

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

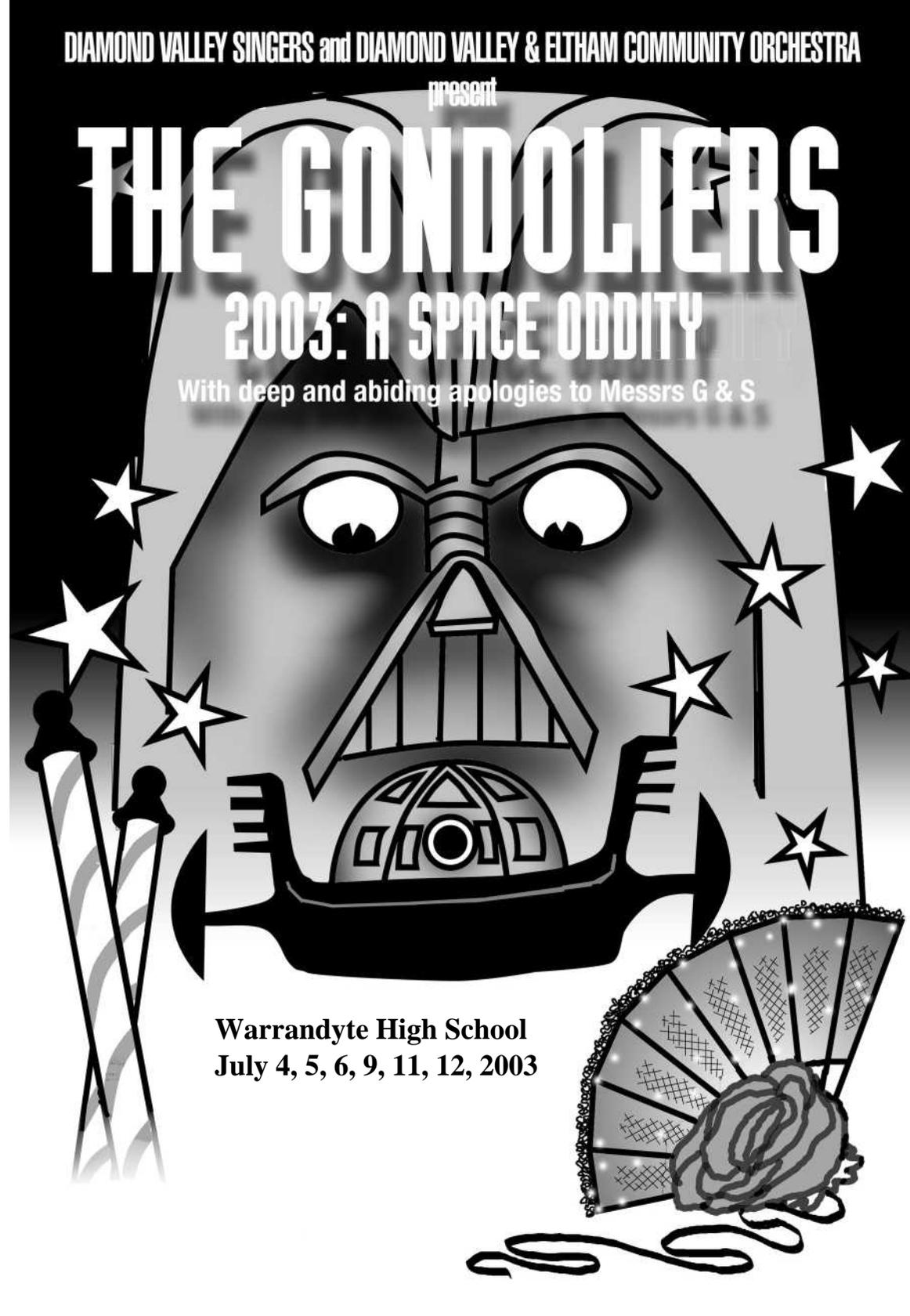
Open House, which began in Ivanhoe some 26 years ago, maintains a program of support for needy people in the community. The work is wholistic in nature and seeks to provide care, friendship and informal training in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.

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.



Warrandyte High School  
July 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 2003



## The Gondoliers – 2003 A Space Oddity

Welcome to the nineteenth annual operetta performance by the Diamond Valley Singers and the Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra.

