

songs for a new world



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Bonnie Williams
SLOC President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the beginning of our 79th year of bringing quality musical theatre to Schenectady and the Capital District. Over the years, we had strived to present a diversified selection of musical comedies, reviews, and classic operettas that we hope will please our audiences. With this season, we offer you the opportunity to attend not one, not two, but four SLOC premieres. If this season's shows are new to you, they are new to SLOC as well.

We begin with *Songs For A New World*, Jason Robert Brown's emotional musical narrative. From the sublime to the ridiculous, next is *Nuncrackers*, the Christmas-themed installment in the *Nonsense* franchise. Next, we reach back to our roots for some Gilbert and Sullivan music, with a twist. *Sullivan and Gilbert* is a play with music by award winning playwright Ken Ludwig. Closing the season is *Nine*, the story of a man and the many women in his life. If this sounds intriguing, your single ticket purchase for this performance will be credited toward a full subscription by mailing your ticket stub along with your order. Please pick up a season brochure from the lobby or an usher.

These are uncertain times. The war in Iraq continues, the South is still struggling with the aftermath of Katrina, and ordinary folks are trying to stretch a paycheck to cover rising costs of health care, feeding a family, keeping warm this winter and having enough money left over to fill the gas tank.

Why bring this up while there you are sitting at your cabaret table enjoying a pleasant time in the theatre?

It is simply to say, "thank you". Your attendance here means you care enough about the arts to take some of your precious disposable income and spend it on an evening (or afternoon) at live theatre. We are aware that in an uncertain economic time, arts programs are often the first to be sacrificed. So thank you for coming. Thank you for your support. Thank you for enabling Schenectady Light Opera Company to continue our mission bringing quality musical theatre to the city of Schenectady and the Capital District as it has for the past 79 years!

Bonnie Williams

"Thank you.
Your attendance
here means you
care enough
about the arts."



SLOC'S 79TH SEASON

SLOC'S 79TH SEASON

Schenectady Light Opera Company is pleased to announce our 79th season. Our first production will be *Songs for a New World*, by Jason Robert Brown. It is presented in cabaret style at the Opera House. "It's about that moment when you're on the verge of success, and the sky starts to change and the wind starts to blow. You are now in a completely different land. You are in A New World."

Our second production of the season is *Nun-crackers*. This *Nunsense* Christmas Musical takes place in real time in the basement of Mount Saint Helen's Convent. It is the first TV special being taped in the Cable Access Studio, built by Reverend Mother with part of the prize money won earlier by Sister Mary Paul/Amnesia. An original ballet based on "The Nutcracker," with Sister Mary Leo as the Sugar Plum Fairy, doesn't go quite as well as expected when she is hit in the shin by a student's baton and the nuns have to improvise to entertain the audience. Lots of laughs and surprises and interaction with the cast are yours when you join us for this delightful show.

Nun-crackers will be followed by *Sullivan and Gilbert*, which is set in the Savoy Theater in 1890. It is the final, frantic day of rehearsal for Gilbert and Sullivan's revue requested by Queen Victoria. The two men have been feuding for years, yet they are forced to work together one more time. The cast of characters include Sullivan's secret girlfriend and Alfred, the son of the Queen, who thinks he belongs on stage. With quick wit and a touching manner, playwright Ken Ludwig's book is adorned with a wonderful Gilbert and Sullivan score. It is a treat for lovers of the Savoyards and everyone who loves the excitement, energy and eccentricities of the theater.

Our season wraps up with *Nine*. Recently seen on Broadway starring Antonio Banderas, Mary Stuart Masterson and Chita Rivera, *Nine* relates the story of a life out of control. An Italian film director turns forty and faces a double crisis: he has to shoot a film for which he can't write a script, and his wife of twenty years is threatening to leave if he doesn't pay more attention to her and their marriage. Women from his past reappear offering him resolution and love. *Nine* includes beautifully haunting music by Maury Yeston and book by Arthur Kopit.

*Join us and enjoy the productions
of our 79th season!*



Michael C. Mensching
Director

FROM THE **DIRECTOR**

I am thrilled to be directing another show for Schenectady Light Opera Company, especially for a show with such powerful music.

I was first turned onto the music of Jason Robert Brown when a friend suggested that I buy the CD of "Songs For A New World." Although eclectic in nature, each song bears the common theme of strong emotional choice and resolution. It is for this reason that I decided to treat the piece as more than a traditional cabaret style revue.

Jason Robert Brown has been compared to Stephen Schwartz and Stephen Sondheim in his musical style. Relatively a newcomer to the "Broadway" scene, I expect we will see much more from this young composer in years to follow. As the composer of "The Last Five Years" and the Tony Award-winning "Parade", Brown had compiled "Songs For A New World" from various musical theater pieces he had in progress. It is, however, the very soul of his music that enables these songs to come together as one beautiful work of art. His music is honest and pure.

