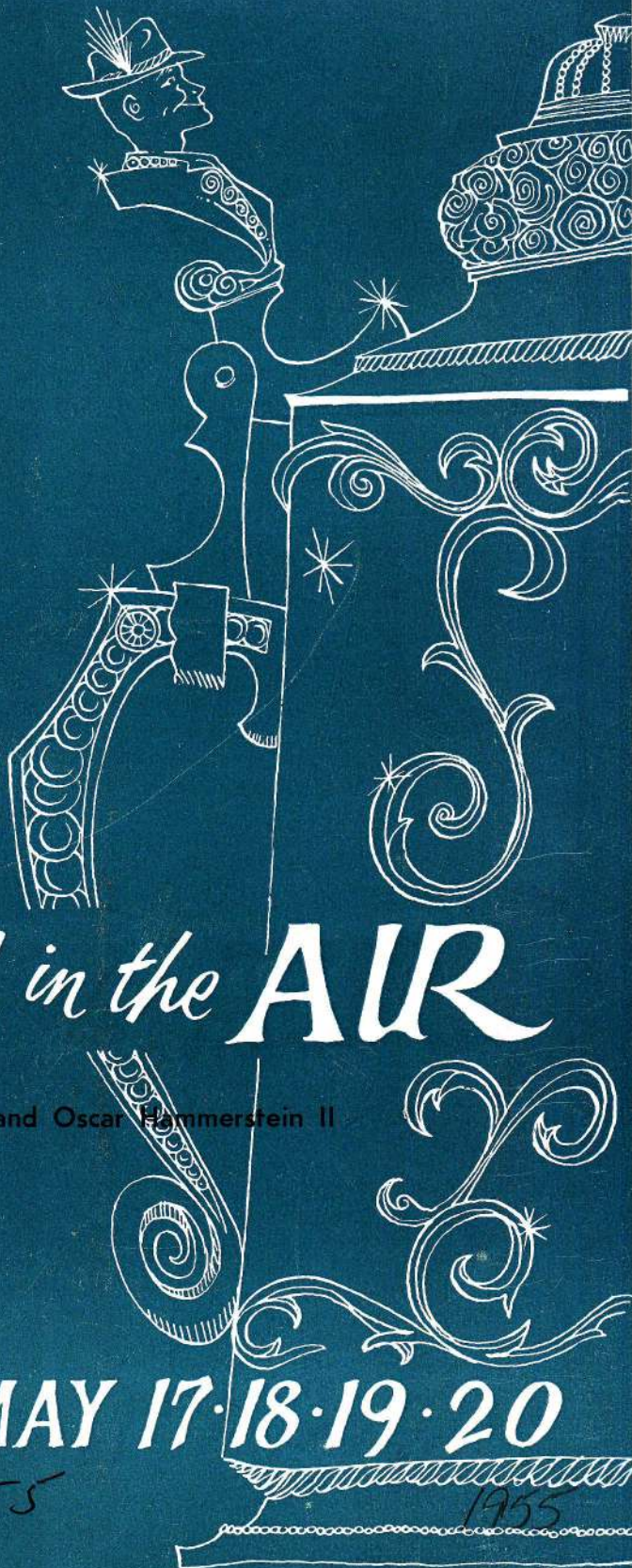
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Scholarships

The Schenectady Light Opera Company will again sponsor vocal scholarships of \$100 and \$50 for the purpose of furthering the study of two area voice students. The scholarship auditions will be held on June 14 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Y.W.C.A. and are open to the public. Applications are available upon request from any member of the committee.

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Our Story

A tiny village in the Bavarian Alps is the background for our musical adventure, "Music in the Air". Our tale grows about two young lovers, Karl Reder, the village schoolmaster, and Sieglinde Lessing, the winsome daughter of Doktor Walther Lessing, elderly and beloved music teacher of all the village.

Spring is in the air. And the magic of the birds' singing has inspired Doktor Lessing to new heights in composing the school commencement choral program. It is so good, in fact, that all feel that his boyhood friend, Ernst Weber, now a prosperous music publisher, surely will publish it.

