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To the Audience -

In presenting *The Chocolate Soldier* for your enjoyment in these times of stress we hope it will help to ease the tension a bit and give us all a lift. It is the love of good music and staging and a desire to make these a part of our community that motivates the Schenectady Light Opera Company.

Our fall show *The Mikado* was so successfully given at the Erie Theater that we plan to continue to give our performances there and we have increased the number of showings so that more of you might enjoy *The Chocolate Soldier*.

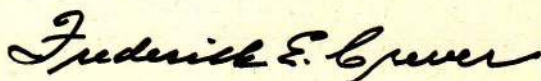
We still have the long range objective of a permanent home where all the preparations for our productions may be under one roof. We have made progress in this regard by partial renovation of the old Craig School so that it was possible not only to construct and paint our scenery there, but also to hold a ballet workshop. This fall we hope to conduct additional workshops in dramatics and in scenery design. To meet our ultimate objectives, additions will be necessary to our Craig School building so as to include a full size practice stage.

For this production, our rehearsals have been held in the Schenectady Museum and in the public schools. We thank these organizations for the use of their facilities.

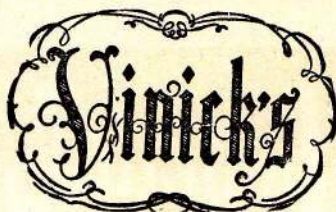
Because we are a civic undertaking—drawing our support from the entire community—we are eager that our productions please the people of Schenectady and we would like you to have a voice in the selection of our shows. We shall welcome your suggestions in that regard on future productions.

This year we will again encourage talented vocalists by awarding scholarships. Auditions will be held in June rather than in the fall as formerly. This change seems desirable so that more contestants may know of the trials and be available to try for the scholarship awards.

Your support of our activities is appreciated, and we trust it will be continued to the end that the Schenectady Light Opera Company may become better equipped to bring you even more enjoyable performances in the future.



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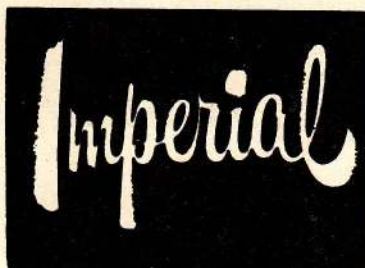
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Cello	ARTHUR CATRICALA
Bass	CARL DEMANGATE
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The Story

Based on George Bernard Shaw's satirical comedy *Arms and the Man*, the incidents, situations and structure of *The Chocolate Soldier* closely follow those of the original story. The scene of the opera is laid near the Dragoman Pass, Bulgaria. Servia and Bulgaria are at war. Colonel Popoff, of the Bulgarian army, is on active duty at the front. His family, consisting of Aurelia, his wife, Nadina, their daughter and Mascha, Nadina's cousin, are at home somewhat fearfully awaiting the outcome of the approaching engagement between the two armies. Nadina, a complete romantic, is betrothed to Alexius, a young Bulgarian Major who has become a hero to his countrymen by leading a cavalry charge against the Servians. Nadina is filled with admiration for his exploits and idealizes him.

Fighting with the Servian army is a young Swiss mercenary, Lieutenant Bumerli—nicknamed *The Chocolate Soldier* because of his love of sweets. The battle goes against the Servians, and Bumerli evades pursuit by climbing into Nadina's boudoir. Suave of manner and quick of wit, Bumerli does not have too much difficulty in persuading Nadina to conceal him—and all three women to aid in his escape. Bumerli engages in flirtation with Nadina to save his life, but later falls in love with her. She, almost against her will, returns his affection, for the business-like efficiency of the Swiss mercenary contrasts most favorably with the Bulgarian's bombast and mock heroics.

The love affairs of Bumerli and Nadina, Mascha and Alexius furnish sentiment for *The Chocolate Soldier*, while comedy situations stem from Colonel Popoff's house coat, in which Bumerli makes his escape. The return of the coat, and the fact that the three women have each hidden photographs of themselves in it, creates some unusually funny situations during the succeeding scenes.