We are pleased to bring back our theater cabaret-setting for you this evening and hope that you will enjoy a relaxing evening of great music, food and drink. SLOC is offering you a complete season of non-traditional shows. It is my hope that you will attend some of the other performances offered this season and see some of our more artistic and adventurous pursuits.


Michael C. Mensching



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Drums – Jim Iacketta

Bass – Dave Beck

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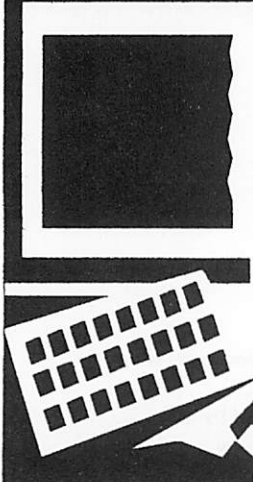
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MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

<i>Opening Sequence: The New World</i>	Anne, Angela, Shawn, Donell, Linda
<i>On The Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship, 1492</i>	Eric
<i>Just One Step</i>	Anne
<i>I'm Not Afraid of Anything</i>	Angela
<i>The River Won't Flow</i>	Donell, Shawn
<i>Transition I</i>	Anne
<i>Stars and the Moon</i>	Linda
<i>She Cries</i>	Shawn
<i>The Steam Train</i>	Donell

Act Two

<i>The World Was Dancing</i>	Eric
<i>Surabaya-Santa</i>	Angela
<i>Christmas Lullaby</i>	Anne
<i>King of the World</i>	Shawn
<i>I'd Give It All For You</i>	Eric, Angela
<i>Transition II</i>	Shawn
<i>The Flagmaker, 1775</i>	Linda
<i>Flying Home</i>	Donell
<i>Final Transition</i>	Anne, Shawn, Eric
<i>Hear My Song</i>	Anne, Angela, Shawn, Donell, Linda

There will be a 20 minute intermission between Act I and Act II.

Please join us for wine, soft drinks, bottled water
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THE CAST &



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THE CAST

in order of appearance

Anne Agresta Dugan

Donell James Foreman

Eric Nelsen

Shawn Hahn

Linda Zurlo

Angela T. Ryan



songs
for a
new world
factoids

Jason Robert Brown made his Off-Broadway debut as the composer and lyricist for this production at the age of 25.

Jason Robert Brown served as orchestrator, arranger and musical director for Yoko Ono's "New York Rock" at the WPA Theatre in New York City.

Jason Robert Brown won a Tony Award in 1999 for his score to the Broadway musical, "Parade", which was directed by Harold Prince.

Jason Robert Brown served as the musical director for the vocal pop group, **The Tonic**s, with whom he performed at the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Though "Songs for a New World" only ran for 28 performances at the WPA Theatre off-Broadway in October of 1995, it has taken on a life of its own with over 500 performances world-wide since then.

Each of the show's songs is about a time of transition that forms together into "a cumulative emotional narrative".

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Anne Agresta Dugan

Anne has appeared in such wonderful productions as: *Night Music*, *Down in the Valley*, *Regina*, *Into the Woods*, *Tommy*, *Magic Flute*, *Così Fan Tutte*, *Daughter of the Regiment* and *L'Italiana*. She has been the soprano soloist for *Gloria*, *St. Cecelia*, *St. Paulus*, *Carmina Burana* and *Requiem*. Anne is a graduate of the Crane School of Music (BM, voice and education) and SUNY Albany (MA Theatre). She has trained and performed with American Singers' Opera Project in Manhattan, earned the Joel Dolven Vocal Award in 2004 and studies with tenor Thomas Wolf. She is a private voice teacher and vocal adjudicator for NYSSMA and lives in Schenectady with her husband and daughter.

Donell James Foreman

Donell is very excited to be doing one of his favorite shows with SLOC this year. Donell previously performed SFANW in 2003, as well as performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland that same year. He has participated in many theaters throughout the capital district including Park Playhouse and Cohoes Music Hall. Some of his credits include: Flick in *Violet*, Cat in the Hat in *Seussical the Musical*, Coalhouse in *Ragtime* and Miles Gloriosus in *Forum* and has also received acting nominations from SLOC for these performances. This year Donell will be interning at the NYSTI. Donell would like to thank his family and friends for all of their support.

Shawn Hahn

Shawn is thrilled to be able to cross another "must do" show off of his list. This is his third SLOC show, having played Stone in *City of Angels* and King in *Victor/Victoria*. He has performed in professional theaters in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Favorite roles include: Bernardo in *West Side Story*, Curly in *Oklahoma*, Valmont in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and The Actor in *The Woman in Black* (SCP). Shawn hails from Michigan and graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in Elementary Education and minor in theater. Shawn wishes to thank Dr. P. for getting this all started and dedicates this performance to Joey who inspires many songs daily.

