



Meg Warren - Lalume



After taking a year off to welcome an addition to the family - Abigail - Meg is excited to be back. She previously played Ado Annie (*Oklahoma!*) and Calamity in *Calamity Jane*. She has had a great time bringing Lalume to life. Since her return to stage in 2005 she has also played Fantine (*Les Miserables*), and Golde (*Fiddler on the Roof*). Working on *Kismet* has been a most enjoyable and fantastic challenge. So sit back and join our magical journey to the 'gayest town since Nineveh!'.

[Note: In the Old Testament the prophet Jonah was sent to save Nineveh from its sin, which he did after he travelled in the big fish.]

Adrian de Leonardis - Chief policeman

Adrian would like to thank DVS for putting up with him. This is Adrian's third performance, all being with DVS. He has played Mendel in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Samuel in *A Nice Dilemma*. Adrian would like to dedicate his performance to his young cousin, Xavier, who is battling illness at present.



Kath Buckingham - Ayah

Kath has been involved in drama and musical theatre since she was a child. Throughout school she performed in numerous productions, and continued to perform into adulthood. She has been a member of various community choirs, has written her own material and directed both children and adults in various community and school productions. This is her third production with DVS.



Malcolm Wilton - Omar Khayyam

Malcolm has enjoyed performing in many productions over the years, more recently with the Diamond Valley Singers and Eltham Little Theatre. He has played the Learned Judge in *Trial by Jury*, Poo Bah in *The Mikado*, as well as other leads in *HMS Pinafore*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *The Gondoliers*. Comedy roles have included *Music Hall* with Eltham Little Theatre such as *Power's Persuasion* and *Love and Lassos*. He has also taken himself beyond the comedies with roles such as Donald Ritchie in *Brigadoon*. This performance as Omar portrays a more fatherly role.



Brad Buckingham - Jawan

Brad started performing whilst at secondary school. At university he wrote, directed and performed *Marcus Visits*. He also performed in several plays, and directed two others, including David Hare's *A Map of the World*. In 2001, he played Ginger Mick, the Rabbitoh, in a Sydney production of the musical version of *The Sentimental Bloke*. With DVS he has recently played Henry Miller (Millie) in *Calamity Jane*, and Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof*.



Tim Warren - Policeman

This is Tim's eleventh year performing with DVS. His roles notably include Mikado (*The Mikado*) and Fyedka (*Fiddler on the roof*) in last years' show. He has also played Jean Prov (*Les Miserables*) and Joseph (*in his techicolour dreamcoat*).





Jennifer Wilson - Bangle seller

Jennifer first appeared on stage at the age of 10 as Zardok the Wizard in her primary school's production of *Dragongirl*. Since then she has played Dion in Shakespeare's *A Winter Tale* and The Personification of All That Is Good in Terra Draconis' *Poison*. This is Jennifer's fourth show with DVS, having been in *Oklahoma*, *Calamity Jane* and as Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*.



Rowan Ellery - Ben Hassan, Guard, dancer

Rowan's musical experiences include performances in *Calamity Jane* and *Me and My girl*.

His acting includes the *Forensic Follies* and *An Inconvenient Follies*.

As you will see for yourself, he has 'some latin dance experience' and cuts a mean figure on stage.



Anne Sharkey - Widow Yussef

Apart from the odd school production, Anne started late in theatre with her first production, to support her daughter Caitlin, being with DVS in *Oklahoma*. This is now her fourth DVS production. Anne caught the theatre bug and has also been involved in productions elsewhere.

Anne's roles have mainly been with the chorus, with minor singing lines in *Les Miserables* and a couple of speaking lines as the town gossip in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She enjoys the DVS group and hopes you enjoy the show.



Gerard Schneider - Caliph

Gerard studies singing with the highly respected Jon Weaving. He is multilingual, plays multiple musical instruments, including violin, double bass and French horn, and has studied ballet and dance for several years.

Gerard's past roles include: Gaston in the touring cast of *Beauty and the Beast*, The Defendant in *Trial by Jury*, Hot Blades Harry in *Urinetown*, Action in *West Side Story*, Mark in *A Chorus Line*, Danny in *Grease* and Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*.



