

Schenectady Light Opera Company

presents the



Galaxy of Shining Stars



GALA



BENEFIT CONCERT



January 21, 22 and 23, 1994

826 State Street, Schenectady, NY

Birth of the Galaxy Campaign

Welcome to the Schenectady Light Opera Company's **Gala Benefit Concert!** Almost a year ago, a group of SLOC members gathered to address a problem that could cripple performances at the Opera House. The lighting system, an integral part of our productions for over 15 years, had become dilapidated and unreliable. Without replacement, SLOC would be forced to use minimal lighting or rental equipment. Since these eventualities were unacceptable, the group envisioned a campaign to raise the necessary funds to purchase a new and modern lighting system. With the support of the SLOC Board, the "*Galaxy of Shining Stars Campaign*" was launched at the beginning of the 1993-94 season.

Program inserts and newsletter articles explained the campaign and asked audience, friends, businesses and SLOC members for contributions. The response has been fantastic! With the campaign half over, total contributions exceed \$12,000. In addition, a long-time friend of the Opera Company has offered to "put it over the top" when the total reaches \$16,000. This means only \$4,000 more to reach that goal. With your continued support, we can do it!

The *Galaxy* Fundraising Committee extends its heartfelt appreciation to all who contributed to this campaign:

- To our "Shining Stars" (those who contributed \$100 or more) -- May your light never dim.
- To our **Contributors** -- May your generosity be rewarded manyfold.
- To our **Galaxy Concert Production Staff** -- Thanks for all your hard work and expertise. May your talents continue to blossom and develop, and uplift you and others.
- To our **Cast** -- May you forever derive satisfaction from entertaining others! Thank you for sharing your talents and making this Concert possible.



Sincerely, the *Galaxy* Fundraising Committee:

Peter and Madeline Codella
George Cain
Robert Farquharson
Tom Heckert
Colin McCarty
Greg and Sue Rucinski
Melinda Zarnoch

Cast

SOLOISTS *(In order of appearance)*

Nancy Cain
Bonnie Williams
Joan Horgan
Quency Rene
Matthew Moross
Edwin Graham
Judi Merriam
Bill Harrison

Gail Garrison
Susan Verrastrò
Helena Binder Bress
Paula Ginder
Jim Fraser
Laura Roth
Allan Foster

CHORAL ENSEMBLE *(In alphabetical order)*

Asterisk indicates Dancers*

Bill Baetz*
Thomas D. Bambury
Jacqueline Bee*
Jessica Brown*
Shawn Cahill
Eunice Chouffi
Mary Donovan
John Drazal
Bryant Empie
Amelia Essman*
Ira Gilman
Paula Ginder
Tom Heckert
Natalie Hoffman

Maria A. Lally
Caren Lessner (dancer only)
Christine Marcella*
Bill McColl
Michael O'Brien
Donna Cerniglia Panzl*
Debbie Paul
Barbara Petersen
Ted Rucinski
Suzane Talarico*
Roselyn Thyssen
Dan Van Syckle
Bonnie Williams



Act I: "Color"



Music performed under license from ASCAP and BMI.

- * "IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING" (*State Fair*) Ensemble
- * Welcome and Introduction *Master of Ceremonies*
Friday, *Steve Fitz* • Saturday and Sunday, *Quency Rene*
- * "KING & I MEDLEY" (*The King and I*) ... Ensemble; *Jacqueline Bee*
School teacher reflects on lessons learned in loving the King of Siam.
- * "FLAMIN' AGNES" (*I Do! I Do!*) *Nancy Cain and Her Boys*
Marriage woes create spicy mid-life crisis.
- * "REMEMBER" (*A Little Night Music*) Ensemble; Dancers;
Sue Rucinski, Shawn Cahill; Barbara Petersen, John Drazal
Romantic partners' recollections while vacationing.
- * "I'M STILL HERE" (*Follies*) *Bonnie Williams*
Flashbacks and reminiscents bantered by a theatre performer.
- * "LITTLE GIRL BLUE" (*Jumbo*) *Joan Horgan*
N.Y. Hippodrome was setting for heroine to dream of childhood memories
- * "MAME" (*Mame*) *Caren Lessner; Men's Ensemble; Ira Gilman*
Antic-bubbling, matchmaking widow, lives life to the fullest.
- * "SOMEWHERE THAT'S GREEN" (*Little Shop of Horrors*)
..... *Quency Rene*
Flower shop salesgirl, abused by boyfriend, longs for contentment.
- * "LILY'S EYES" (*Secret Garden*) *Matthew Moross, Edwin Graham*
Haunted, brothers are startled by young girl's resemblance
to their beloved.
- * "GREENFINCH & LINNET BIRD" (*Sweeney Todd*) *Judi Merriam*
Young woman, locked away by her ward, longs to be free, like the birds.
- * "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" (*The Sound of Music*) Ensemble;
..... *Bill McColl and Maria A. Lally*
Trapp Family Singers express sentiments for their homeland, Austria.
- * "JOHANNA" (*Sweeney Todd*) *Bill Harrison*
Young sailor vows to release his love from her confinement.
- * "COLORS OF MY LIFE" (*Barnum*) Ensemble
Showman P. T. Barnum and Chairy reflect personalities—
his, flamboyant; hers, pragmatic.

