

**Our profits from this show will support these two charities. They thank you for your support.**

## **Welcome to World Vision's Journey**

This is an invitation you to join World Vision on a journey.

It is a journey of discovery that started over 50 years ago when one compassionate man, Bob Pierce, reached out to help a needy child.

Along the way, millions of lives have now been transformed. We can say with absolute certainty that the world is a better place as the result of the outpourings of love and compassion that have been clearly demonstrated.

Wonderful changes have taken place in the lives of millions of people in the developing world due to the fact that Australians themselves are also transformed through becoming involved in giving, in advocacy and in learning.

In working together and allowing ourselves to be directed by God, World Vision believes we can take even greater strides towards achieving a world where children and families can live in peace and happiness – in a world that no longer tolerates poverty.

We hope you will enjoy the program tonight, and consider joining World Vision on its journey.

To begin today, you can call 13 32 40, and help to be a part of the Vision.

## **Open House Christian Involvement Centres**

Open House, which began in Ivanhoe some 25 years ago, maintains a program of support for needy people in the community. The work is holistic in nature and seeks to provide care, friendship and informal training in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.

There are three centres:

- Ivanhoe, where there are clubs and a drop-in activities centre for adults and young people, open till 11 pm;
- Hurstbridge, where eight young people live in two houses while recovering from alcoholism, drug dependency and mental illness. They learn living skills, undertake re-training programs and work, before re-entering the community.
- Seymour, which is a base for small group camping program for teenagers and young adults.

Dozens of people provide thousands of hours of labour and personal support to all aspects of the work.

Open House is grateful to Diamond Valley Singers, the DVECO and their patrons for their support. For further information, contact Ross Oldmeadow, director, on 9497 1855.

**DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS**  
DIAMOND VALLEY & ELTHAM COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

*present*

**THE**  
**SORCERER**

**BY GILBERT & SULLIVAN**  
**AN ADAPTATION**  
**Warrandyte High School**

**PROFITS TO WORLD VISION AND OPEN HOUSE**

## ★ The Sorcerer - an adaptation of Gilbert's story line ★

Diamond Valley Singers have gained quite a reputation for originality. This year's production of *The Sorcerer* is no exception. The music of *The Sorcerer* is wonderful and fresh, so we have used all the original music, and modified some words to reflect the new setting.

Set in an Australian country town, in the late 19th century, the action takes place in the Mayor's estate, where a touring circus has pitched tents ready to perform. The crowd is excited by the presence of the circus which comes at a time when the two richest families in the area are to be united in marriage. The town is shortly to assemble to witness the signing of the betrothal agreement.

The circus magician J. Wellington Wells is approached by Sebastian, who passionately believes that love and marriage should exist without distinction of position or wealth. Wells, although not endowed with any real magical power, sees the opportunity to make a quick buck, and suggests a love potion.

We first meet Constance, the daughter of the local madam. She is besotted by the local vicar (Rev Throbbing) who actually adores her, but thinks himself too old for her. Meanwhile she waits for him to move.

Then we meet Marmaduke and his son Sebastian, about to be officially betrothed to Raelene. Sebastian and Raelene are not backward about being forward. This is a complete contrast to widower Marmaduke, who passionately adores Raelene's widow mother, Janet House-in-Court, but from respectful distance.

★ After the signing we meet the magician himself, a charlatan who possesses more power than he realises! He is persuaded to 'empower' a large quantity of the love potion, in order to affect the whole town as they celebrate the engagement of the young couple. With true theatrical flair, Wells performs an elaborate incantation to supposedly activate the spell. He is hoping to have moved on with the circus before the drug wears off, and the villagers realise he is a fake. ★

Upon waking in the second act, they really do fall in love with the first person of the opposite sex they see! To Wells' astonishment and relief, the spell has worked, but it creates all sorts of problems and amusing situations.

For starters there is Constance, who now loves the Notary, who is 'ninety seven nearly'! Sir Marmaduke has fallen for Dolly Partlet! Wells finds himself passionately desired by a besotted Janet House-in-Court, and lies his way out of that situation!

When Raelene finally succumbs to Sebastian's wish that she drinks the potion she falls in love with Reverend Throbbing! This makes Sebastian so annoyed that he demands that Wells reverse the spell immediately.