Eric Nelsen

Eric is elated to make his SLOC debut with such a talented cast and crew. Eric graduated from the Hartt School of Music with a B.M. in Music Education and Sage Graduate School with a M.S. in Elementary Literacy. Eric teaches music at Waterford-Halfmoon Elementary School. Favorite performance credits include: Floyd's *Susannah* (LGO), Bernstein's *Candide* (LGO), Verdi's *La Traviata* (Glens Falls Symphony), Blitzstein's *Cradle Will Rock* (SCP) and an unexpected off-Broadway debut as a guest speller in William Finn's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. This, and all performances, is dedicated to S.A.K. I love you!

Angela T. Ryan

Angela is pleased to be making her SLOC debut beside so many of her talented friends! Some of her favorite roles include: Randy in *A...My Name is Alice* and Cordelia in *Falsettos*. She has performed locally with C-R Productions, Schenectady Civic Players, Steamer 10 and 3 Dollar Bill Productions, among others. Angela is an adjunct professor at SUNY Albany, Siena and the College of St. Rose, where she teaches courses in various theatrical disciplines. When not performing or teaching, Angela assumes the role as an Area Manager with a Swiss health and wellness company. She would like to dedicate this performance to her Grandpa - that he may "Hear My Song."

Linda Zurlo

Linda is most happy to make her SLOC debut and to be able to work with a remarkable cast and crew. Linda recently appeared in two Circle Theatre Players productions of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and *City Girls*. Past roles have included: Patty in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Evilene in *The Wiz*, Dolly in *Annie Get Your Gun* and Mammy Yokum in *L'il Abner*. Linda attended the Berklee College of Music where she studied vocal performance and SUNY Plattsburgh where she earned a B.A. in Psychology. She is a mother of three beautiful children and thanks her husband Mike for all of his love and support.

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Co-Producers	Michael A. Mc Dermott, Ferne L. Dutkin
Director	Michael C. Mensching
Musical Director.....	Valerie Lord
Assistant Director	Joan Horgan
Choreographer	Christine Marcella
Set Designer.....	Dale Conklin
Set Construction/Painting	Dale Conklin
<i>Assisted by: Michael C. Mensching, Michael A. McDermott, Barbara Mahlmann, Brian Meade, Peter Brown, Linda Zurlò, Ben Brillat, Jane Conklin</i>	
Lighting Designer	Ken Zarnoch
<i>Assisted by: Tom Gatta</i>	
Sound Designer	Eric Bello
Costume Designer	Chris Persan
<i>Assisted by: Ferne Dutkin, Michael A. McDermott, Michael C. Mensching</i>	
Stage Manager	Regina Baker
<i>Assisted by: Donna Z. Baxter</i>	
Props Master	Jodi Gilman
Makeup Design	Marcia Lenahan
<i>Assisted by: Shiela Bouchard</i>	
Audition Arrangements	Eunice Chouffi
Audition Accompanist	Valerie Lord
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Print Advertising	Richard Lenahan, Michael A. McDermott
Foyer Bulletin Boards	Michael A. McDermott, Ferne Dutkin
Photography	Tim Raab and Northern Photo
Show T-Shirts.....	Ferne L. Dutkin
Opening Night Party	Jenny Depew
Strike Party.....	Melinda Zarnoch

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Aloysius McDermott (Co-Producer)

Michael is pleased to be back at SLOC, after making his on stage debut as Labisse in *Victor/Victoria*. He has produced *Jane Eyre* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (SLOC) and *Missing Link* and *The Laramie Project* (SCP). Michael has performed in *Death Takes a Holiday* and *The Fantasticks* (SCP) and *The Rainmaker* and Peter Tyger's *American Dream* (ACT). He has served as past president for Albany Civic Theater. In the daytime Michael is the Vice President of New Business Development for Prentice Hall. Thanks to the cast and crew for all of their hard work.

Ferne L. Dutkin (Co-Producer)

Ferne is excited to work on her second show for SLOC, having previously produced *Jane Eyre* in 2003. In 2004-2005, she served on the SLOC Board of Directors. Ferne has worked on a wide variety of shows in the capital district including: *The Laramie Project* (SCP), *Blythe Spirit* (ACT), *Nunsense* (CCP), *Guys and Dolls*, *King and I*, *Baby* and *Secret Garden* (Spotlight Players). She is also a past president for Spotlight Players. She has performed on stage in musical theater and cabaret. Ferne wishes to thank this very talented cast and crew for creating such a beautiful "new world".