The school year ends. Full of hope, the Doktor, Sieglinde and Karl join the village walking club on its yearly trip to Munich, the world's metropolis of song. When the three arrive at the publishing house, they find it habited by a tempestuous prima donna, Frieda Hatzfeld, and Bruno Mahler, her admirer and the librettist who has written her greatest successes. The two have just had one of their frequent and stormy quarrels.

The angry Frieda is captivated by the youth and quaint charm of the village schoolmaster, Karl. With an equal eye for youthful beauty, Bruno approaches Sieglinde with the role of prima donna in his newest opera. In good operatic fashion, new infatuations flourish for the moment in the glamour of old Munich.

"The wheel comes full turn." Frieda tires of her villager's novelty. Herr Mahler and company soon realize Sieglinde's gross shortcomings as a prima donna. Life comes near the fringes of tragedy for our disillusioned young lovers. Karl returns to his pupils. Meanwhile, Sieglinde quells her fears of scornful tongues and returns with her father to their home. But no scorn awaits her. Only the warmth of old friends greets her. She sees at last that there is no magic talisman for artistic success. Human warmth, not false romance, guides her and she joins her Karl to link her life with his in happiness.

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Musical Synopsis

ACT ONE

Leit Motif	Early one morning in Edendorf, Bavaria
A New Melody	Walther
Hold Your Head up High	School Children
Etude	Later that day at the school
Melodies of May	Choral Society
I've Told Every Little Star	Karl and Sieglinde
Prayer	Karl and Children
Pastoral	By a brook on the way to Munich
There's a Hill beyond a Hill	Walking Club
And Love Was Born	Cornelius
Impromptu	At a publisher's office in Munich
Pas Seul	Hulde and Uppman
I've Told Every Little Star	Sieglinde and Karl
Excerpts from Tingle Tangle	Bruno
I'm Alone	Frieda
In Egern on the Tegern See	Marthe

ACT TWO

Sonata	An afternoon at the Munich Zoo
One More Dance	Bruno
Night Flies By	Frieda
Quasi Marcia	The Bears
Nocturne	Four Seasons Hotel, Munich, that night
I'm Alone	Frieda
Caprice	Another hotel later that night
When Spring Is in the Air	Sieglinde and ensemble
In Egern on the Tegern See	Lilli
Rhapsody	A star dressing room, some days after
The Song Is You	Bruno
Intermezzo	A stage and pit two hours later
Audition of I'm Alone	Sieglinde
Humoresque	The star dressing room again that day
Reprises of I'm Alone	Frieda and
and The Song Is You	Bruno
Rondo	Three weeks later in Edendorf
We Belong Together	Villagers of Edendorf

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Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, II

Music by Jerome Kern

Conducted by Robert B. Collier

Time—the present

The Villagers of Edendorf

Walther Lessing, music professor	John Newkirk
Sieglinde Lessing	Gail Doonan
Karl Reder, schoolmaster	Richard Hobday
Herr Pflugfelder, innkeeper	Peter Scheller
Frau Pflugfelder	Beverly Bengelsdorf
Inga Pflugfelder	Sue Gabel
Hanna Pflugfelder	Karen Baxter
Frau Weiss, dairy owner	Marilyn Cadieux
Helmuth Weiss	Lawrence Maranville
Widow Schrieman	Helen White
Herr Burgomeister, the mayor	Richard Lowe
Frau Burgomeister	Eleanor Kornfeld
Wilhelm Burgomeister	John Clarkeson
Herr Schmidt, apothecary	Don Fapiano
Frau Schmidt	Claire L. Emerson
Lutzi Schmidt	Barbara Mastriani
Josephine Schmidt	Cynthia Pirro
Herr Moeller, baker	Joe Yankovic
Frau Moeller	Martha Lowe
Sofie Moeller, milk maid	Mary Ann Hailey
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Willi, lawyer's clerk	Jim Maddry
Cornelius, bird merchant	Bill Nickerson
Hans, young goatherd	Terry Lester
Frau Schneider, poor widow	Jane Saline
Tila Schneider	Candy Lester
Hilde Schneider	Angela Meola
Herr Blau, tobaccoist	Ulrich Merten
Frau Blau	Marilyn Jesmain
Otti, a school boy	Larry Brown
Adolph, a school boy	Richard Whitson
Herr Schultz, cobbler	Ronald Wood
Nicki, cobbler apprentice	Anthony Guarneri

