



Newsletter

Devonport Choral Society PO Box 397, Devonport 7310

May 2017

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From the President

Moving in to the theatre after months of rehearsals is always a very exciting time. For Whistle Down the Wind the move is significant as the actors and orchestra, who have had a few sessions together, are now working together in a new environment and with new people, as they are joined by the crew.

As I write this, the rustic set is being pieced together, as it was envisioned. Over the next week it will be overlayed with an array of coloured lights and spectacular projections, bringing light and life to the weathered fence palings of the set. Costumes and props will be added and adjusted to give the players as sense of time and place. Crew will scurry in the dark to make a barn transform into a bar. And technicians will practice their cues for lights, sound and follow spot. The cast and orchestra will follow the same patterns, each time refining what is said, played, sung and moved.

As you know, theatre is a team sport. Musical theatre in particular incorporates so many elements from the artistic to the technical, the theoretical to the practical. This is the exciting time where it all comes together to make something truly magnificent. Whistle Down the Wind has been a journey. It is now moving from being an idea to a full creation. I invite you to be part of it and to celebrate with us as we see it to its conclusion.

I would like to thank our terrific Production Team – Emil Djakic (Director), Petrina Jahnz (MD), Ruby Doherty (Choreographer), Jake Jacobson (Assistant Director), Jenny Slater & Belinda Gunson (Set Design), as well as our team of builders and costumers, for working together to create our 2017 production of Whistle Down the Wind.

• Maree Brodzinski

Whistle Down the Wind – What's it About?



Whistle Down the Wind is one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's lesser known musicals. With lyrics written by Jim Steinman (of Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell fame) and the musical genius of Webber, the amazing score is filled with an eclectic range of musical styles, from soaring ballads and boot scootin' country, to uplifting gospel and hard hitting rock songs. Probably the best known song from the score would be "No Matter What", which was a hit for Boyzone in 1996.

The story centres around a family whose mother has recently died. The eldest child of three, Swallow, discovers a man hiding in the family's barn. Believing the man may be the second coming of Jesus, Swallow and her siblings look after the man in the hopes that he might bring their mother back to them. As the other children in the town learn of the man's appearance, they also rally and promise to protect him. Meanwhile the adults are told that there is an escaped criminal on the loose and attempt to hunt the man down.

Whistle Down the Wind has been an enduring work that has evolved from a novel, to a play, a movie and finally, a musical. Such a journey with a piece of work highlights the depth of the story and its connection with its audience. This story allows us to explore the trials and strengths in family relationships and the meaning of faith.

Rehearsal photos next page --->



Young Frankenstein ~ The Musical



Welcome to 2018! YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

The Mel Brook's cult hit musical comedy

Written in 2006 after Mel Brook's successful musical THE PRODUCERS, **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN** is a fab parody of Brooks' 1974 cultic movie of the same name, which was a parody of Mary Shelley's 1817 novel, FRANKENSTEIN (Phew!)

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN is a hoot! It is firmly tongue in cheek in mood, manner, and presentation. It is clever, cheeky, and funny. It will appeal to players who can characterize and sing, requires dancing, and includes the full range of musical styles. It will certainly challenge players and most significantly, musicians, as it incorporates a sizeable orchestra.

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN has been nominated for many musical awards and won the 2007 Audience Best Musical Award in the USA. It is a 'visual-audio musical' ~ relying less on memorable tunes and more on enjoying the complete, ongoing package of characterization, song, dance, and visual effects. It is a musical that has one smiling – all the time.

The 20 strong cast is actively engaged throughout the musical as it moves from one crazy scene to another. Essentially it opens in the happiest town in Transylvania, crosses to a big city medical teaching facility and its local wharf, then scoots to Transylvania again, then to the Frankenstein family castle, and wanders from room to room, and one spoofy scene to another. All the time, our characters are introduced one at a time, and serviced by a madcap, busy Ensemble.

There can be no Victor Frankenstein without a MONSTER (Old Zipper Neck) who can sing and dance, court, and love, and of course, IGOR his madcap sidekick.

Sid Sidebottom will direct **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN** along with a very experienced production team. Auditions will be held in November of 2017. Stay tuned for this exciting, funny musical.

How does music help your brain?



1) Improves visual & verbal skills

Several studies have shown that music education at an early age stimulates the child's brain in a number of ways that helps to improve verbal skills, communication skills and visual skills.

A study that looked at 4 to 6 year olds who were subject to one month of musical training that included training in rhythm, pitch, melody, voice and basic musical concepts resulted in enhanced ability to understand words and explain their meaning.

A study using subjects that were 8 to 11 year olds found that those who were involved in extra-curricular music classes were developing higher verbal IQ's and their visual ability was greater than those who were not receiving the training.

Even children as young as one year old who participated in interactive music lessons with their parents had a greater ability to communicate, smiled more frequently and were showing greater signs of sophisticated brain responses to music.

2) Keeps an aging brain healthy

Research has shown that having musical training and listening to or playing music in old age can help keep the brain healthy especially as it ages. Since listening to music is like exercising the brain, one can expect the benefits of better memory and mental sharpness as they age.

Even people who have some form of brain damage can regain partial or full access to memories (depending on severity) by listening to music, as listening can help draw on old memories and neurological patterns due to the fact that the rhythm and sounds of music stay within the core of the mind for a long time.

3) Music Makes You Happier

As mentioned before, music has the power to do so much. It can make you feel happy, sad, excited or even pumped up. Listening to music that hits you in a special way causes your brain to release dopamine which is known as a feel good chemical. It causes us to feel emotions like happiness, excitement, joy, etc. Listening to music provides us with the same burst of happiness that we would get from eating a piece of chocolate, sex or certain drugs.