John Filonzi - Wazir of Police

This is John's debut with the Diamond Valley Singers. He has recently performed as Njegus in *The Merry Widow*, The Judge in *Trial by Jury* as well as Chief Sitting Bull in *Annie Get your Gun*.

His other roles include Jamie in the pro-am production of *My Fair Lady* at the Comedy Theatre, Pooh Bah in *The Mikado*, Parchester in *Me and My Girl*, and Henry Miller in *Calamity Jane*. John has also featured in *Les Miserables*, *Peter Pan* and *Wizard of Oz*.





Graham Ford - Poet



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. 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, taking lead roles in *Paint your Wagon*, *Kiss me Kate* and *Kismet* (of which this is a reprise). He is the conductor of the newly established Plenty Valley Community Choir.

Laura Slavin - Marsinah



This is Laura's first production with Diamond Valley Singers. Previously she has performed as Casilda (*The Gondoliers*) and Peep-Bo (*The Mikado*). Other roles include Glinda (*The Wizard of Oz*), Fiametta (*The Gondoliers*) and 2nd Spirit (*The Magic Flute*). Laura regularly works with the Melbourne Opera company and last year performed with Victorian Opera in their production of *The Snow Queen*. As a soloist Laura has performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in their *Symphony of Angels* Concert which was also broadcast on ABC radio. Laura has been the recipient of the June Bronhill Encouragement Scholarship (2004) and The Evelyn E Sampford Music Scholarship (2005) Currently, Laura is studying voice under noted soprano, Felicity Baldock. As well as enjoying singing, Laura is also studying Medicine at Monash University.



Alan Flint, John Lemcke, Jeanette Flint, Kevin Maynes - Merchants



Gary Short, Noel Rawson - Beggars



Suzie, Louise and Catherine Wilton - Princesses of Ababu





**Michelle Reeves (Zubbediya),
Heather Wright (Samahris), Princesses
Jennie Barnett**

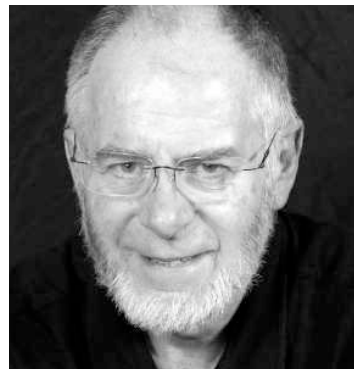


**Annette Eggum, Nova McNamara, Phebe Fiddler,
Christine Antoniou, Sue Sharrock, Robyn Donald
- Slave girls and other dancers**



Ian Lowe - Producer, Musical Director

Ian is proud to be president of a company dedicated to music making and charity. He was conductor of the Eltham Orchestra from 1978 to 1998. As co-founder of DVS in 1984 he has been with it from the start, for 12 years as musical director and orchestral conductor, and then as choral conductor, pianist and MD. During this time he was MD and conductor of several Mozart operas for Eastern Metropolitan Opera, and has conducted many musicals in this theatre for Warrandyte High School.



Production team

Directors	Lynne Counsel and Maxine Lemcke
Conductor	Mary Wright
Producer	Ian Lowe
Musical director	Ian Lowe
Choreography	Julie Geddes
Stage Manager	Anita Wilton
Costumes	Maxine Lemcke, Fiona Waters
Makeup	Lynne Counsel and crew
Sets	Lynne Counsel, Chris Weaver, Brian Donald, Andrew Rawson, Caitlin ?? and crew
Lighting Design	Ian Craig
Lighting Team	John Keys, David Gibson, Dylan Burns, Matt Motea, Will Hamilton, Bernie O'Shea
Sound	Dianne Richter, Robyn Mulder
Backstage Crew	Gary, Lucas, Ben and Ashley Richter, Amy McLean, Ryan Lawry, Brian Donald
Pianists	Gerard Banner, Ian Lowe
Front of House	Philip Connell and volunteers
Foyer display	Lesley Walton
Publicity	Malcolm Wilton, Angela Hennel, Sharon Harding, Brad and Kath Buckingham, Loris McClean, Sue Sharrock
Poster & program	Ian Lowe
Photography	Lesley Walton
Ticket Sales	Callum Robertson, Angela Hennel

