

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 passionate 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 as a child sponsor.

To begin today, you may call 9287 2337, and help to be a part of the Vision.

Open House Christian Involvement Centre

Open House, which began in Ivanhoe some 26 years ago, maintains a program of support for needy people in the community. The work is wholistic 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 a 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.

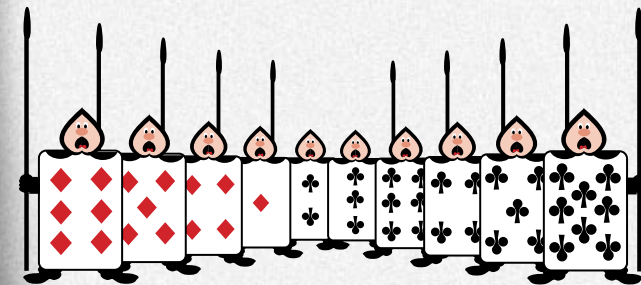
Open House is grateful to Diamond Valley Singers, the DVECO and their patrons for their support. For further information, contact Ross Oldmeadow, director, on 9497 1855.

DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS
DIAMOND VALLEY & ELTHAM
COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA
present


Merrie England through the Looking Glass

AN ADAPTATION WITH APOLOGIES TO
EDWARD GERMAN & LEWIS CARROLL

WARRANTYTE HIGH SCHOOL



PROFITS TO WORLD VISION AND OPEN HOUSE



Merrie England — story by Basil Hood

Diamond Valley Singers have gained quite a reputation for originality. This adaptation of Basil Hood's book includes the fantasy world of Lewis Carroll.

Act 1: Our show opens in a theatre in Shakespeare's time. Two actors while fumbling around backstage fall 'through a looking glass' into a strange and unfamiliar "England" where the inhabitants are playing cards, and various other Alice in Wonderland-type characters. It is May Day and the May Queen is delighting in the attentions of all the males except for one of the foresters, Long Tom, who is in love with a wild free spirit called Meg-on-the-prowl. Tom's brother Ben believes Meg to be a witch. Meg arrives and withstands the ridicule of all the townspeople. Soon they run after her in a witch-hunt.

The land is ruled by the Queen of Hearts, Queen Angina (Angina Regina!). She is in love with Valentine and believes he returns her feelings. Unfortunately for her, he is secretly in love with one of her ladies-in-waiting, Angie. The wicked Jack of Spades, Baron Black Jack, has his sights set on the throne and would take any opportunity to discredit Valentine in her eyes.

Angie has lost a love letter sent to her by Valentine, and she fears that they will be discovered. She confesses this to Valentine.

The townspeople have captured Meg and aim to give her a witch's trial. She is rescued by Black Jack at Tom's request. Meg shows him Angie's letter she had found in the forest. He recognizes the writing and sees an opportunity to shame Valentine in the Queen's eyes.

The Queen arrives, Black Jack exposes the lovers, forcing Valentine to confess his love for Angie. Angina imprisons Angie and banishes Jack. Meg too is to be imprisoned and burned as a witch.

Act 2: Meg enters having escaped through a secret passage under the castle wall which leads to a trap door in Herne's Oak. She has rescued Angie from the castle. They go back into hiding with Ben and Tom.

The queen arrives. She aims to poison Angie. Jack is on his way to the castle to rescue Angie when he meets Meg.

The May Queen and her dancers are also on their way to the castle to perform for the Queen. They are dancing when Jack enters and asks if her can pretend to be one of them so he can enter the castle.

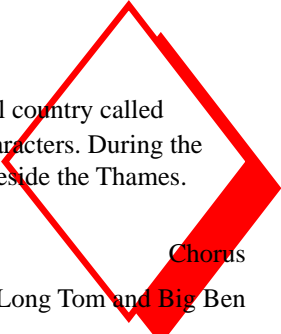
The men are to also perform a play of Robin Hood, with Valentine as Robin and Tom as Little John. They rehearse the play then go on their way.

Meg and Angie come out of hiding, and Meg reunites the lovers. Black Jack finds them and formulates a plan to cause the Queen to pardon them and free them to marry. This removes any obstacle to him realizing his ambition to marry Angina.

The play of St. George and the Dragon is in progress when Tom appears, dressed as Herne the Hunter. Black Jack tells the Queen that Herne only can be seen by a queen if she is about to commit a crime. She is so frightened that she pardons Meg and Angie on the spot making Angie and Valentine are free to marry.