★ Wells, of course, has no idea whether he can do this, but in true thespian spirit gives it a go. To his great relief the townsfolk regain their own personalities and free will. To their great pleasure, the experience of love (under the spell) leads them to pair up in the happiest way imaginable and they go off to feast again at Sir Marmaduke's mansion, on the 'pumpkiny scone and the sweet lamington' ★

## ★ Director's notes — by Graham Ford and Michael Try ★

*The Sorcerer* first premiered back in 1877 and was the third collaboration from the team of Gilbert & Sullivan, the first two being *Thespis* (1871) and *Trial by Jury* (1875). Whilst not as well known as *Pirates of Penzance* or *Mikado*, *Sorcerer* has some fine musical moments of its own, and gives an indication of some of the greatness to come in the later shows.

Some years ago, Diamond Valley Singers looked at *The Sorcerer* and immediately dismissed it as boring. Since then we have been responsible for a number of innovative productions, so this year we approached it with different eyes.

The problems perceived were that the setting of an English village was somewhat drab, the show itself took a while to get going, and the most exciting music, the Incantation, took place near the end of the first act, leaving little excitement in the second. Also the ending with J. Wellington Wells dying to reverse the spell was depressing. So a Think Tank was convened and the ideas flowed:

1. Set it in an Australian town with a circus coming through (add colour)
2. Instead of dying, J. Wellington Wells would reverse the Incantation – repeat of the exciting music and a more uplifting ending.
3. Mrs Partlet, the pew opener, became the local madam, which opened up possibilities for a lot more fun.

★ The team then got to work. Ian Lowe, our wordsmith, rewrote the lyrics to the songs, while Lynne Counsel rewrote the dialogue – with input from other members of the production team. So you have a slightly modified, and we hope improved, operetta tonight. We've had a lot of fun putting it together, and we hope we've captured the spirit of the original with little extras to add that touch of spice. ★

### Some new lyrics, by Ian Lowe

#### Act 1: Mr. Wells confesses (#14)

A professional circus magician belongs to a mystic tradition.

The tricks that I do are so good but too few creating illusion's my mission.

I hope you believe all my speil, 'cos I've done a good job to conceal

All the tricks of the trade and the gimmicks I've made

to convince you, you're sure that it's real.

For if you will believe that I'm magic then you're gullible through and through

I do things that are comic or tragic you love it, whatever I do.

#### Act 2: The town awakes (#21)

Why, where am I? However did I get here, a sleepin' orf a booze-up on the ground?

All sound asleep! The townsfolk are all met here. The vicar's punch was potent I'll be bound!

Hey, you peach! Gorgeous hunk o' skirt you!

Handsome hunk o' flirt you, now in reach.

Hey, what a nose, and bonzer eyes miss! Lips like a rose! you take the prize miss!

I'm shook on you. I'm dinkum about it. I'm fair gone; there's no way I can doubt it.

Oh, but I do love you!



## Cast of characters, in order of appearance

Mrs Dolly Partlet, local madam	Robyn Ford
Constance, her daughter	Lesley Walton
Rev Throbbing	Gerard Fullarton (June 29, 30, July 4,7 mat)
	Paul Dernelly (July 1 6, 7 eve)
Sir Marmaduke Ruckstone	Malcolm Wilton
Sebastian Ruckstone, his son	Michael Try (June 29, 30, July 4,7 mat)
	Darren Rosenfeld (July 1, 6, 7 eve)
Raelene House-in-Court	Marilla Homes
Lady Janet House-in-Court, her mother	Judith O'Shea
Little John, Notary	Geoff Vaughan
J. Wellington Wells, Magician	David Cox
Dancers	Heather Wright, Jane Eisenbise

## Chorus

Dianne Adams, Jennie Barnett, Martha Cacciattolo, Anne Callahan, Catherine Counsel, Mandy Dunne, Jane Eisenbise, Chiwon Gates, Aleesha Higbed, Maxine Lemcke, Ania Lilley, Geraldine O'Connor, Cheryl Richards, Dianne Richter, Catherine Wilton, Susan Wilton, Louise Wilton, Heather Wright