Another study showed that music with a quick tempo played in a major key made people feel happy, while music with a slow tempo in a minor key more easily led to feelings of sadness.

4) Heartbeat, Pulse Rate & Blood Pressure

'We listen to music with our muscles.' Nietzsche

Studies have shown that music strengthens the heart and improves the recovery time of patients who were suffering from heart disease.

Regardless of the genre of music, listening to your favourite music releases endorphins in the brain that help to improve vascular health. It has been seen that both men and women who listened to music soon after cardiac surgery were much less anxious and even reported having less pain as opposed to those who rested quietly.

An observation made at a Hospital, found that heart patients confined to a bed that listened to music for 30 minutes had lower blood pressure, slower heart rates, and less distress than those who didn't listen to music.

5) Improves Sleep Quality

Some of the most common things to interfere with sleep are stress and anxiety (heart rates.) Since music has the ability to affect both in a positive way, research has found that listening to music at various times promotes better sleep patterns for people and even created more restful sleeps. In some cases music might even be able to be used to effectively treat insomnia.

6) Boosts Your Immune System & Reduces Pain

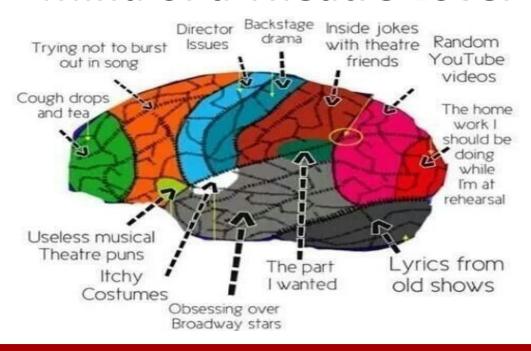
Research has shown that music is capable of reducing levels of the stress hormone cortisol, which is responsible for weakening the immune system, increasing risk of heart disease, interfering with learning and memory, lowering bone density, blood pressure, etc. Research found that by listening to just 50 minutes of uplifting music the levels of antibodies in the human body increases. While different types of music were not studied, it is important one listens to music they enjoy as personal preference of music does have an effect on overall physical effects.

7) Reduces Depression & Anxiety

Researchers from Drexel University found that cancer patients who either listened to music or worked with a music therapist experienced a reduction in anxiety, had better blood pressure levels and improved moods. Music can have positive effects on the psyche, mood, pain and quality of life as well.

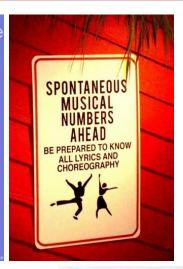
Just for fun . . .

Mind of a Theatre Lover

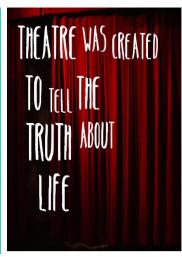


things musicals taught me

It just takes one, and then you're addicted.









Film and theatre are about capturing moments: things we wish we'd said, heartaches that haven't healed, the thrill of the unknown."











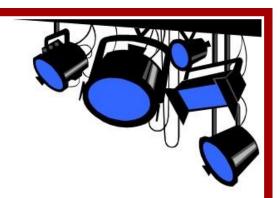




Musicals,
because who doesn't
want a world where
everything breaks out
Song into
Dance



CALENDAR DATES . . .



12 – 27 May DCS – Whistle Down the Wind

29 May – 3 June BMS – Aladdin Trouble

17 – 24 June Don College – Shrek the Musical Jr

14 – 29 July Ulverstone Rep – Death and Taxes

27 – 30 July Devonport Jazz

10 – 12 August St Brendan-Shaw College – Oliver!

17 – 26 August DoMaur – The Who's Tommy

1 – 9 September Encore Burnie – Footloose

20 Oct - 4 Nov BMS - 9 to 5

10 – 18 November Ulverstone Rep – Sleeping Beauty

November DCS – Info session for Young Frankenstein

November Devonport Rep – Something's Afoot

Saturdays Devonport Rep – regular play readings

<u>Newsletter items:</u> If anyone has any interesting events or articles they think would be good to share with our DCS Family please email Kimbra Westcott at <u>kimbra.westcott@education.tas.gov.au</u>

DCS COMMITTEE MEMBERS . . .

Maree Brodzinski (President) John Lee-Archer (Treasurer) Kimbra Westcott (Secretary) Guy Carev

Guy Carey
Emil Djakic
Jane Foote
Belinda Gunson
Jake Jacobson
Bobby Johannsohn
Julie-Anne Jolly
Sid Sidebottom
Jenny Slater
Tim Squire



PATRONS . . .

Mayor Steve Martin Sid Sidebottom

JOIN 'RIGHT ON CUE' CHOIR . . .

The Devonport Choral Society has a permanent choir under the musical direction of Petrina Jahnz. The choir, known as Right On Cue (ROC), meets every Thursday night from 7.30pm until 9.30pm at the St. Brendan-Shaw College Chapel, Devonport.

ROC focuses mainly on a contemporary repertoire, featuring many numbers from stage and screen as well as other popular pieces. ROC is sought after to perform at many local events in addition to putting on their own concerts.

In an effort to be family friendly, DCS encourages people of all ages to come along and all costs are kept to a minimum. If you enjoy singing great popular music with friendly like-minded people then you are more than welcome to ROC with us!