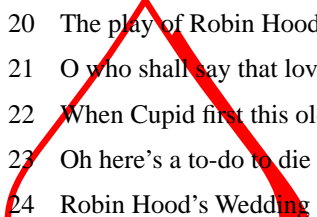
Musical numbers

Act 1: The time is the late nineteenth century, in a mythical country called "England". The place is peopled by Alice-in-Wonderland characters. During the overture we are entertained by a troupe of Morris Dancers, beside the Thames.



1	Sing a-down a-down	Chorus
2	We are two proper men	Long Tom and Big Ben
4	The town is seized with optimistic passion	Meg-on-the-prowl and chorus
5	I do counsel that your playtime	Walter Wilkins and chorus
6	Love is meant to make us glad	May Queen, Kate, Valentine, Wilkins, Tom
7	She had a letter from her love	Angie
8	When true love hath found a man	Valentine and Angie
9	When a man is a lover	Simkins, Wilkins and Black Jack
10	The Yeomen of England	Black Jack and chorus
11	Long live Angina	Chorus
12	O peaceful England	Queen Angina and chorus
13	Finale Act 1	Company

Act 2: The scene has shifted to Herne's Oak, just outside Windsor Castle walls.



14	The month o' May has come today... Cat, Cat ...	Chorus, ... and Meg
15	The sun in the heaven is high	Simkins, Tailor, Baker, Tinker, Butcher
16	The Big Brass Band	Wilkins and Simkins
17	It is the merry month of May	Meg and Valentine
18	The Queen o' May is crowned today	Chorus and Morris Dancers
19	Dan Cupid hath a garden	Valentine
20	The play of Robin Hood and Little John	Wilkins, Valentine, Tom and chorus
21	O who shall say that love is cruel	Angie
22	When Cupid first this old world trod	Black Jack with Angie, Meg, Valentine
23	Oh here's a to-do to die today!	Chorus and Wilkins
24	Robin Hood's Wedding	Company

Directors' notes

Merrie England was a musical Graham has wanted to do for a while. He knew quite a bit of the music, but hadn't been impressed with the libretto which was very dense and unintelligible. Lynne and Graham got together with some pruning shears and anything they couldn't understand was removed – and it was starting to look good. Of course Lynne couldn't stop there! It was based on Queen Elizabeth the first, Sir Walter Raleigh and Lord Essex with lots of rousing British music. Before he knew it, it was *Merrie England through the Looking Glass* with the Queen of Hearts (Angina Regina) and her Irish maid (Angie O'Gram), the Jack of Hearts (Jack Valentine) and the Jack of Spades (BlackJack). The chorus would be dressed as cards and we were painting the stage as a chessboard.

So the concept was developed and the cast have also had input to the finished product. Some of the scenes are very funny and we hope you not only appreciate how good the original was, but also the Diamond Valley Singers twist! Particularly thanks to the choreographers who managed to choreograph shuffling cards!

Brandragon North Western Clog Morris Dancers



It is a great pleasure for us to have the company of the Brandragon North Western Clog Morris Dancers in this production. Featuring live music and vibrant costuming, they've made a great impression in their first fourteen months. The Northwest tradition originates in the industrial regions of England, and so the dances feature wooden-soled clogs, short, belled sticks, flower garlands and millers' bobbins as well as the well known hankies and bells. Dances are usually named for the towns where they were developed, some having been danced at festivals and celebrations for more than 400 years. Brandragon are available for performances by arrangement. Phone: 9443 7616. Recent performances include the Kellybrook Winery Cider festival and the City of Yarra community carnival.

New members are always welcome, especially musicians. Members from left: Kath, Kathy, Penny, Gail, Sean, Nat, Marilla, Lorilee + (Kirsty and Neil absent).

Lynne Counsel — Director



Lynne, an active 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. This is her fourth show with DVS.

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*, *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek* and last year *The Sorcerer*.

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*.



Production team

Directors	Graham Ford
Conductor	Lynne Counsel
Producer	Mary Wright
Choreography	Dianne Richter
Musical Director	Jane Eisenbise, Julie Geddes
Stage Manager	Ian Lowe
Costumes	Anita Wilton
Makeup	Robyn Ford and cast members
Set Design	Lynne Counsel
Set Building	Lynne Counsel
Lighting Design	Geoff Collier
Technical Team	Jamie Ivarsen
Front of House	Lauren Anderson, Travis McGrath, Bernie O'Shea, Lucas Richter, Gary Richter
Publicity	Edna Nelva, Beryl Nicoll
Photography	Mary Wilkie
Program	Paul Dernelley, Lesley Walton
Ticket Sales	Ian Lowe
Video	Judith O'Shea
Rehearsal Pianists	Wendy Collier Stephen Kahler, Ian Lowe

Dianne Richter — Producer, Kate and Dancing girl



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 (*H.M.S. 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 eisteddfods and concerts and with the Ashton Smith Singers and the Elwood Theatre Company.