Phillip Adams, John Anderson, Geoff Collier, Paul Dernelly, Gerard Fullarton, John Lemcke, James Lewis, Robert Lilley, Kevin Pye, Ashley Richter, Benjamin Richter, Robert Riddiford, James Sloane, Geoff Vaughan, Kevin Whiting



## Our thanks to ...

Babirra Music Theatre, Nova Music Theatre and Loyola Musical Society  
Alliance Printing, Madmess Costumes  
Warrandyte High School

## Other productions ...

**Altona City Theatre** Les Miserables 6th 28th July, 2001  
Bookings: Contact Michelle on 9395 1018.

**Heidelberg Theatre Company** "Kindertransport" from 27th June 14th July.  
Bookings on 9457 4117

## Our oratorio for 2001

Diamond Valley Singers performs both stage and oratorio works, such as *The Messiah*. For 2001 we will perform two works: Purcell's *Hail Bright Cecilia*, and Bach's *Magnificat in D*. There will be some performances in this general area, and some further afield. For details closer to October and November performances, call Graham Ford on 9439 3267



## Marilla Homes — Raelene House-in-Court

Marilla has been singing for as long as she can remember. While at school she sang in Faure's Requiem with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and had solo roles in *Lil' Abner* *Anything Goes* and *West Side Story*. She sang with the Victorian State Singers under Doug Heywood.

Currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Music at the University of Melbourne, Marilla has been studying with Anna Connolly for two and a half years. She has been in the Conservatorium Opera projects and last year performed in the new work *Beijing Spring*. In October 1999, Marilla joined the Melbourne Chorale Ensemble under John Dingle and Jonathan Grieves-Smith, performed in Beethoven's *Choral Symphony* and travelled to Sydney to sing Mahler's *Symphony of 1000* for the opening of the Olympic Arts Festival. This is her first lead role.



## David Cox — J. Wellington Wells, Magician

This year marks David's eighth principal role with Diamond Valley Singers. He has played The Lord Chancellor (*Iolanthe*), Jack Point (*Yeomen of the Guard*), Archibald Grosvenor (*Patience*), Captain Corcoran (*HMS Pinafore*), Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), Samuel (*The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*) and Ko Ko (*The Mikado*).

In addition to these roles, David has enjoyed singing tenor solos with DVS in performances of *The Messiah*, *The Creation*, *Elijah*, *The Last Judgement*, *Magnificat*, *Requiem*, *Mass in C minor* and the *Christmas Oratorio*. This continues David's experience with a number of other groups on similar ventures in the past.





**Michael Try** — Sebastian Ruckstone (June 29, 30, July 4, 7 mat)

and Co-Director



This year marks Michael's tenth anniversary with Diamond Valley Singers. Previous roles have included Danny (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*), Nanki Poo (*The Mikado*), Ralph Rackstraw (*HMS Pinafore*), Bunthorne (*Patience*) and Colonel Fairfax (*Yeomen of the Guard*).

He has sung numerous tenor solos in DVS oratorios including *The Messiah*, *Elijah*, *The Creation*, *The Seasons* and *The Last Judgement*.

Outside of DVS Michael has performed with several Melbourne companies including Savoy Opera Company, The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Victoria, Eastern Metropolitan Opera, Savoy Singers and is also currently a member of the Opera Australia Melbourne Chorus.



**Darren Rosenfeld** — Sebastian Ruckstone (July 1, 6, 7 eve)



Darren has been an active member of Diamond Valley Singers since joining the group in 1992. His previous roles with DVS include Leonard Merryll (*Yeomen of the Guard*), The Duke (*Patience*), Alfredo (*Die Fledermaus*), The lost Frederick (*The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*), Mercury Orpheus in the Underworld) and Camille (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*). Roles with other companies have included Frederick (*The Pirates of Penzance*) and Ralph Rackstraw (*HMS Pinafore*), both in concert versions and St. Brioche (*The Merry Widow*) with Loyola Music Society.

Darren has sung tenor solos in oratorios such as *The Creation*, *The Last Judgement*, *Magnificat* and

*The Messiah*. He has also performed with Savoy Opera, Eastern Metropolitan Opera, Loyola Music Society, Entr'acte and is a member of Savoy Singers '100 Years of Musical Comedy'. In 1998 Darren co-wrote, co-directed and starred as Frederick in a new operetta based on the famous music and characters of G&S entitled *A Nice Dilemma*.