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Frieda Hatzfeld, the star	Cynthia Brooks
Bruno Mahler, the author	Richard Babbitt
Rudolph Kirschner, the director	Frank Agnew
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Karl	Walt LeBaron
Frieda	Beverly Bengelsdorf
Bruno	Frank LaRosa
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Marthe	Helen White
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Cello	Arthur Catricala
String Bass	Carl Demangate
Flute	Irma Dorries
Clarinet	Frank Boggie, Joyce Viall
Fassoon	Carl Maynard
Trumpets	Pat Renzi, Paul Kaminsky
Trombone	Patrick Iovinelli
Percussion	Betty Schiff
Piano	Jane Stehn, Janet Miller

Then and Now

Our story is the product of two famous collaborators: music by J. Kern, book by O. Hammerstein II. Old story, yes, but a new twist. When J. Kern outlined the plot of his "Music in the Air" to Edna Ferber, she said, "It can't be done". Tain't so, Edna, tain't so! For on November 8, 1932, it opened at the Alvin Theatre on 52nd Street, NYC, and rave reviews fell like ticker tape on a parade. Brooks Atkinson in the *Times* hailed it as the first "coherent form" of musical drama to appear on the American stage. Rightly so, for J. Kern was the first to introduce the dramatic situation into a musical; the vaudeville revue got a plot and then some.

"Music in the Air" played for a year on "Broadway", then toured the U. S. and played London. Walter Slezak sang the romantic lead of Karl, the rural schoolmaster. Hit songs produced from those Bavarian settings are still among the greats: "The Hill Beyond The Hill", "The Song Is You", and the theme running throughout, "I Told Every Little Star".

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Briefly Noted

GAIL DOONAN (*Sieglinde*)—A music major in voice at Baldwin-Wallace College with many dramatic side lines . . . "Red Mill", "Brigadoon" and one of six white geese in "Sweethearts" . . . lessons in voice with Dorothy Dreslein . . . membership in the woman's music honorary Mu Phi Epsilon . . . all blend in qualifying Gail for a leading role in this production . . . off stage she is a KAPL group leader.

RICHARD HOBDA (*Karl*)—Has trained as a voice student with: J. Zorian, C. Wright, J. Lloyd and A. di Q Cinque . . . way back in 1942 appeared in "Waltz Dream" with SLOC . . . then with Army engineers at Los Alamos, N. M. . . returning to Union for an economics BA in '49 and a family . . . church soloist.

RICHARD BABBITT (*Bruno*)—Truly "has tux, will travel" having appeared in over a dozen light operas . . . maintains active music interests in Cliff Dwellers Quartet, Opera-in-Miniature Group, Octavos, "Amahl" . . . still studying and/or learning music the "hard way" . . . works in Guided Missiles Section of G.E.

CYNTHIA BROOKS (*Frieda*)—Mothering three sons is no small achievement . . . but it's added to four SLOC leads and three chorus performances . . . studied voice with Horace Hunt and Melva King . . . WGY, WRGB, church solo work and Music Study Club.

PAUL BEST (*Ernst*)—World War II service with the Army and work in GI shows at London's Scala Theatre readied him for Sgt. Merrill's role in "Yoeman of the Guards" . . . B.S. from Rutgers trained him for sales engineer work at G.E. . . . voice study at NYC, N. J., and with Douglas Bailey . . . church soloist.

J. B. NEWKIRK (*Walther*)—Raris Avis: A native and a G.E. man . . . Ph.D. the hard way with a Fulbright Scholarship taken at King's College, Ox-

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BILL NICKERSON (*Cornelius*)—Teaches public school at Washington Irving Jr. High . . . B.S. in musical education . . . hard knocks training as dance band drummer and vocalist, choir director . . . also serves this production as Chorus Master.