Cast of characters, in order of appearance

<i>Walter Wilkins</i>	Michael Try
<i>Silas Simkins</i>	Paul Dernelley
<i>White Rabbit</i>	Ashley Richter
<i>May Queen</i>	Susanna Wailes (July 5, 6, 10 and 13-matinee)
	Christine Keys (July 7-matinee, 12 and 13)
<i>MQ's attendants</i>	Esther Counsel, Susan Wilton
<i>Butcher</i>	Geoff Vaughan
<i>Big Ben</i>	Gerard Fullarton
<i>Tailor</i>	Darren Rosenfeld
<i>Baker</i>	James Sloane
<i>Tinker</i>	Geoff Collier
<i>Long Tom</i>	Malcolm Wilton
<i>Meg-on-the-prowl</i>	Michelle Birkic (July 5, 6, 10 and 13-matinee)
	Mary Anne Neale (July 7-matinee, 12 and 13)
<i>Sir Jack Valentine</i>	Peter Churchland
<i>Kate, Dancer</i>	Dianne Richter
<i>Angie O'Gram</i>	Lesley Walton
<i>Baron Black Jack</i>	Matthew Coop
<i>Lord</i>	James Lewis
<i>Lady, Princess</i>	Jennie Barnett
<i>Queen Angina</i>	Diane Morgan (July 5, 6, 10 and 13-matinee)
	Robyn Ford (July 7-matinee, 12 and 13)
<i>Pages</i>	Benjamin Richter, Catherine and Louise Wilton
<i>Queen's Fool</i>	Alan Flint

Our thanks to ...

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

Other productions

Babirra Music Theatre presents Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* 4th - 12th October 4 – 12. Bookings: 9870 6987

SLAMS Music Theatre Co presents *Chicago* August 16 – 31. Bookings: 9801 2730

Heidelberg Theatre Co presents *The Weir* July 3 to 20. Bookings: 9457 4117

Our oratorio for 2002

Diamond Valley Singers performs both stage and oratorio works. This year we will perform the dramatic oratorio *Elijah*, by Mendelssohn. There will be a number of October and November performances; call Graham Ford on 9439 3267, for details.

In addition there will be a spectacular performance in the Preston Town Hall on December 8 at 2 pm, accompanied by the Preston Symphony Orchestra.

Susanna Wailes — May Queen

(July 5, 6, 10 and 13-matinee)

In December 2000 Susanna completed a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Teaching (Hons) from the University of Melbourne, majoring in classical voice. Last year she was granted a bursary from AMATS to study Estill contemporary singing techniques with Helen Tiller in Adelaide. Currently Susanna teaches both classical and contemporary singing for the Murray Conservatorium in Albury. She is also researching cross-over between two traditions in a masters degree.

Susanna began her performing career in a wide forum of styles, from classical to celtic singing, recording advertisements to harmonic singing. She spent three years performing with Savoy Opera Co. as chorus member, principal understudy and minor principal. Susanna is currently preparing opera and oratorio areas for a recital in November this year.



Michelle Birkic — Meg-on-the-prowl

(July 5, 6, 10 and 13-matinee)

Merrie England is Michelle's first foray into the world of stage, either in acting or in singing, and she is looking forward to the challenge. Whilst always enjoying singing, it is only recently that she decided to apply some focus to her voice and seek out some lessons. It was through her singing classes that her rich natural voice was recognised and she was persuaded to audition for a role in this production. Outside her new-found thespian pursuits, Michelle balances her time between raising two children, being a behavioural consultant for families with autistic children, plus studying for post-graduate qualifications in Social Work at Melbourne University.



Christine Keys — May Queen

(July 7-matinee, 12 and 13)

Christine has been performing in musical theatre since 1994, with companies including Babirra, MLOC, Loyola, G&S Society and Park Players. Her roles has varied from the comic to the dramatic to the romantic, and include Celia and Iolanthe (*Iolanthe*), Fiametta, Casilda and Gianetta (*The Gondoliers*), Ida (*Die Fledermaus*), Josephine (*A G&S Revue*), Pitti-Sing (*The Mikado*), Princess Zara (*Utopia Limited*) and The Lady Ella (*Patience*). She has sung as soloist in concerts for the Sandy Beach Festival, Babirra and the G&S Concert party, and as a chorister with the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic society. She is currently studying voice with Audrey Duggan. Christine's other interest include opera, art, reading and animals. She has started a greeting card business.