### Directors' notes

It was time for Diamond Valley Singers to return to a better-known show, after the success of *Merrie England* last year. The orchestra and many of our company were keen to revisit *The Gondoliers*. The usual brains trust gathered around to thrash out some ideas, and found difficulty with contemporising the story line as the concept of arranged marriages was rather out of date in our society.

It was then we decided to set the show on Venus rather than in Venice at an indefinite period in the future!

The original working title was 'Gondoliers are from Mars, Signorinas are from Venus'. Though the concept changed, the libretto required little adaptation, and most of the alterations were made in the sets and costumes, affording great scope for artistic licence.

So, let your imagination take off into space.

In the unknowable future (and a galaxy far away...) —

Passenger spaceships between planets are now called gondolas, and those that pilot them – The Gondoliers.

Venus is populated almost entirely by women, 'women come from Venus', and they are frequently visited by men 'from Mars'.

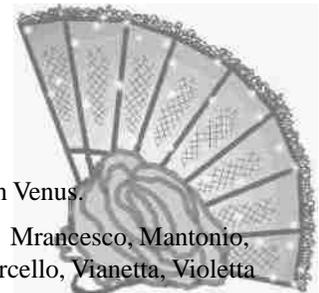
Our villain is Barth Rahda, a name clearly derived from a popular film series. This villain is well-known for having raided a bath on Eros year ago, in order to kidnap the heir to the throne of Eros.

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with a great cast of both experienced players and new comers to present this G&S favourite with a rather fresh approach.

We would like to acknowledge, with appreciation, the work done by the direction team: Dianne Richter, Robyn Ford, Ian Lowe, Julie Geddes and Mary Wright. We would also like to thank the many members who have voluntarily given of their time and talents to make this show possible.

We hope you enjoy 'The Gondoliers — 2003: a space oddity', the latest in a long line of Diamond Valley Singers originals.

Lynne Counsel and Graham Ford



## Musical numbers

### Act 1:

The action starts at the Virgin Spaceport Arrivals Lounge, on Venus.

- 1 List and learn Chorus of Venus virgins and gondoliers, Mrancesco, Mantonio, Viametta, Vittoria, Viulia, Marco, Marcello, Vianetta, Violetta
- 2 From the sunny Spanish shore Duke and Duchess of Plaza-toro, Casilda, Erol
- 3 In enterprise of martial kind Duke of Plaza-toro, with entourage
- 4 O rapture, when alone together Casilda and Erol
- 5 There was a time Casilda and Erol
- 6 I stole the prince Barth Rahda
- 7 But bless my heart Casilda and Barth Rahda
- 8 Try we life long Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Erol, Barth Rahda
- 9 Bridegroom and bride ... When a merry maiden marries Chorus with Violetta
- 10 Finale to Act 1 Chorus of Venus virgins and gondoliers, Marco, Marcello, Vianetta, Violetta

### Act 2:

The action now moves to the Royal Crown Casino, on the asteroid of Eros.

- 11 Pure happiness the Eros way Chorus of male courtiers, Marco, Marcello
- 12 Rising early in the morning Marcello with male courtiers
- 13 Take a pair of sparkling eyes Marco
- 14 Here we are at the risk of our lives Chorus of Venus virgins, Viametta, Vittoria, Vianetta, Violetta
- 15 Dance a cachuca Courtiers and virgins
- 16 There lived a king Barth Rahda
- 17 In contemplative fashion Vianetta, Violetta, Marco, Marcello
- 18 With ducal pomp and ducal pride Male chorus, Duke and Duchess
- 19 On the day when I was wedded Duchess
- 20 To help unhappy commoners Duke and Duchess
- 21 I am a courtier, grave and serious, ... and Gavotte Duke, with Duchess, Casilda, Marco, Marcello
- 22 Quintet and Finale Entire cast

## Our Story of ‘The Gondoliers – 2003: a space oddity’

### ACT 1

The show opens on Venus where the two gondoliers are enjoying the attentions of the lovely venusian maidens. The gondoliers are very popular amongst the ladies as they are very handsome, romantic and sing beautifully. They play a game of Blind Man’s Bluff to decide which of these maids they will marry. They of course each find the maiden they are in love with and are subsequently married.