Lesley Walton
Photographer

General photography including:
children's parties, nature and pets
Phone: 9870 3875



Cast list

'Sands of time' duet	Michelle Reeves, Jennie Barnett
Beggars	Gary Short, Noel Rawson
Poet	Graham Ford
Marsinah (his daughter)	Laura Slavin
Omar Khayyam, court poet	Malcolm Wilton
Jawan, brigand chief	Brad Buckingham
Hassan-Ben	Rowan Ellery
Merchants (solos)	Alan Flint, Jeanette Flint, Kevin Maynes, John Lemcke
Bangle seller	Jennifer Wilson
Chief Policeman	Adrian De Leonardis
Other Policeman	Tim Warren
Wazir of Police	John Filonzi
Lalume (Wazirs' wife of wives)	Meg Warren
Princesses of Ababu	Suzie, Louise and Catherine Wilton
Support group in Gesticulate	Jennie Barnett, Annette Eggum, Kath Buckingham
Caliph	Gerard Schneider
Slave girls & dancers	Nova McNamara, Phebe Fiddler, Christine Antoniou, Annette Eggum, Robyn Donald, Sue Sharrock
Princess Zubbediya	Michelle Reeves
Marriage arranger (Ayah) to Zubbediya	Kath Buckingham
Princess Samahris	Heather Wright
Ayah to Samahris	Annette Eggum
Widow Yussef	Anne Sharkey

Our thanks go to Paul and Sophie Kounnas, of Hudson Bond Real Estate Pty Ltd, 751 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster, for advertising outside the school and to Warrandyte High School.

Our July 2009 production: **Carousel**

Carousel will be the sixth Broadway musical to be presented by DVS. With songs like 'June is bustin' out all over', 'What's the use of wond'rin' and 'You'll never walk alone' you are in for a great ride on our *Carousel*. Bring tissues!



The chorus (not otherwise pictured, alphabetically) 2008

Top: Luisa Adami, Carmen Chetcuti, Joan Cullum, Brianna Flint, Eliza Flint, John Graves, Middle: Bernard Hickey, Rae Lawry, Lacey Martin, Shane Martin, Shelley Martin, Wesley Martin, Lower: Loris McLean, Kevin Pye, Carol Rawson, Norma Turnbull-Smith, Hanna Warren, Helen Watt



Julie Geddes - choreographer

Julie studied dance at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and privately studied cello and singing. She has performed in *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls*, *My Fair Lady* and with DVS as Ida in *Die Fledermaus*, Jean in *Brigadoon* and Katie in *Calamity Jane*. Julie has choreographed six previous productions for DVS. Last year Julie wrote, produced, directed and choreographed a musical production of *Snow White* in the Yarra Valley where she lives. She has enjoyed working again with Lynne and the DVS. Thank you also to Heather Wright and Christine Antoniou for choreographing several numbers.





Mary Wright — Conductor

This is Mary's ninth show with the Diamond Valley Singers. Mary is kept busy conducting the Eltham Orchestras including its feeder string groups, Surrey Hills Chamber Orchestra and its feeder string group, Preston Junior Strings and Preston Senior Strings. Mary tutored and conducted at Melbourne Youth Music (1998 -2004) and plays with the Victorian Concert and Preston Symphony Orchestras when available. She regularly attends conducting seminars which last year took her to Adelaide, Hobart and Brisbane under Symphony Australia's conducting programme. Mary has attended a workshop with the Australian Navy Band, and has just been appointed String tutor for the Healesville Summer Music Camp.