Mary Anne Neale — Meg-on-the-prowl

(July 7-matinee, 12 and 13)

Mary-Anne began her interest in music at high school, studying classical singing with Mavis Ford. She went on to do singing at VCE level, as well as reaching Sixth Grade of the AMEB. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Education at the Australian Catholic University, and now teaches primary school in Hadfield. Musically, Mary-Anne has participated in various eisteddfods, with many successes. In addition, she has performed in the DVS productions of *HMS Pinafore* and *Iolanthe*. She has also sung solos in Handel's *The Messiah*. Mary-Anne is excited to be playing Meg-on-the-prowl and accepts the challenge this role brings.



Diane Morgan— Queen Angina

(July 5, 6, 10 and 13-matinee)

Diane made her stage debut as a geriatric beginner with the role of Lady Jane (*Patience*) with DVS in 1993. Since then she has played Little Buttercup (*HMS Pinafore*), a person called Matron General Stanley (*The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*) and Katisha (*The Mikado*).

She has sung solos in numerous DVS oratorios and sings with Impromptu and Serendipity. “It has”, she says, “been an interesting and challenging decade”.



Michael Try — Walter Wilkins

Michael has been a regular face at DVS now for the past eleven years. Previous roles include Sebastian (*The Sorcerer*), Danny (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*), Nanki Poo (*The Mikado*), Ralph Rackstraw (*HMS Pinafore*), Bunthorne (*Patience*) and Colonel Fairfax (*The Yeomen of the Guard*). As well as stage work, Michael has sung numerous tenor solos in DVS oratorios including *The Messiah*, *Elijah*, *The Creation*, *The Seasons*, *The Last Judgement*, *Ode on St. Cecilia’s Day*, *Magnificat in D*, *Serenade to Music* and *Sleepers Wake*. Michael has also performed with many other musical societies in Melbourne and with the Opera Australia Melbourne Chorus.



Robyn Ford — Queen Angina

(July 7-matinee, 12 and 13)

Robyn has enjoyed singing for many years and has sung with Victoriana Concert Singers, Ashton Smith Singers and Opera Melbourne. She has competed at many eisteddfods. She has sung solos with DVS in Handel’s *The Messiah* and in Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* and *Magnificat in D*. This is her fourth stage show with DVS, having performed in *The Mikado* as a wayward schoolgirl, as Mabel Tompkins in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek* and as Mrs. Partlett in *The Sorcerer*.

As well as displaying her singing and acting talents on stage, Robyn has coordinated the creation of the many original costumes for this production, and been heavily wedded to a sewing machine.



Paul Dernelley — Silas Simkins

Paul has been treading the boards with various groups for the last fifteen 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*), Dr. Blind (*Die Fledermaus*) and St. Brioche (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*). This is his fourth principal role with Diamond Valley Singers, following his portrayal of Rev Throbbing in last year’s production of *The Sorcerer*. He is currently having voice training with Joan Arnold.



Lesley Walton — Angie O'Gram

This is Lesley's sixth stage production with Diamond Valley Singers. She has sung the roles of Peep Bo (*The Mikado*), Diana (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), Constance (*The Sorcerer*) and Valerie (*The Merry Widow of Bluegum Creek*). Lesley was invited to repeat her role of Valerie with CEF Players in Mornington last December. She has also sung with EMO chorus and Melbourne Chorale. Lesley sings with Eltham Concert Band and 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*. Earlier this year she was the guest soprano in Glen Waverley Uniting Church's performance of *The Messiah*. She hopes one day to appear on the professional stage. (sigh!) Lesley apologises to all the Irish-speaking members of the audience.



Malcolm Wilton — Long Tom

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 *The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*. In 1998 he played Jupiter (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), in 1999 was Pooh Bah (*The Mikado*), in 2000 was Zack (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*) and last year played Sir Marmaduke in *The Sorcerer*. He hopes you enjoy Long Tom in this year's production.