**Gerard Fullarton** — Reverend Throbbing (June 29, 30, July 4, 7 mat)

Gerard grew up singing in choirs, from local school efforts, to the Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir in Bendigo and onto St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir in Melbourne. When living in Bendigo, Gerard was involved with the Bendigo Operatic Society, mainly in a production and support role with some minor excursions onto the stage (mainly up the back!)

Gerard joined the Diamond Valley Singers five years ago as a hobby, and has participated in most of the oratorios and stage productions since. Last year saw him play the role of Michelin in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*. Gerard has a busy time combining rehearsals, study, three jobs and four children, but is looking forward to his shared role in *The Sorcerer*.



**Paul Dernelly** — Reverend Throbbing (July 1, 6, 7 eve)

Paul has been treading the boards with various groups for the last fourteen years, playing a large range of principal roles including Ralph Rackstraw (*HMS Pinafore*), Nanki Poo and Pish Tush (*The Mikado*), Grosvenor (*Patience*), Defendant (*Trial by Jury*) and Dr. Blind (*Die Fledermaus*). This is Paul's third principal role with Diamond Valley Singers, following his portrayal of St. Brioche in last year's production of *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*.



# The Sorcerer

Words by **W.S. Gilbert** (adapted by members of Diamond Valley Singers)

Music by **A.S. Sullivan**

## Musical numbers

**Act 1:** The time is the late nineteenth century, late one morning. A touring circus has pitched their tents and are preparing to perform in the grounds of the estate of Sir Marmaduke Ruckstone, located somewhere in rural Australia.

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | Ring forth ye bells                                  | Chorus  |
| 2  | Constance, my daughter                               | Mrs Partlet and Constance                               |
| 3  | When he is here I sigh with pleasure                 | Constance   |
| 4  | The town is seized with optimistic passion           | Rev Throbbing   |
| 5  | Time was when love and I were well acquainted        | Rev Throbbing and Mrs Partlet                           |
| 6  | Yes, you're fortunate, young fellow                  | Sir Marmaduke and Sebastian                             |
| 7  | With heart and with voice let us welcome this mating | Ladies  |
| 8  | Kind friends... Oh, happy heart!                     | Raelene   |
| 9  | My child, I join in these congratulations            | Lady Janet House-in-Court                               |
| 10 | With heart and with voice let us welcome this mating | Men   |
| 11 | Welcome joy, adieu to sadness                        | Sir Marmaduke and Lady Janet                            |
| 12 | All is prepared                                      | Notary and Company                                      |
| 13 | Love feeds on many kinds of food                     | Sebastian   |
| 14 | A professional circus magician                       | J. Wellington Wells                                     |
| 15 | Sprites of earth and air (Incantation)               | Wells and off-stage chorus                              |
| 16 | Now to the banquet we press                          | Chorus  |
| 17 | Be happy all   | Sir Marmaduke, Rev Throbbing, Raelene, Sebastian, Wells |
| 18 | Oh love, true love, unworldly, abiding!              | Raelene, Sebastian                                      |
| 19 | Oh marvellous illusion!                              | Company   |

**Act 2:** Twelve hours later in the same venue. It is now midnight.

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 20 | 'Tis twelve, I think, and at this magic hour       | Raelene, Sebastian, Wells                    |
| 21 | Why, where am I? However did I get here?           | Chorus                                       |
| 22 | Dear friends, take pity on my lot                  | Constance                                    |
| 23 | Oh joy, oh joy... Oh bitter joy!                   | Company                                      |
| 24 | Thou hast the power, they vaunted love to sanctify | Sebastian                                    |
| 25 | I rejoice that it's decided                        | Sebastian, Raelene, Marmaduke, Mrs P Rev T   |
| 26 | Oh, I have wrought much evil with my spells        | Wells and Lady Janet H-in-C                  |
| 27 | Oh, my voice is sad and low                        | Rev Throbbing                                |
| 28 | Oh, joyous boon                                    | Raelene, Rev Throbbing, Sebastian and chorus |
| 29 | Sprites of earth and air (Reverse incantation)     | Wells and chorus                             |
| 30 | Oh! my adored one!... Now to the banquet we press  | Company                                      |