What are gondoliers doing on Venus? Baptisto Canelloni, a spaghetti farmer in a little Italian village, decides in a state of inebriation that he would rather run a gondolier business and sets off for Venice. By some twist of fate he finished up on Venus instead. No one knows quite how it happened, as he was too drunk to ever remember. Anyhow seeing he was there he decided to set up his business and run a space gondola service between Mars and Venus. Only boy babies are born on Mars and girl babies on Venus so as these babies reach adulthood, there is quite a demand for interplanetary transport between the two.

The two gondoliers are about to embark on their respective honeymoons, when the Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro arrive from Spain with their daughter Casilda and drummer Erol. They are in search of the heir to the throne of Eros (a small asteroid containing a large casino), who was unknowingly married in infancy to their daughter, also unaware, but head over heels in love with the drummer.

They are seeking Barth Rahda, Prime Minister of Eros and chairman of the Casino board. Shortly after the infants were married, the Martian Mafia took over the casino and to prevent them kidnapping the prince, Barth Rahda himself whisked him away and placed him in the care of Baptisto, to raise alongside his own son and teach him his trade. Ever since, he has been keeping an eye on the two boys... one of whom is the prince, but unfortunately he can’t remember which.

There has been an insurrection on Eros; King Eddie is dead. Barth informs the two newly married gondoliers that one of them is the king of Eros. Until the right one is identified, they must both rule together leaving their brides behind on Venus.

### ACT 2

We find the two kings in the Eros Crown Casino. They have taken all their friends with them and promoted them to high-ranking positions leaving themselves to attend to all the mundane chores in line with their republican principles.

The wives arrive from Venus, but their joyful reunion is short lived when Barth Rahda arrives and tells them that one of them is already married to the daughter of the Duke and Duchess and so is bigamously married to the lady of his choosing.

They fetch Ethel, the nurse who cared for the prince in infancy, and she reveals that neither of them is the king, She swapped her son with the prince to keep him safe from harm. She brought up the prince as her own until he went to Earth He secured the position of 1st drummer to the Duke who, unbeknown to him, was in actual fact his father-in-law. The now King Erol of Eros and Casilda are overjoyed to discover they are married to one another, as are the two gondoliers and their wives, who are eagerly anticipating their long over-due honeymoons.

## 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 fifth show with DVS.

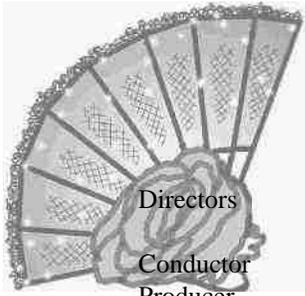


## Graham Ford — Director



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*, *The Sorcerer* and last year’s *Merrie England*.

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

Conductor

Producer

Musical Director

Chorus preparation

Choreography

Stage Manager

Costumes

Makeup

Set Design

Set Building

Lighting Design

Technical Team

Rehearsal Pianists

Front of House

Publicity

Poster

Photography

Program

Ticket Sales

Video

Lynne Counsel

Graham Ford

Mary Wright

Dianne Richter

Ian Lowe

Beryl Nichols

Julie Geddes

Anita Wilton

Robyn Ford, Maxine Lemcke, Jeanette Flint

Lynne Counsel and crew

Lynne Counsel

Geoff Collier, Geoff Vaughan and cast members

Travis McGrath

Lauren Anderson, Travis McGrath,

Daniel Murtagh, Bernie O'Shea,

Gary Richter, Ruth Richter, Michael Try

Abbi Hitchcock, Ian Lowe

Edna Nelva, Beryl Nichols

Mary Wilkie

Lynne and John Counsel

Bernie O'Shea

Ian Lowe, Dianne Murtagh

Jennie Barnett, Jo Barnett

Wendy Collier, Darren Rosenfeld

## Our thanks to ...

Box Hill TAFE, Loyola Musical Society, Pinnacle Printing and Warrandyte High School

## Other productions

Preston Symphony Orchestra will hold their Youth Concerto Competition final on Sunday September 14 at 2.30, in the Preston Town Hall. Six young Melbourne instrumentalists will play movements from brilliant concertos. Be amazed!

## Cast of characters, in order of appearance

(Note: Name of male persons (born on Mars) start with M.

Names of females (born on Venus) start with V.

Ethel and Erol were born on Eros.

This convention does not apply to the Spanish trio.)