Continued, Next Page

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STAFF BIOGRAPHIES Continued

Michael C. Mensching (Director)

Michael is thrilled to be directing his third show for SLOC, having directed both *Jane Eyre* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Mike has also directed other productions in the area including: *Starting Here, Starting Now* (CCP), *Nunsense* (CCP), *Baby* (Spotlight Players), *Après Opera* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (CTP) and *Snoopy* (the Church of the Covenant). This spring he will be directing *A New Brain* (CCP) written by William Finn (*25th Putnam County Spelling Bee* author). This past year Mike was proud to serve as president for Schenectady Light Opera Company.

Valerie A. Lord (Music Director)

Valerie has served as music director for many productions including: *Once on this Island*, *The Cradle Will Rock*, *Something's Afoot*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Working*, *Footloose* and the recent tour of *A Christmas Carol* starring Barry Williams. Valerie trained as a pianist at the Crane School of Music, studied voice at the College of St. Rose and is a founding member of OFT. With Lake George Opera Company, Valerie performs, acts as accompanist for On Tour troupe and coordinates their summer camp. By day, she is the choral director at Ballston Spa High School. For Ted.

Joan Horgan (Assistant Director)

Joan has appeared in several of SLOC's productions, but this is her first community theater foray into being an AD. She is hoping those years of directing high school students in everything from *Cabaret* to *Fiddler* will help at least a little. Her favorite roles include: Jane Eyre in *Jane Eyre*, Eva Peron in *Evita*, Woman #3 in *The World Goes Round* and Judy Denmark in *Ruthless*. She is grateful to Mike and the cast and crew of "Songs" for this opportunity to try something new.

Christine Marcella (Choreographer)

Christine is no stranger to the theatre and performing. Christine has worked with numerous theatre groups throughout the capital district including NYSTI, Park Playhouse and SLOC. She was last seen in *That Old Time Rock'N'Roll Show* for Center Stage Productions, a theatre company she founded in 2002 and for her role as Jan in *Grease* (SLOC). In addition to her dedication to theatre, most of her free time is devoted to her two beautiful dogs, Rajah and Nala.

Dale Conklin (Set Designer)

Dale returns to launch his 8th show for SLOC. Past favorites include: *On the Twentieth Century*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Tommy* and *Jane Eyre*. This show, in exposing the crux of life's decisions, resounds deeply with the music in his soul. His appreciation remains with his building crew who fashion all that you see here. Love to his family and friends that constantly support him through his journey. Let's set sail and brace yourselves for the high seas of life.

Ken Zarnoch (Lighting Designer)

Ken has worked in almost every capacity at SLOC during the past 18 years from acting, stage managing, lighting and set construction to painting. He was most recently seen on stage as General Lord Glossop of *Jekyll and Hyde* (SLOC). He is the recipient of a TANYs award for Outstanding Set Design for *Victor/Victoria* in May 2003. Ken is a member of the SLOC's Board of Directors and Co-VP of Technical Operations. Ken is a chemist and is employed at the GE Global Research Center in Niskayuna and has over 20 U.S. patents.

Eric Bello (Sound Designer)

Eric is happy to be returning to SLOC, having worked previously on *Jane Eyre* and *Grease*. He has worked on musicals, dramas and comedies worked with other area theater groups. Ric is now in his second year serving on the SLOC Board of Directors as Co-VP of Technical Operations. Ric is an emergency room physician at St. Peter's Hospital. Ric wishes to thank the SLOC board for the opportunity they have given him to work on their sound system and to this very talented cast and crew.

Christine Persans (Costume Designer)

Christine is pleased to be back at SLOC providing costumes for *Songs*. Her creativity and versatility in costumes has been shown in her work of SLOC's 2004 production of *Victor/Victoria*, for which she received a 2004 TANYs Award. From the Revolutionary War to the present day, costuming this revue has presented many creative challenges. Thanks to the cast and crew for their input and dedication to this production.

Regina Baker (Stage Manager)

Regina is happy to be back for her third show at SLOC. Last season she worked at SLOC as stage crew on *Jekyll and Hyde* and made her successful debut as stage manager for *Grease*. Regina is looking forward to working this season at SLOC. Thanks go out to her family for their love and support and to her "new" friends at SLOC for all of their help and support. "Let's break a leg with this one".

Marcia Lenehan (Makeup Designer)

Marcia in contributing to *Songs For a New World* will be celebrating her 20th show at SLOC. *Grease* has been her most recent production. In addition, Marcia has designed and assisted on productions with Family Players, Hilltown Players, the Not So Common Players of Clifton Park, Schenectady Civic Players and The Electric City Barbershop Chorus. To Michael Mensching and everyone involved in *Songs For a New World*, thanks for the fun...and for letting me waitress, too! I love you all!

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