Peter Churchland — Sir Jack Valentine

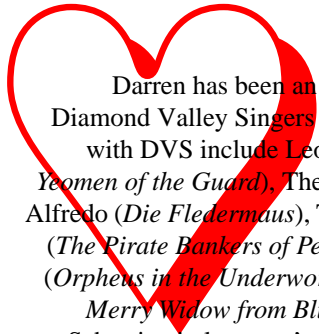
Peter has had many years' experience doing variety shows with the Cerberus Theatre Company, oratorio and concert work with various groups, including the now-disbanded Dolce Singers. He has appeared with such groups as the G&S Society, EMO, MLOC, Mountain District Musical Society, Eltham Little Theatre, and DVS. Among the roles he has played in recent years are Nanki-Poo (*The Mikado*), Leonard Merryl (*The Yeomen of the Guard*), the Caliph (*Kismet*), Monostatos (*The Magic Flute*), Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*), Pluto (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), Charlie (*Brigadoon*), Mr. Snow (*Carousel*) and Harry Power (*Power's Persuasion*). Peter is about to tour Victoria with his own Mario Lanza tribute show, *The Loveliest Night of the Year*. With the vocal quartet Arpeggio, he sings everything from opera to popular music.



Gerard Fullarton — Big Ben

Gerard joined the Diamond Valley Singers five years ago as a hobby, and has participated in most of the oratorios and stage productions since. Prior to that, his singing experiences were limited to choirs, beginning at school and progressing through to the Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir in Bendigo and St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir in Melbourne. Since joining DVS he has played the roles of Michelin (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*) and Reverend Throbbing (*The Sorcerer*). He has sung solos in several oratorios. Whilst some wags might imply that Gerard has been typecast as 'Big Ben' in this year's production, he points out that the same label can be placed on half the cast too. He is not worried about the visual effects, but he is finding the intellectual stuff quite challenging! (We haven't told him that Ben is not one of the romantic leads this time around, either.)





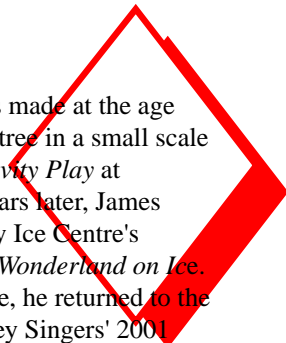
Darren Rosenfeld — Tailor

Darren has been an active member of Diamond Valley Singers since 1992. Roles with DVS include Leonard Merryll (*The Yeomen of the Guard*), The Duke (*Patience*), Alfredo (*Die Fledermaus*), The lost Frederick (*The Pirate Bankers of Penzance*), Mercury (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), Camille (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*) and Sebastian in last year's production of *The Sorcerer*. He has sung tenor solos in many of DVS's oratorios and is a member of Savoy Singers' travelling show *100 Years of Musical Comedy*.



James Sloane — Baker

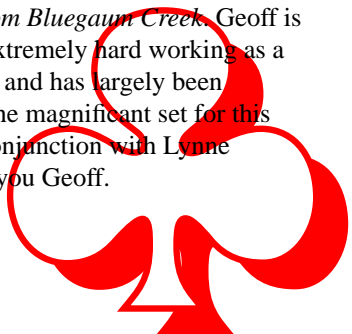
James' stage debut was made at the age of 5 when he played a tree in a small scale production of *The Nativity Play* at kindergarten. Three years later, James performed in Footscray Ice Centre's production of *Alice In Wonderland on Ice*. After a lengthy absence, he returned to the stage in Diamond Valley Singers' 2001 production of *The Sorcerer*. Earlier this year James performed in Babirra Music Theatre's *Kiss Me Kate*. James has been coached in singing by Graham Ford and Michael Try in 2001 and 2002, and performed at the Diamond Valley Eisteddfod in 2001. *Merrie England* is James' third musical and he hopes to continue performing in musicals, singing groups and also playing guitar.



Geoff Collier — Tinker



Geoff first performed professionally in 1951 at the Plaza Theatre, Northcote, followed by regular appearances on television and the cabaret circuit. Stage productions include *Bells are Ringing*, and *Guys and Dolls*, as well as an assortment of productions with several suburban companies. Geoff is also a member of Warrenwood Players, which tours various metropolitan retirement villages entertaining resident groups. With DVS he has been in several choruses and performed the role of Captain Bruce Crompton in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*. Geoff is invaluable and extremely hard working as a stage technician, and has largely been responsible for the magnificent set for this production, in conjunction with Lynne Counsel. Thank you Geoff.