Intermission: Downstairs (30 minutes)

Featuring: Free hors d'oeuvres and beverage

Lawrence Lessner, Magician

SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE (see outside back cover for details)



Act II: "Light" ★

- * "YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" (*Godspell*) Ensemble;
..... Bill Baetz, Tom Heckert, Debbie Pau¹, Rosalyn Thyssen
Whimsical retelling of the gospel according to St. Matthew.
- * "WITH YOU" (*Pippin*) Ensemble and Thomas D. Bambury
Young man sings of life with his new love.
- * "THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT" (*Phantom of the Opera*) Ensemble
Choreographed and danced by Bill Baetz and Caren Lessner
Christine, suspended in a trance, is seduced with Phantom's music.
- * "NIGHT AND DAY" (*The Gay Divorcee*) Gail Garrison
*Fred Astaire and Claire Luce starred in first musical at
Ethel Barrymore Theater in New York City.*
- * "RAZZLE DAZZLE" (*Chicago*) Susan Verrastro;
Lawrence Lessner, Magician, and Christine Marcella, assistant
Bob Fosse's creative musical vaudeville.
- * "A WONDERFUL DAY LIKE TODAY" (*The Roar of the Greasepaint,
the Smell of the Crowd*) Helena Binder Bress
Infectious music-hall song won favor in allegorical Broadway musical.
- * "STRIKE UP THE BAND" (*Strike Up the Band*) Ensemble; Dancers
*Times Square Theatre, musical comedy. War between
U.S. & Switzerland. A Gershwin hit.*
- * "IF I LOVED YOU" (*Carousel*) Ensemble; Mary Donovan
Unable to acknowledge feelings, Barker Billy Bigelow speculates.
- * "ALL I ASK OF YOU" (*The Phantom of the Opera*)
..... Paula Ginder; Jim Fraser
Twilight on opera house roof; couple escapes Phantom with love song.
- * "ROSE'S TURN" (*Gypsy*) Laura Roth
*Mama Rose Hovick suffers "breakdown" as famous daughter
Gypsy Rose Lee achieves stardom.*
- * "FINISHING THE HAT" (*Sunday in the Park with George*)
..... Allan Foster
Painter George Seurat's inner conflict between work and love.
- * "SUNDAY" (*Sunday in the Park w/George*) Ensemble and Soloists
*A musical portrayal of the masterpiece painting, "A Sunday Afternoon
on the Island of LaGrande Jatte." (Concert Finale)*

Production Staff

Co-Producers Peter and Madeline Codella
Director Thomas L. Heckert, Jr.
Musical Director Jean Van Syckle
Choreographer Caren Lessner

Musicians Jean Van Syckle, *Piano*
..... Tony Riccobono, *Bass*
..... Joe Conroy, *Percussion*
..... Tom Gerbino, *Reeds*

Set Design, Construction and Painting Robert Farquharson
Assisted by Peter and Madeline Codella, Paul Croteau,
Allan Foster, Tom Heckert, Greg Rucinski

Lighting Design and Execution George Cain
Assisted by Greg Rucinski, Karen Empie, Jenny Novosel, Alex Cain

Costume Coordinator Molly Wright

Sound Chuck LaMalfa

Stage Manager Claire Bee

Audition Arrangements Eunice Chouffi

Assisted by Arthur and Paige Gauvreau,
Christine Pedersen, Nina Rindenello

Publicity Colin McCarty, Peter and Madeline Codella, Ricki Shapiro

Print Advertising Paige Gauvreau

Program/Poster Design, Layout and Typesetting Madeline Codella

Photography Joseph Schuyler

Box Office/Tickets Peter and Madeline Codella

Ushering Chris Pedersen and Nina Rindenello

Silent Auction/Raffle Melinda Zarnoch

Intermission Party Melinda Zarnoch and Galaxy Staff/Cast

Special Thanks to . . .

Lawrence Lessner, Magician, for his support and talents shared.
Bryant Empie, for calligraphy of "Shining Stars" Contributors' Plaque.
Morgan Linen Company, Albany.
Arkay Florist, Albany.
Those who helped in any way with this special Benefit Concert.

Acknowledgments

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Parking lot spaces provided by B&N Floor Covering and State Street
Presbyterian Church.



"Shining Star" Contributors



Grant: Schenectady County
(LIFT)
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Given by Temple Thespians
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Gail Garrison
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Mary and Fred Pareis
Marian and Fred Polnisch
Raffle: *Jerry's Girls* (SLOC)
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Kiernan F. and Teresa C. Ryan
Schenectady Christian School
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Schenectady Hardware & Electric Co.
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Schenectady Symphony
The Good Times
The Olde Homestead
Turf Tavern

★
Prior to the performance and during the 30-minute Intermission, we invite you to participate in the **Silent Auction/Raffle**, located in the Green Room downstairs. Prize descriptions and their values are provided on display tables. Winners will be selected after the Sunday performance on January 23. Winners will be notified by SLOC before February 1.