FRANK AGNEW (*Kirschner*)—Makes his opening SLOC bows tonight . . . a Philadelphia boy, with an engineering degree from Villanova U. . . . there he was active in college musical groups . . . now sales engineer at G.E.

KARL KOSS (*Uppman*)—A talented man at the piano for parties or professionally . . . accompanied last four SLOC shows . . . Oakville, Connecticut, lad made good and played 2nd piano in Arundel Opera Theater, Kennebunkport, Maine . . . advertising copywriter for G.E.

JOYCE MAGUIRE (*Hulde*)—Though only a high school student, she can boast a varied dramatics career . . . Teen Age Barn, TV, road shows, school plays, radio work, fashion modeling . . . this busy life yielded her title of Miss Schenectady representing us in the State contest.

EDITH STRUGLIA (*Marthe*)—Won the SLOC \$100 scholarship in '51 . . . studied voice in NYC and Ithaca . . . attended Fred Waring's Music Workshop in Pa. . . . teaches elementary school at Grout Park . . . is a vet SLOC'er and ensemble singer.

MARILYN CADIEUX (*Frau Weiss*)—Public health nurse for Schenectady county . . . B.S. from St. Rose's of Albany . . . grad study in music and nursing at Syracuse U. . . . studied voice seven years . . . "New Moon" and "Sweethearts" casts.

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Backstage With SLOC

DAN LEWIS (*Producer*)—A familiar figure to Light Opera workers . . . after chorus apprenticeships in several productions, he gained a leading role in "The Red Mill" . . . Board of Directors member and Show Selection Committee . . . graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute . . . now an engineer in the Analytical Engineering Dept. of G.E.

BILL GRAHAM (*Director*)—In only 22 years, Bill has crammed . . . a period of study at the State Academy of Music & Dramatic Art in Vienna . . . authored a winning student musical while there . . . a Bachelor's Degree from Depauw U. . . . major roles in "New Moon" and "Sweethearts" . . . a job in business training at G.E.

PHYLLIS SMITH (*Dramatic Coach*)—A newcomer to Light Opera . . . varied background of music and drama: violin, piano, voice and dancing at Daykarhanova's School for the Stage and American Actor's Co. . . . plus practical experience at WRGB and WGY . . . native of Dublin, Ireland . . . from a theatrical family . . . father works for Rogers & Hammerstein . . . oh, yes, and she's a housewife.

JACK GINGRICH (*Stage Manager*)—Chorus experience in four productions . . . diverted efforts to Production Staff as Scenery Technician for "New Moon", Production Manager for "Sweethearts" . . . Williamsport, Pa. is "home" . . . work is at GE's General Engineering Lab.

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STATIA SUBLETTE (*Choreographer*)—This production marks her last SLOC curtain call . . . on to Erie, Pa. . . studied dance at Jacob's Pillow, NYC and Havana . . . director of her own School of Ballet . . . choreography of five recent SLOC productions, appearing in Civic Playhouse and WRGB productions . . . bouquets to a talented supporter.

ROBERT KUBIAK (*Scene Designer*)—Kubie has been pushing little models and big sets into arrangements for years . . . "New Moon" was an example of his handiwork . . . a Painting & Design Department grad from College of Fine Arts, Carnegie Tech. . . now an account supervisor for G.E.'s Advertising & Sales Promotion Staff.

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SLOC And YOU

We wish to stress that The Schenectady Light Opera Company is a community effort. It is open to all. Next season we will have our work cut out for us. Two leaders in their musical fields are scheduled. In the fall, the Rogers and Hammerstein II favorite, "Carousel", is being offered. The spring show will be "Die Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss. These are ambitious ventures but consistent with our aims of bringing better and better productions to the stage. Success in these presentations, as in the past, rests on the co-operation of many. There are roughly three times the number of people working behind the scenes as in the cast. If any of you wish to work with us, please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors or any member of the Company for information. Our success rests directly on the community and on you.

Usherettes For "Music In The Air"

Doris Maier, *Chairman*

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Virginia Barber
Joyce Berger
Jane Binkowski
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