## Production team

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Directors          | Graham Ford, Michael Try   |
| Musical Director   | Ian Lowe   |
| Producer           | Dianne Richter   |
| Drama Coach        | Lynne Counsel  |
| Choreographer      | Jane Eisenbise   |
| Stage Management   | Lucas Richter, Norma Turnbull-Smith  |
| Costumes           | Robyn Ford   |
| Makeup             | Lynne Counsel  |
| Set Design         | Lynne Counsel  |
| Set Building       | Geoff Collier  |
| Lighting Design    | Jamie Ivarsen  |
| Technical team     |  |
|                    | Anita Wilton, Bernie O'Shea, Gary Richter, Travis McGrath, Lauren Anderson |
| Video              | Wendy Collier  |
| Front of House     | Edna Nelva, Gael Shearer   |
| Publicity          | Janet Dynon, Mary Wilkie   |
| Program            | Ian Lowe   |
| Ticket Sales       | Verna Turnbull-Smith   |
| Chorus Training    | Josh Counsel   |
| Rehearsal Pianists | Stephen Kahler, Ian Lowe   |

## Dianne Richter — Producer

Dianne's involvement with Diamond Valley Singers began with the first production of *The Mikado* in 1987. She has been the producer for all following productions and is currently President of Diamond Valley Singers.

Dianne has participated in many DVS performances as a member of the chorus and as a soloist. She played the role of Cousin Hebe (*HMS Pinafore*), Kate (*The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*), Morpheus (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) and Sheila Dawson, secretary (*The Merry Widow of Bluegum Creek*). Dianne has also performed in numerous cisteddfods and concerts and with Elwood Theatre Company.





**Judith O'Shea** — Lady Janet House-in-Court

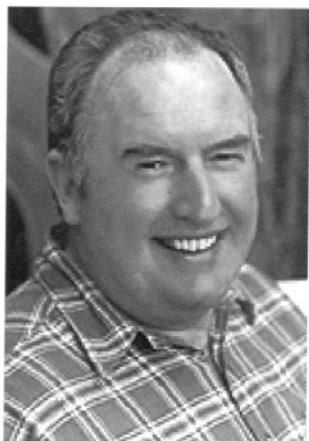


An active member of DVS since 1987 Judith has performed many of the mezzo and contralto roles in their productions: Pitti Sing (*The Mikado*), Ruth (*The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*), Lady Blanche (*Princess Ida*), Tessa (*The Gondoliers*), Dame Carruthers (*Yeomen of the Guard*), Lady Saphir (*Patience*) and Public Opinion (*Orpheus in the Underworld*). With Babirra Music Theatre she has played Katisha (*The Mikado*), The Fairy Queen (*Jolanthe*), Dame Hannah (*Ruddigore*), and the Ayah to Princess Zubbediah (*Kismet*). Last year she joined the chorus of Eastern Metropolitan Opera's production of *La Bohemè*.

Judith also enjoys choral work and has performed solos in DVS annual oratorio concerts, including *The Messiah*, *Elijah*, *Magnificat* and *The Christmas Oratorio*. In May this year she had the huge thrill of participating in the 700-strong choir for Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand* – a Federation celebration in the Carlton Exhibition Building.



**Malcolm Wilton** — Sir Marmaduke Ruckstone



Malcolm first took to the stage in 1986 with the Sandringham Light Opera Company in *Showboat*. He joined the Diamond Valley Singers in 1994 with the performance of *Patience*. In the following years he was the Learned Judge (*Trial by Jury*) and performed in *HMS Pinafore*. In 1997 he was the NCA Inspector (ex Sergeant) in *The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*. In 1998 he played Jupiter (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), in 1999 was Pooh Bah (*The Mikado*) and last year was Zack (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*). He hopes you enjoy Marmaduke in this year's production.



**Lesley Walton** — Constance Partlet

This is Lesley's fifth stage production with Diamond Valley Singers. Last year she appeared as Valerie in *The Merry Widow of Bluegum Creek*, a role she very much enjoyed. In previous years she has sung the roles of Peep Bo (*The Mikado*), Diana (*Orpheus in the Underworld*). Last year she also sang in the chorus for Eastern Metropolitan Opera's *La Bohemè*, and was a member of Melbourne Chorale.