Orchestra

Violins: Libby Shade, Robyn Allen, Wilma Ezard, Peter Davison, Jenny Samphier, Kevin Mullen, Kath Spence, Natasha Hatzakortzian, Morgan Fisk, Soren Wislang

Violas: Erik Pool, Sophie Antoniou, Sr. Seraphima Sturcke

Celli: Isolde Kinns, Margaret Grinbergs, Rosa Antoniou, Josie Dalziel, Erik Engdahll

Double bass: Michael Taylor

Flutes: Betty Martin, Fiona Ellis, Dariel De Sousa

Oboes: Juliet Elizabeth, Judy Lewis

Clarinets: Derek Wright, Tony Robinson

Keyboard: Ian Lowe

French horn: Lucy Vanags

Bassoon: Jenny Ottosson

Trumpets: Claire Ferguson, Sue Cook, Jenny Stengards, David Griffith

Trombone: David Hopper

Percussion: Andy Griffiths



The story of 'Kismet'

Act 1 [Musical numbers]

[1] In old Baghdad, the impoverished **Poet** and his beloved daughter **Marsinah** go to the marketplace to sell **Poet's** rhymes for food [2]. The **Poet** ponders his fate [3] when he suddenly is abducted and taken to the desert tent of **Jawan**, an elderly, notorious thief. **Jawan** orders him to reverse the curse the begger Hajj put on him many years earlier. Recognizing an opportunity, **Poet** asks for one hundred gold pieces to reverse the curse, and **Jawan** agrees. **Poet** then tells **Jawan** to go to Baghdad to find his son, leaving **Poet** with a purse filled with gold.

At the bazaar [4], **Marsinah** goes shopping.

In Baghdad the **Wazir** welcomes **Lalume**, his favorite wife, back from Ababu. The **Wazir** will get a badly needed loan if he arranges for the three Princesses of Ababu to marry the young **Caliph** [5].

[6] The **Caliph** sees **Marsinah** and is immediately attracted to her. The crowd realise who he is, and that he is in love! [7] With his new gold, the **Poet** buys several female slaves but is seized by the **Wazir's** guards - stolen gold!

The **Caliph** approaches **Marsinah** in a garden and pretends to be a gardener. They fall in love and agree to meet in the garden that night [8].

In the **Wazir's** court, the **Poet** is charged as a thief [9]. The recently captured **Jawan** appears. He sees half an amulet around the **Wazir's** neck, and proclaims **Wazir** to be his long-lost son. So the **Poet** can reverse curses!

The **Caliph** enters the court to announce that he has found a bride. Thinking the **Poet's** curse on him is working, The **Wazir** offers to return **Poet's** gold and to raise him to the rank of Emir, if he prevents the **Caliph's** marriage.

The **Poet** accepts, but trumpets are heard through the city, as the **Caliph** moves to claim his bride. Confined to the palace by the **Wazir**, the **Poet** then creates an elaborate 'curse reversal' ceremony [10] and sneaks away.

Act 2

The **Caliph** comes to claim his bride [11] but in the garden, the **Poet** convinces **Marsinah** to flee Baghdad. She leaves - so the intended bride has gone, 'as if by wizardry'. When the **Wazir** [12] learns that the **Caliph** has lost his bride, he credits his new 'wizard' whom he creates an emir. [13]

Lalume convinces the **Wazir** to keep the **Poet** in the palace and use his power. The **Wazir** tells **Lalume** to care for him [14]. **Marsinah** is sent for, and tearfully confesses to her father that she has fallen in love but does not even know her beloved's name [15]. **Lalume** has **Marsinah** hidden in the harem but the **Caliph** sees **Marsinah** there. The **Caliph** decides take another bride that night. But despite their exotic dancing, the **Caliph** accepts none as his bride.

The **Poet** realizes that the **Caliph** is **Marsinah's** beloved. He performs a trick that drowns the **Wazir** under water in a pool. The **Caliph** sentences the **Wazir** to death. The **Poet** asks to take the now-widowed **Lalume** with him into exile "to an oasis a week away by dromedary". The **Caliph** agrees and happily sentences himself to a married life with **Marsinah** [16].



Musical numbers

The show is set in a mythical fantasy Baghdad in the eleventh century.

Act 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Sands of time | |
| 2 Rhymes have I | Poet & Marsinah |
| 3 Fate | Poet |
| 4 Bazaar of the caravans | Chorus |
| 5 Not since Nineveh | Lalume and chorus |
| 6 Baubles, bangles and beads | Marsinah, Caliph and chorus |
| 7 He's in love | Two policemen and chorus |
| 8 Stranger in Paradise | Marsinah and Caliph |
| 9 Gesticulote | Wazir, Lalume, Poet, guards and girls |
| 10 Fate | Poet, Lalume and chorus |

Interval: Turkish delight ('rahadlakum') on sale!