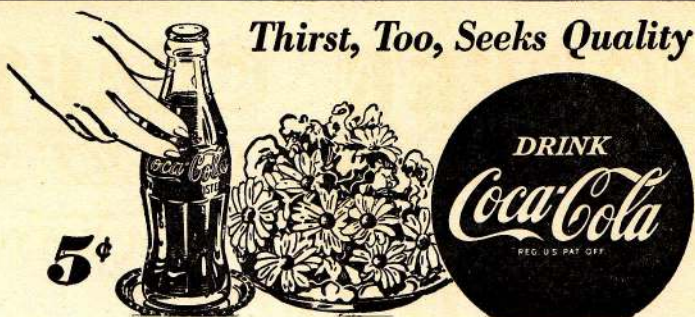
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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

- 1a. Overture
- 1b. "We Are Marching Through the Night" Chorus of Soldiers
- 1c. "We, Too, Are Lonely" Trio (Nadina, Aurelia, Mascha)
- 1d. "We Are Searching for the Foe" Chorus of Soldiers
- 1e. "What Can We Do Without a Man" Trio (Nadina, Aurelia, Mascha)
- 1f. "Say Goodnight" Ensemble (Nadina, Aurelia, Mascha)
2. "My Hero" Solo (Nadina)
3. "The Chocolate Soldier" Duet (Bumerli and Nadina)
4. "Sympathy" Duet (Bumerli and Nadina)
5. "Seek the Spy" Ensemble (Nadina, Mascha, Aurelia, Bumerli, Massakroff and Soldiers)
6. "Tiralala" Finale (Nadina, Aurelia, Mascha)

ACT 2

- 7a. "Our Heroes Come" March and Chorus
- 7b. "The Fatherland Is Free" Chorus
8. "Alexius, the Heroic" Sextet (Nadina, Mascha, Aurelia, Alexius, Popoff, Massakroff and Chorus)
9. "Never Was There Such a Lover" Duet (Alexius and Nadina)
10. "The Tale of a Coat" Sextet (Nadina, Bumerli, Mascha, Alexius, Aurelia, and Popoff)
11. "That Would Be Lovely" Duet (Bumerli and Nadina)
12. "She Dreamt That He Was Her Hero" Finale

ACT 3

13. Entr'acte and Chorus
14. "Falling in Love" Duet (Alexius and Mascha)
15. "Letter Song" Solo (Nadina)
16. Scene and Melodrama Solo (Bumerli)
17. "Letter Song" Duet (Bumerli and Nadina)
18. "Thank the Lord the War Is Over" Finale (Principals and Chorus)

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THE CHOCOLATE SOLDIER

Music by Oscar Straus

Original Libretto—Rudolf Bernauer and Leopold Jacobson English Version—Stanislaus Stange

THE CAST

(In the Order in Which They Appear)

NADINA, Daughter of Colonel Popoff	SYLVIA HORWITZ
AURELIA, Her mother	JANE COFFEY
MASCHA, Aurelia's cousin	EMILY RODEMAN
BUMERLI, A Swiss mercenary in the Servian Army	JACK O'CONNOR
MASSAKROFF, Officer in Bulgarian Army	RICHARD BABBITT
KATINKA	FULVIA BRUN
STEPHAN Colonel Popoff's servants	ROBERT DOUGLAS
KASIMIR POPOFF, Colonel in the Bulgarian Army	ROBERT STONE
ALEXIUS SPIRIDOFF, Major in the Bulgarian Army	EDWARD CURRIE
Army betrothed to Nadina Popoff	

SCENES

ACT 1 Nadina's bedroom in Popoff's house. Autumn. Night.

INTERMISSION

ACT 2 Garden of the Popoff home. In May of the following year. Afternoon.

ACT 3 The same. That evening.

PLACE — A small town in Bulgaria

TIME — 1885

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Clarice Budnick
Shirley Butler
Jeanne Currie
Mariann Cygan
Janet Fletcher
Phyllis Gillette
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Opera Notes

SYLVIA HORWITZ (NADINA)

Native of Bangor, Maine . . . Graduate of University of Maine, where she sang in the chapel choir . . . Attended Juilliard School of Music . . . Sang the roles of Dorothy in *Chanticleer Hall* and Cleopatra in *Wizard of The Nile* . . . Member of the chorus in *The Gondoliers* and *The Mikado*.

JANE COFFEY (AURELIA)

Formerly taught music in Michigan . . . Has sung with the Company in seven shows . . . Assisted with the musical direction of *Chimes of Normandy* and *Chanticleer Hall*.

EMILY RODEMANN (MASCHA)

Native of Troy . . . Graduate of Emma Willard School . . . Studied dramatic arts at Russell Sage . . . Former member of Alviene School Theater in New York . . . One season of summer stock . . . Studied voice for over eight years . . . Sang the part of Peep-Bo in *The Mikado*.