Lesley sings occasionally with Eltham Concert Band, particularly over the busy Christmas season. She also performs at local retirement villages on a regular basis.

Lesley very much enjoys singing oratorio and with DVS has performed solos in *The Messiah*, *Magnificat*, *Requiem* and *Mass in C minor*. She hopes one day to appear on the professional stage. (sigh!)



**Robyn Ford** — Mrs Dolly Partlet

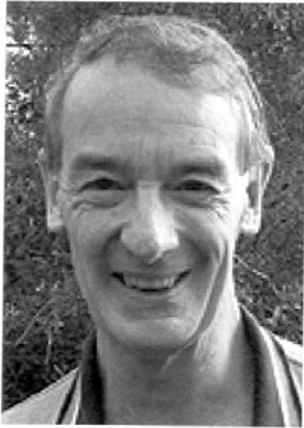
Robyn has enjoyed singing for many years with groups such as Ashton Smith Singers, Opera Melbourne and Victoriana Concert Singers. Her work with Victoriana Concert Singers involved visits to many venues around Melbourne and required considerable versatility to perform a number of different songs, portraying a wide variety of characters, all in one program.

Robyn has sung solos with Diamond Valley Singers in *The Messiah* and *The Christmas Oratorio*. This is her third stage production with DVS, having performed in *The Mikado* as a wayward schoolgirl and as Mabel Tompkins in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*. As well as displaying her considerable talents on stage in *The Sorcerer* Robyn has also been responsible for the costuming!





**Geoff Vaughan** — Little John (Notary)



Geoff commenced involvement in musical theatre as a chorus member in a teachers' college production of *The Mikado* in 1963, following up with the role of Uncle Clam in *Salad Days* the next year. In 1969, Geoff and a teaching colleague, co-produced and directed a primary-school production of *Oliver*, featuring staff and students, in which he played Fagin. Apart from dabblings in various school-related musical ventures, Geoff had no further participation in full-stage musicals until joining the DVS chorus in *The Mikado* in 1999. In last year's *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*, Geoff played the role of Bill Boggins, Cultural Attache. He is looking forward to his role as The Notary in this year's production of *The Sorcerer* a rollicking show which he believes audiences should really enjoy.



**Graham Ford** — Director



A joint founder of Diamond Valley Singers, Graham is currently their Artistic Director. He has been a student at the National Theatre Opera School and a Sun Aria semi-finalist. He has previously directed or co-directed many DVS productions, such as *Trial by Jury*, *Ruddigore*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Gondoliers*, *Princess Ida*, *Iolanthe*, *The Mikado* and most recently *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*.

He teaches singing in the local area, and many DVS members are his students.

He has sung lead roles on many occasions with Diamond Valley Singers, as well as with the semi-professional Globe Opera. As a leading light with Eastern Metropolitan Opera, he directed *The Magic Flute*, and performed the role of Masetto in *Don Giovanni*.



**Lynne Counsel** — Drama coach, etc.



Lynne, a former art/craft and drama teacher, has worked for the past thirty years in both amateur and professional theatre as a director, performer, set and costume designer and make-up artist. She has directed many plays, musicals and pantomimes, amongst them *This Old Man Came Rolling Home*, *Calamity Jane* and *The Hobbyahs*, as well as numerous school productions, including *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Hobbit*. Lynne's character roles include Aunt Abby (*Arsenic and Old Lace*), Elvira (*Blythe Spirit*), Harry the Horse (*Guys and Dolls*), Meg (*Brigadoon*) and Eliza (*Pygmalion*). For seven years she appeared regularly in theatre-restaurant productions.

With this background Lynne has been a wonderful contributor to very many aspects of the production. Her contributions have been most welcome.



**Jane Eisenbise** — Choreographer



This is Jane's second show with Diamond Valley Singers. She is currently studying her third year of arts at Melbourne University, and after dancing for seventeen years, has recently begun a career as a choreographer.