Act 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11 Night of my nights | Caliph and chorus |
| 12 Was I Wazir? | Wazir and men |
| 13 The Olive tree | Poet |
| 14 Rahadlakum ("Turkish delight") | Lalume, Poet and girls |
| 15 And this is my beloved | Marsinah & Poet, Caliph & Wazir |
| 16 Finale | Full company |



Diamond Valley Singers (DVS)

This year DVS celebrates 23 years of music making! In 1985 the conductor of the local orchestra, 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 \$90 000 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 have performed most Gilbert and Sullivan shows. In the last few years they have presented American musicals: *Brigadoon*, *Oklahoma*, *Calamity Jane*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and now *Kismet*. Next year *Carousel*.

They also perform annually one major oratorio such as *The Messiah* (Handel). On the last three years they joined with Yarra Valley Singers and Preston Symphony Orchestra in Verdi's powerful *Requiem*, Faure's gentle *Requiem*. This year it is Mozart's *Requiem* and two Te Deum's by Haydn and Dvorak. (Maybe we just like Requiems!)

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

The Eltham Orchestras Inc.

The Eltham Orchestra was formed in 1975 by local musicians as a friendly community orchestra. The long-standing association with the Diamond Valley Singers has provided an exciting opportunity for orchestra members to be involved in musical theatre.

Over the years the orchestra has expanded, with the creation of two additional groups, the Eltham Beginner Strings and the Eltham String Ensemble, to form The Eltham Orchestras Inc.

The Eltham Orchestras play a wide range of classical and light music and perform three or four programs annually, in addition to the stage show with DVS, including combined concerts with Surrey Hills Chamber Orchestra, both locally and further afield.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings:

Beginner Strings 6.00 - 7.00 pm (for beginners to Grade 3),
String Ensemble 7.00 - 8.00 pm (minimum Grade 4 standard) and
Eltham Orchestra 8.00 - 10.00 pm (minimum Grade 6 standard).

All groups are open to players of any age. Vacancies exist in several sections and interested musicians - particularly advanced string and brass players - are invited to contact the conductor, Mary Wright, on 9434 2147 or email marielouisewright@bigpond.com

For further information, visit www.elthamorchesteras.org.au.



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They thank you for your support.

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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 2595, and help to be a part of the Vision.

Open House Christian Involvement Centre

Helping Open House

The long-term financial support of the Diamond Valley Singers is greatly appreciated by Open House Christian Involvement Centres.

Open House was formed in 1971 when its founding director, Mr. George Farrington, AM, was challenged by the youth of the day to "provide an alternative to the pub because home is like hell".

Since then, its work has developed in many ways to include all levels of society, from children to the elderly, especially those with physical or mental disabilities, or who are needy, unemployed or otherwise isolated. Over 60 volunteers assist a small staff.

A new initiative, Backyard Sports, is located in and caters for young people in the Heidelberg West and Olympic Village area who have been identified as being at risk of drug or alcohol abuse or public misbehaviour.

For more information, phone 9497 1855 or write to 16 Ivanhoe Parade, Ivanhoe 3079. You could also visit our website: www.openhousecic.org.au.

Thank you, Diamond Valley Singers, for your support.



Lynne Counsel, Director

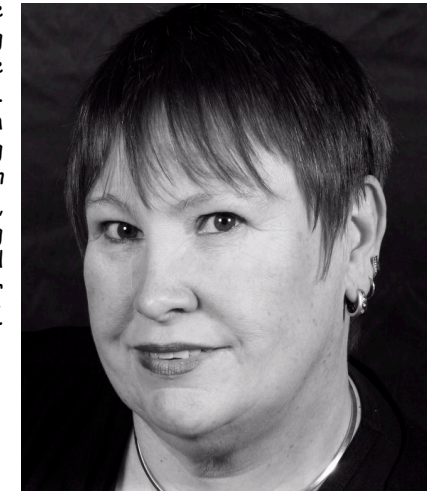
Lynne, an active art/craft and drama teacher has worked for over thirty years in both amateur and professional theatre as a director, performer, set and costume designer and makeup artist. She has directed many plays musicals and pantomimes: amongst them, *This Old Man Came Rolling Home*, *Brigadoon*, *There's More to Life than Money and Sex* and *The Hobyahs*, 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 and is at present an active member of The Templestowe Entertainers. This is her tenth show with DVS.