JACK O'CONNOR (BUMERLI)

This is Jack's first appearance with the Company . . . A native of Montclair, New Jersey, he sang in the Montclair Glee Club . . . Appeared as soloist with the Seton Hall College Glee Club and Schola Cantorum as well as with various choral groups while serving in the United States Naval Reserve during World War II.

RICHARD BABBITT (MASSAKROFF)

Hails from Albion, New York . . . Appeared in several Gilbert and Sullivan operettas while in high school and college . . . This is his sixth show with the Company . . . Played Ptolemy in *The Wizard of The Nile* . . . Soloist at First Presbyterian Church in Troy . . . Member of Cleff Dwellers Quartet.

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Opera Notes (Continued)

FULVIA BRUN (KATINKA)

Born in New York, raised in Schenectady . . . Initial studies in voice under Nancy Martin, Schenectady Conservatory . . . Now studying with Melva King . . . Understudied Peep-Bo in *The Mikado* . . . In spare time has studied ballet with Phyllis Marmein and is a member of the Company's Ballet Workshop . . . Spends days as secretary at WRGB.

RICHARD DOUGLAS (STEPHAN)

First appearance with the Company . . . Played character parts in college productions and has several years of glee club experience.

ROBERT STONE (KASIMIR)

Bob has been connected with thirteen previous productions of the Company either as composer, producer, director or performer . . . Sang nine roles at the Opera Department, Eastman School of Music, including Mephistopheles in *Faust*, Marcel in *La Boheme*, and Peter in *Hansel and Gretel* . . . For over nine years has been directing television shows at WRGB.

EDWARD CURRIE (ALEXIUS)

Ed is appearing in his sixth consecutive production with the Company . . . Sang the role of Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado* and Ptarmigan in *The Wizard of The Nile* . . . A graduate of University of Iowa where he appeared in several musicals . . . Soloed with Great Lakes Navy Choir . . . Heard locally as church soloist . . . Member of Cleff Dwellers Quartet.

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BARBARA TRAVER	NADINA
DOREEN HEARD	MASCHA
ROBERT COLLER	BUMERLI
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Who's Who In the Company

CARLA BALHOUSE (PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR)

Concert pianist starting career at age nine . . . Had own radio show in Hollywood . . . Starlet at Columbia studios, featured in two motion pictures . . . Leading soprano of American Savoy Light Opera Company on two international tours . . . Directed the Company during illness of director . . . Teaches voice, piano and dramatics.

ROBERT COLLIER (ASSOCIATE PRODUCER)

Conductor of Choralettes at Schenectady Museum . . . Member of Arundel Opera Theater of Kennebunk, Maine, in the summer of 1950, where he appeared in six operas including the role of Ko-Ko in *The Mikado* . . . Sang the role of Ko-Ko in our own production of *The Mikado*.

BETTY ANN EATON (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

Came to Schenectady from Missouri ten years ago to go on the Women's Test Course at GE . . . Headed the Properties Selection Committee for *The Wizard of The Nile*, her first production with the Company . . . Technical Director for *The Mikado*.

CHARLES FISCHER (STAGE MANAGER)

Worked with dramatics teachers in high school on several class plays . . . Went on from there to producing and directing for church and school groups . . . His avid interest in theatrical work has given him a fund of knowledge concerning most phases of the theater.

FRED HERBERT (CHOREOGRAPHER)

Has been associated with the Company twelve years . . . Assistant to Irene Castle in 1941, when she was guest artist at the Dance Masters' Convention in New York . . . Studied with Anton Dolan, Lola Montez and Tokin . . . Has his own studio.

RUTH TENNANT (DRAMATICS DIRECTOR)

Was director in the Drama Department and was instructor (interpretation), Emerson College . . . Played in summer stock . . . Had ad lib Breakfast Show with husband Bob on WEEL, Boston . . . Did radio free lance work in Providence, Rhode Island.

HELEN WHITE (MUSIC DIRECTOR)

From LaPorte, Indiana . . . Graduate of Western Michigan College of Education . . . Taught music in Michigan Schools . . . Played the part of Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado* . . . Appeared in *The Chimes of Normandy* and *Wizard of The Nile* in which she helped direct the chorus.

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Each year the Company awards two scholarships to be used for the study of voice. One award is for \$100 and one is for \$50. The contest is open to any voice student or any person planning voice study who is between the ages of 16 and 30 and is a resident of Schenectady County. This year the scholarship auditions will be held at the Schenectady Museum on the morning of June 16 at ten o'clock. Application blanks containing further information about the auditions will be available at the downtown music stores.

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