



For all your lighting and musical needs contact  
Michael Gerrish  
0419 388 054  
Email: [Starmiststudio@yahoo.com](mailto:Starmiststudio@yahoo.com)



Thank you for supporting us  
See you next year!

[www.dvsingers.org](http://www.dvsingers.org)

A musical comedy based  
on the classic fairy tale,

**THE PRINCESS  
& THE PEA**


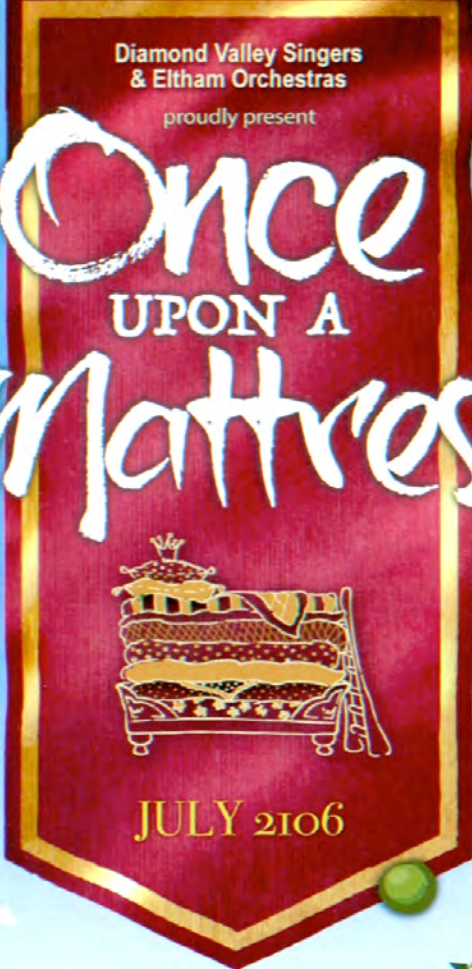
Diamond Valley Singers  
& Eltham Orchestras  
proudly present

# Once UPON A Mattress

Music by MARY RODGERS  
Lyrics by MARSHALL BARER  
Book by JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER  
and MARSHALL BARER

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS"  
IS PRESENTED THROUGH  
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH  
ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL

ON BEHALF OF R&H THEATRICALS:  
[www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com)



JULY 21<sup>st</sup> 06

The poster features a large red banner with a gold border hanging from a gold pole. The banner contains the title "Once UPON A Mattress" in white, stylized fonts. Below the title is a gold illustration of a mattress with a crown on top. The background is a blue sky with a yellow path leading to a castle tower on a green hill. The date "JULY 21<sup>st</sup> 06" is written in gold at the bottom of the banner.

## Director's Notes and Thanks

In 1959 *Once Upon a Mattress* opened on Broadway, with the yet to be household name, Carol Burnett in the leading role of Princess Winnifred. This musical adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's, 'Princess and the Pea' is one that she would reprise a number of times throughout her career, from the 1972 television adaptation, to the most recent in 2005, where she would switch roles and portray Her Royal Highness, Queen Aggravain.

This production has come so far, from a conversation in a car park, to the finished product that you are seeing, it has been a true adventure that I have loved every moment of. Angela, the best producer any one could ask for, I will struggle to work with anyone else in this role as you make my job so much easier, and the fact I can call you a friend means so much. Lucas my musical mate without whom I would be totally lost. Me trying to work out why you can't just simply put a cut in the music where ever you want it! Lucas patiently explaining why not, along with the comfort that, no matter what you and I are friends first.

Clair, I don't know where I would be without you and it would definitely have been a very different show otherwise. Your support and friendship means so much, and has helped create a show that we are all so proud of.

Trevor, Barbara, Malcolm, Michael, Dianne, Robyn, Helen, Lynne, Nicole and Anita, it is because of your combined efforts that we have a show of the quality that we do. From the many, many, incalculable hours that Trevor (and Mark), spent at the shed, and Barbara's many hours behind the sewing machine creating the beautiful, colourful costumes; to Malcolm, the best publicity person that I have worked with and his tireless pursuit of promotion. To the all-nighters from Michael (helped by Jen and Grace) to get the lights just right. Thank you.

Knowing that sound was taken care of by Robyn and Dianne and I would not have to worry, and knowing we would be working with the best possible props, sought and sourced, and then managed, by Helen, made my life easier, whilst feeling confident that I was passing on the finished show to Anita, a stage manager whom I trust unreservedly. Thanks again to Lynne and Nicole for sharing your expertise, to Gerard and Ian for playing at rehearsals, and to Jess who assisted on the audition panel.