Maxine Lemcke - Co-Director and costumes

Maxine has been involved with theatre for many years, with companies including Night Owl, Northern Musical Theatre and Northern Youth Theatre.

After many years of performing with Diamond Valley Singers, including *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers*, *Brigadoon* and *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Maxine has tried her hand in directing two recent shows: *Oklahoma* and *Calamity Jane*, and was a co-producer for *Fiddler on the Roof*.





Director's Notes - Lynne Counsel and Maxine Lemcke

Kismet combines exotic settings, colourful characters and clever lyrics set to the beautiful, haunting music of Borodin. It is arguably one of the most demanding shows ever presented by Diamond Valley Singers, and a huge challenge both to perform and direct.

In this year's production we again join forces with Mary Wright and the Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra. The show is filled with wonderful songs and we are so fortunate to have an orchestra to enhance the performance.

We have an excellent line up of very talented principals with whom we have thoroughly enjoyed working. Our chorus, always a strong point in all our shows, is large in number and has enthusiastically thrown themselves into the challenges set by the show. Once again we have welcomed several newcomers, some actually enjoying their first stage experience with us. We hope it is the first of many.

The production team consisting of Ian Lowe (Musical Director), Julie Geddes (Choreographer), Fiona Waters (Costume Coordinator) and Malcolm Wilton (Publicity Coordinator) have provided us with constant support and we are very grateful. We would also like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the set building team.

In all it has been a very enriching and exciting venture for all of us. We would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the success of the show and made our job so much more manageable. We hope our audiences enjoy our offering as much as we have done preparing it, and that they continue to support us in the years to come.

Lynne Counsel and Maxine Lemcke

Please note

Kismet the musical is a child of its time. In the early 1950s Americans knew nothing of the 'exotic east', and names such as Baghdad stimulated their imaginations. This musical reflects ways of behaving that are purely 1950s America. In more recent years we have come to learn of the ways of Islamic societies and to respect their culture.

If any of the words or actions in this performance give offence, we truly apologise.

Note on the music of Borodin (source: Wikipedia)

Kismet's music is based on melodies of Aleksandr Borodin (1833 - 1887), who was a 'Sunday composer', earning his living as a chemistry professor at the Moscow University.

Excerpts from his music used in the show is as follows:

In the Steppes of Central Asia; Symphony No. 1, movt. 4; Symphony No. 2, movts. 1 & 4; Polovetsian Dances; String Quartet No. 2, movts. 2 & 3; "Sérénade" from Petite Suite for piano and Prince Igor (several songs and ensembles).

For example, "Stranger in Paradise" is based on the 'Gliding Dance of the Maidens' from the Polovetsian Dances, part of the opera 'Prince Igor'.




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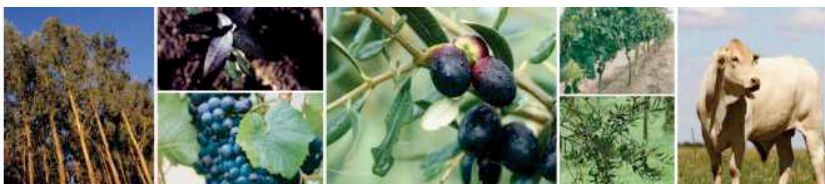
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KISMET

A Musical Arabian Night

Book by CHARLES LEDERER & LUTHER DAVIS
(founded on a play by Edward Knoblock)
Music and lyrics by ROBERT WRIGHT & GEORGE FORREST
(from themes of A. Borodin)
By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd,
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**Diamond Valley Singers
& Eltham Orchestra**

**Warrandyte High Theatre
July 2008**