*Mrancesco, gondolier*

*Viametta, virgin*

*Viulia, virgin*

*Mantonio, gondolier*

*Miorgio, gondolier*

*Marco, popular gondolier*

*Marcello, popular gondolier*

*Violetta, virgin*

*Vianetta, virgin*

Geoff Vaughan

Jennie Barnett

Julie Geddes

Lucas Richter

Phillip Adams

Carl Harte

Paul Dernelly

Judith O'Shea

Christine Keys

*Duke of Plaza-toro, from Spain*

*Duchess, from Spain*

*Casilda, from Spain*

*Erol, their 'entourage'*

David Cox

Robyn Ford

Lesley Walton

Gerard Fullarton

*Barth Rahda, PM of Eros*

Malcolm Wilton

*Assistants in Eros Crown casino*

Esther Counsel, Suzie Wilton,  
Catherine Wilton, Louise Wilton,  
Ashley Richter, Ben Richter

*Mannibale, gondolier*

*Solo dancer (Cachuca)*

*Ethel, Erol's mother*

Kevin Pye

Julie Geddes

Dianne Richter

## Our oratorio for 2003

Diamond Valley Singers performs both stage and oratorio works. This year we will perform the beautiful *German Requiem*, by Brahms, but in English. There will be a number of October and November performances; call Graham Ford on 9439 3267, for details. In addition there will a special performance in the Preston Town Hall on November 30 at 2:30 pm, accompanied by the Preston Symphony Orchestra.

### Christine Keys — Vianetta

Christine has been performing in musical theatre since 1994, with companies including Babirra, MLOC, Loyola, G&S Society, Park Players and Diamond Valley Singers. Her roles have 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*), Angelina (*Trial by Jury*), The Lady Ella (*Patience*) and The May Queen (*Merrie England*). She has sung as soloist in concerts for the Diamond Valley Singers, 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 interests include art, reading, animals and gardening and she has started a greeting card business.



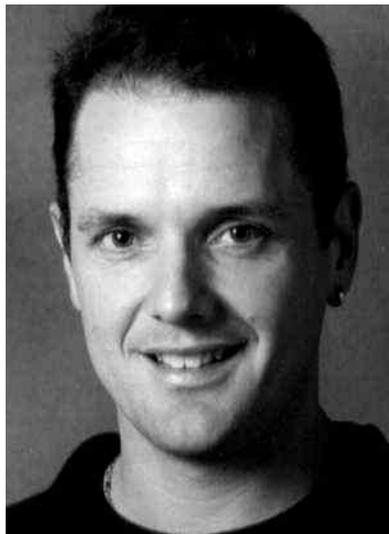
### Judith O'Shea — Violetta

Judith joined DVS for their first Mikado production in 1987, as Pitti Sing. Since then she has performed many of the mezzo and contralto roles in the G & S repertoire, happily switching between the 'dragon lady' and the 'starry-eyed maiden' roles and thoroughly enjoying every one of them. Repeats include Pitti Sing (*Mikado*) and this show's Tessa (as 'Violetta'.) With other groups she has performed Lady Blanche (*Princess Ida*) and Queen Elizabeth (*Merrie England*), Katisha (*Mikado*), Dame Hannah (*Ruddigore*) and the Fairy Queen and Iolanthe (*Iolanthe*). An inaugural member of the Opera in the Alps and Opera in the Market choirs, Judith also enjoys choral work and performs solos in DVS annual oratorios, including *Messiah*, *Elijah*, *Magnificat* and *Ode on St Cecilia's Day*.



### Carl Harte — Marco

Carl began his interest in music as a boy soprano. In 1991 and 1992 Carl sang in various ensembles, including The Melbourne Chorale. He started formal training in 1993 with Merlyn Quaife and commenced singing in ensemble for the Victoria State Opera, including Puccini's *La Boheme*, Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and Bizet's *Pearl Fishers*, and sang in the Australian Opera production of *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*. Carl graduated from the VCA and the Melba Conservatorium. He has performed for the Robert Stolz Society, and by contrast, in Bach cantatas. He has received tuition from Julian Gabin, Gregory Yurisich, Janet Healy, Richard Miller and Ronald Maconaghie. With Eastern Metropolitan Opera he performed in *Harem Scarem*, their English adaption of *Il Seraglio*.



This is Paul's fifth role with DVS and one of the more challenging - not only is it a large role but he has had to lower his standards and sing baritone.