Geoff Vaughan — Butcher



Geoff's first musical production experience was in Teachers' College in 1963/4 as a chorus member in *The Mikado* and then as Uncle Clam in *Salad Days*. 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. After a long break, Geoff renewed his participation in full-stage musicals joining DVS in the chorus of *The Mikado* in 1999, following as Bill Boggins in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*, in 2000 and as The Notary in last year's production of *The Sorcerer*. With some great music and plenty of fun, Geoff believes this year's *Merrie England* is a show that audiences of all ages will enjoy.



Matthew Coop — Baron Black Jack

Matthew's first musical performance was in 1993 as Slim in Plenty Valley Christian School's production of *Oklahoma*. In 1994 he played Captain Von Trapp in their production of *The Sound of Music* and then The Judge in *Trial by Jury* in 1995. After leaving high school Matthew worked for three years before attending Latrobe University where he is currently studying Chinese and Linguistics.

Since 1996 he has taken singing lessons sporadically from Graham Ford. In May this year he performed as one of twelve storytellers in the Latrobe University Student Theatre production of *The Gospel According to Mark*. Matthew has thoroughly enjoyed all the preparation leading up to *Merrie England* and was thrilled to be cast as the machiavellian villain Baron BlackJack.



Jane Eisenbise — Choreographer

This is Jane's third show with Diamond Valley Singers. She is currently studying 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.



Chorus

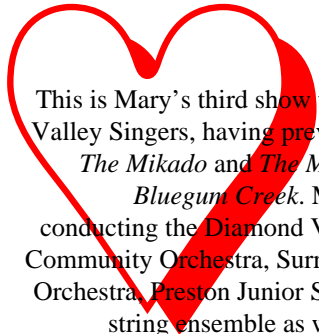


Jennie Barnett, Michelle Birkic, Geoff Collier, Mandy Dunne, Alan Flint, Jeanette Flint, Robyn Ford, Sharon Harding, Christine Keys, James Lewis, Ania Lilley, Jill Loulier, Diane Morgan, Mary-Anne Neil, Lina Nido, Brian Philp, Cheryl Richards, Dianne Richter, Darren Rosenfeld, James Sloane, Norma Turnbull-Smith, Geoff Vaughan, Susanna Wailes

Julie Geddes — Choreographer

Julie's first time on stage with DVS was in *Die Fledermaus* as Ida and as assistant choreographer. Previously her association was with the Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra playing percussion and later the cello (which she is also playing for this production). Julie studied dance at the VCA Secondary School for six years and in her spare time performed in various musicals. While in Townsville recently Julie continued her passion performing in *My Fair Lady* and *Gyps and Dolls*. Julie has enjoyed working with the principals in this production of *Merrie England*.





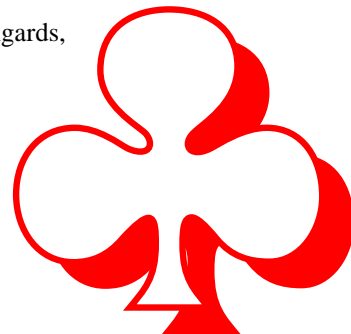
This is Mary's third show with the Diamond Valley Singers, having previously conducted *The Mikado* and *The Merry Widow* from *Bluegum Creek*. Mary is kept busy conducting the Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra, Surrey Hills Chamber Orchestra, Preston Junior Strings, DVECO's string ensemble as well as tutoring at Melbourne Youth Music's Margaret Sutherland Strings and teaching violin and viola at Ivanhoe Girl's Grammar School. Mary also plays with the Victorian Concert Orchestra and the Preston Symphony Orchestra.

Mary Wright — Conductor



In the pit

- Violin:* Franz Spranger, Runa Fananay, Marcella Koldova, Wilma Ezard, Patrick Russell-Young, Kevin Mullen, Mary Hunter, Jenny Samphier, Robyn Allen, Natasha Hatzakortzian
- Viola:* Geoff Gloster, Erik Pool
- Cello:* Isolde Kinns, Julie Geddes
- Double bass:* Briony Hammond
- Flute:* Betty Martin, Len Johnstone
- Oboe:* George Rome, Judy Lewis
- Clarinet:* Derek Wright, Geoff Oakes
- Bassoon:* Michael Taylor
- French horn:* Barbara Livett
- Trumpet:* Sue Cook, Jenny Stengards, Carmel McPhee
- Trombone:* Bob MacIntosh
- Percussion:* Stuart Naylor
- Keyboard:* Ian Lowe



Diamond Valley Singers (DVS)

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 \$80 000 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), *Ode on St Cecilia's Day* (Purcell) 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 2147.