Jane has performed in several amateur theatre productions including *Godspell*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Les Miserables*, *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. She has taught ballet for about six years, and choreographed several school productions, including *Godspell* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Jane enjoys working with our enthusiastic cast members.





## Ian Lowe — Musical Director



Ian was a co-founder of the Diamond Valley Singers with Graham Ford. Ian then continued to conduct the Diamond Valley and Eltham Orchestra, which he did for a total of twenty years. He finally handed the reins to Mary Wright, who has conducted them since 1998. Mary's absence for later performances of *The Sorcerer* led her to invite Ian to guest-conduct for this show, which he enjoys very much. He also prepared all the singers for this production.

Ian has conducted almost all the public performances of the Diamond Valley Singers (both operettas and oratorios). This includes almost the complete cycle of G&S, with *The Sorcerer* being new to the group this year.

Ian's outside musical directions have included operas for Eastern Metropolitan Opera (*The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Harem Scarem*) and many other musicals for other groups including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oklahoma*, *A funny thing happened in the way to the forum*, *Annie*, *My Fair Lady*, *Anything Goes*, *The Venetian Twins* and *The Wizard of Oz*.



## In the pit

*Violin.* Mary Wright, Franz Spranger, Wilma Ezard, Peter Davidson, Nola Thompson, Kevin Mullen, Patrick Russell-Young, Mark Fisher, Mark Kitching, John Axon, Jenny Samphier

*Viola:* Geoff Gloster, Erik Pool, Mary Axon

*Cello:* Ray Banks, Gemma Aldred

*Double bass.* Richard Phillips

*Flute:* Carol Galea, Betty Martin, Len Johnstone

*Oboe:* George Rome, Judy Lewis

*Clarinet:* Derek Wright, Geoff Oakes

*Bass Clarinet:* Nada Cahill

*Bassoon.* Michael Taylor

*French horn.* Barbara Livett, Celia Mason

*Trumpet:* Sue Cook

*Trombone:* Bob MacIntosh

*Percussion.* Stephen Fitzgerald



## Diamond Valley Singers

In 1985 Ian Lowe approached Mavis and Graham Ford for help in staging *Trial by Jury* with the Eltham Community Orchestra (as it was then called) for a concert in aid of World Vision. Rehearsals began and "Valley Musical Society" (later to become the Diamond Valley Singers) was formed to provide local singers with opportunities to be heard in public, and to raise money for charity.

So far well over \$70 000 has been donated to organisations such as World Vision, Community Aid Abroad, Eltham/Diamond Valley Housing Service, Harrison Youth Services, Eltham Emergency Relief Fund and Open House.

Since the initial production of *Trial by Jury*, Diamond Valley Singers and the DVECO have combined in most Gilbert and Sullivan productions (sometimes adapted), as well as Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and an Australian adaption of Lehar's most popular operetta, *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*.

They also perform annually one major oratorio. Over the years these have included *The Messiah* (Handel), *The Seasons* and *The Creation* (Haydn), *The Last Judgement* (Spohr), *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* (Vaughan Williams), *Elijah* (Mendelssohn), *Magnificat* and *The Christmas Oratorio* (Bach), and *Requiem* and *Mass in C Minor* (Mozart).

New members are always welcome. There are no auditions for chorus parts. We rehearse on Wednesday nights at Diamond Creek Uniting Church. Contact Graham Ford (9439 3267).



## The Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra (DVECO)

The orchestra has been in existence for twenty six years. It performs three or four programs annually including symphonies, concertos, ballet concerts and children's performances, as well as the annual stage show with the Diamond Valley Singers.

The orchestra is always keen to welcome new players, particularly of string instruments. As part of its role in encouraging new musicians, the orchestra supports a feeder string orchestra, which caters for string players from beginners to Grade 4, training them in the subtle art of orchestral playing. This group is taken by the orchestra's main conductor, Mary Wright.

Practices are scheduled weekly, on Wednesdays, at Briar Hill Primary School. The feeder group starts at 6:30 pm and the main group at 8 pm. For any further information, call Mary Wright or Derek Wright on 9434 21147

Original G and S orchestral parts for the Doyle Carte edition on hire from Pit Parts, sole agent in Australasia for the Doyle Carte Opera Company.  
Tel: (03) 9458 1797 Fax: (03) 9459 5237