On a serious note, Paul has been involved in amateur theatre for fifteen years with various companies and played roles such as Nanki Poo (*The Mikado*), Grosvenor (*Patience*), Ralph Rackstraw (*HMS Pinafore*), St Brioche (*Merry Widow*) and Simkins (*Merrie England*). When not on stage, Paul enjoys a tippie of red, a nibble of chocolate and a good giggle. He is currently studying voice with Joan Arnold.

### Paul Dernelley — Marcello



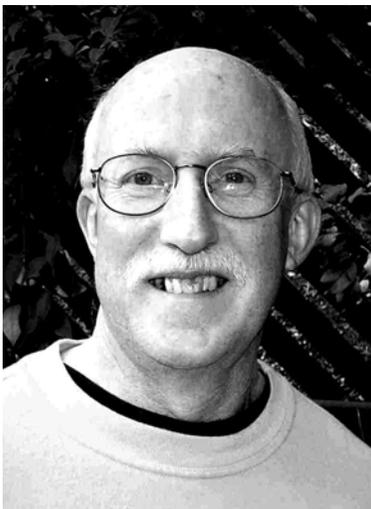


**Robyn Ford** — Duchess

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 fifth stage show with DVS, having performed in *The Mikado* as a wayward schoolgirl, as Mabel Tompkins in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*, as Mrs. Partlett in *The Sorcerer* and as Queen Elizabeth in *Merrie England*. 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.



**David Cox** — Duke of Plaza-toro



This year marks David's ninth 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*), Ko Ko (*The Mikado*) and J Wellington Wells (*The Sorcerer*). 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*.



**Lesley Walton** — Casilda



This is Lesley's seventh stage production with Diamond Valley Singers having appeared in a number of roles such as Valerie (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*), Constance (*The Sorcerer*) and Angie O'Gram (*Merrie England*). She has performed with CEF Players in Mornington, EMO chorus and Melbourne Chorale. Lesley is regularly invited to sing with the Eltham Concert Band and is currently in rehearsal for the debut performance of the "Songs of Innocence" (B. McKimm) with the band later this year. Oratorio is a favourite form of singing and Lesley has performed solo items with DVS in *The Messiah* (Handel), *Magnificat* (Bach), *Requiem* (Mozart) and many others.

**Gerard Fullarton** — Erol

Gerard joined the Diamond Valley Singers in 1997 as a hobby, and has participated in most of the oratorios and stage productions since. Prior to that, his singing experiences mainly revolved around choirs, beginning at school and progressing through to the Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir in Bendigo and St Patrick's Cathedral Choir in Melbourne. He was also involved on the production side of stage shows with the Bendigo Operatic Society as a youngster, with some chorus work thrown in. Since joining DVS, Gerard has played the roles of Michelin (*The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*), Reverend Throbbing (*The Sorcerer*) and Ben (*Merry England*). Gerard is looking forward to playing his first 'love interest' role, but admits that it will be a challenging characterisation!!



**Jennie Barnett**— Viametta



This is Jennie's fourth year with the Diamond Valley Singers, and her first solo singing role in one of their musical productions. She has had minor solos in the two previous DVS oratorios and enjoys the extra work. Currently Jennie is singing with The Lazy River Band and has lessons with Mavis Ford. Jennie is in her fourth year of her occupational therapy/ergonomics degrees at La Trobe University.

**Malcolm Wilton** — Barth Rahda

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 a performance of *Patience*. The following year he was the Learned Judge in *Trial by Jury* and has since enjoyed performing in many shows produced by the Diamond Valley Singers. He has also been in two melodramas with the Eltham Little Theatre. Last year Malcolm was Long Tom in *Merry England*. This year he has polished up his old Star Wars outfit for our production. He hopes you enjoy his character Barth Rahda.



**Geoff Vaughan** – Mrancesco (right)

Geoff joined DVS in 1999 as a chorus member in *The Mikado*. He then followed up with minor roles in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*, *The Sorcerer* and *Merrie England* over 2000, 2001 and 2002 as a precursor to his part as Mrancesco in this year's *The Gondoliers*, which he believes is a show to be enjoyed by all.

**Kevin Pye** – Mannibale (left)

In his seven previous performances with Diamond Valley Singers, Kevin has had to remember a total of seven words. After missing last year's performance, he is looking forward with trepidation to remembering eighty-one words and three cues.

**Phillip Adams** – Miorgio (centre)

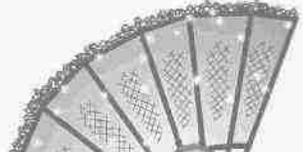
Phillip has enjoyed singing for most of his life and has sung with several church choirs and amateur groups. His stage debut was in 1987 in the Sandringham Light Operate Company's production of *Showboat*. He has previously sung in the chorus with DVS productions of *The Mikado* and *The Sorcerer*. This year he joins us in the bit-part of Giorgio in *The Gondoliers*.

**Lucas Richter** – Mantonio



Lucas first appeared on stage at the age of six, in DVS's previous production of *The Gondoliers*. This is his first solo role with the group. In 2001, Lucas played Amos in his school's production of *Chicago*, and in March he played Eugene Marchbanks in the Adelphi Players' production of Shaw's *Candida*, a 'straight' play. Lucas is currently studying Computer Science and Software Development at Deakin University.





## Chorus

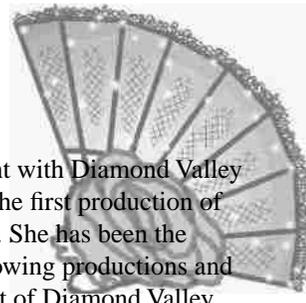


### Chorus of Virgins and Gondoliers

Diane Adams, Phillip Adams, Jennie Barnett, Janice Droogleever, Jeanette Flint, Alan Flint, Julie Geddes, Ben Geddes, John Graves, Sharon Harding, Sasha Hartdobler, Carol Hobbs, Maxine Lemcke, John Lemcke, Jill Loulaer, Lauren Murtagh, Brian Philp, Kevin Pye, Ben Richter, Dianne Richter, Lucas Richter, Robert Riddiford, Norma Turnbull-Smith, Michael Try, Geoff Vaughan, Maria Wolfe

### Casino staff

Esther Counsel, Suzie Wilton, Catherine Wilton, Louise Wilton, Ashley Richter, Ben Richter



## Dianne Richter — Producer, Vittoria and Ethel



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*), Sheila Dawson, secretary (*The Merry Widow of Bluegum Creek*) and Kate (*Merry England*). Dianne has also performed in numerous eisteddfods and concerts and with the Ashton Smith Singers and the Elwood Theatre Company.

## Julie Geddes — Choreographer, Viulia and solo dancer

Julie studied dance at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. She has performed in musicals including *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls* and *My Fair Lady*. Her debut performance with DVS was as *Ida* in *Die Fleidermaus*. Previously, she performed in "the pit" with the DVECO as cellist and percussionist. Julie was assistant choreographer for *Die Fleidermaus* and *Merrie England*. She has enjoyed her return for *The Gondoliers*.



## Mary Wright — Conductor

This is Mary's fourth show with the Diamond Valley Singers, having previously conducted *The Mikado*, *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek* and *Merrie England*. 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 having tutored 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 was appointed Conductor of Henry Touseau Strings at Melbourne Youth Music in June 2003.



### In the pit

<i>Violin 1:</i>	Nola Thompson, Val Lennie, Peter Davison, Vanessa Evans, Wilma Ezard, Robyn Allen
<i>Violin 2:</i>	Patrick Russell-Young, Kevin Mullen, Mary Hunter, Libby Shade, Mary Hunter, Jenny Samphier, Natasha Hatzakortzian
<i>Viola:</i>	Geoff Gloster, Jenny Grierson, Erich Pool
<i>Cello:</i>	Isolde Kinns, Margaret Grinsberg
<i>Double bass:</i>	Briony Hammond
<i>Flute:</i>	Betty Martin, Len Johnstone
<i>Oboe:</i>	George Rome, Judy Lewis
<i>Clarinet:</i>	Derek Wright, Geoff Oakes
<i>Bassoon:</i>	Michael Taylor, Ian Lowe
<i>French horn:</i>	Barbara Livett
<i>Trumpet:</i>	Sue Cook, Jenny Stengards,
<i>Trombone:</i>	Bob MacIntosh
<i>Percussion:</i>	James Lewis



## 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 seven 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.



**Virgins (Female chorus)**



**Casino staff**



**Gondoliers (Male chorus)**