To my wonderful, hard-working cast and chorus, thank you for your trust, work ethic and for travelling with me down this path. It has been a pleasure working with you and seeing this community company step forth.

Enjoy the run, it wont be here long, so make the most of it.

Tam  
tsa

## Synopsis

**Once Upon a Mattress** is a musical comedy with music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, and book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer. It opened off-Broadway in May 1959, and then moved to Broadway. The play was written as an adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale 'The Princess and the Pea'

If you thought you knew the story of 'The Princess and The Pea, you may be in for a walloping surprise!

Did you know, for instance, that Princess Winnifred actually swam the moat to reach Prince Dauntless the Drab? Or that Lady Larken's love for Sir Harry provided a rather compelling reason that she reach the bridal altar post haste? Or that, in fact, it wasn't the pea at all that caused the princess a sleepless night?

In this hilarious tweaking of the fairy tale, 'The Princess and the Pea' Queen Aggravain has ruled that none may marry until her son, Prince Dauntless marries. However, she has managed to sabotage every princess that comes along. When Sir Harry learns Lady Larken's secret he goes off to the swamps and brings back Princess Winnifred ('Fred' to her friends). The queen is horrified and immediately begins to scheme, but Winnifred, with some help from Sir Harry, the King, and the Jester, isn't going to be quite so easy to get rid of.

## Tamblyn Smith Director-Choreographer

*Once Upon a Mattress* marks Tamblyn's third show with DVS (*Pirates* Assistant Director/Choreographer and *Hello Dolly* Co Director & Choreographer) and he is happy to be back! Stepping through the doors at DVS feels a little like coming home.

Tamblyn has been with in the amateur theatre community since 2008 were he joined Babirra's *Calamity Jane* cast, and from there never stopped. Performing with a number of companies, some highlights include, Tonton Julian *Once On This*

*Island* (Octave), Miles Glorious *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Fourm* (Phoenix), and being invited to join Cloc's *Guys and Dolls*, to name a few.

Last Year Tamblyn got the opportunity to direct **his dream show, *Once On this Island with Fab Nobs***, and had an amazing time learning a lot from the process.

He is incredibly thankful for the DVS committee's support throughout the process, and thanks DVS for the opportunity to do what he loves and share it with his friends and father, Stephen.



## Lucas Richter-Wilson Musical Director

Lucas has been enjoying singing and the stage since a very early age, and fondly remembers playing a page boy in Diamond Valley Singers' 1991 production of *The Gondoliers*.

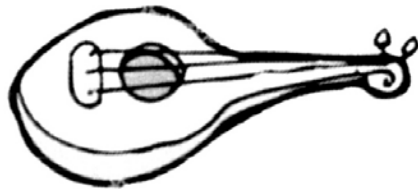
Since then, his experience in the theatre has included the favourite roles of Will Parker in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* the title role in *The Mikado* with GSOV and Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore* with the Monash University Choral

Society, as well as a variety of other musicals and non-musical plays. His theatrical experience also takes in chorus, backstage crew, ushering, lighting and serving as Stage Manager for *The Pajama Game* in 2012.

Besides his theatrical endeavours, Lucas is an experienced chorister and vocal soloist. He has featured in a number of oratorios and choral works, including Verdi's and Faure's *Requiems*, Dvorak's *Te Deum*, Handel's *Messiah* and Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* (another favourite), as well as singing a wide variety of choral works. He is currently a member of the Australian Chamber Choir, and toured Europe with that choir in 2013.

Lucas shared the privilege of conducting DVS's 2014 choral program and 2015 presentation of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and is looking forward to conducting Handel's *Coronation Anthems* as part of DVS's choral program for the second half of this year. Lucas also served as Musical Director of DVS's 2014 production of *Hello, Dolly!*

When asked about his dream role, Lucas says: "**Mrs Lovett in Sweeney Todd. It's probably better for everyone if this doesn't happen.**"



We asked our cast and creatives "what is your 'dream' role, and why?" Some responded, others have left us all guessing.

## Angela Hennel Production Manager

Angela comes from an equestrian management background and fell into the musical world accidentally, much like *Alice in Wonderland*, a role she played while still at school. She played Golde in *Fiddler On The Roof* while still at school too, but these days contents herself with singing choral works and in the Melbourne Opera chorus. Angela has performed in three operas with Melbourne Opera – *Der Freischütz*, *Maria Stuarda* and *The Abduction From The Seraglio* – and is currently rehearsing for *Tannhäuser* which opens in August at the regent Theatre.

*Once Upon A Mattress* is the fifth DVS show Angela has produced, and the ninth she has sold tickets for.

**Countess Aurelia, in Dear World by Jerry Herman. The music and lyrics are beautiful.**



## Clair Stapley Director's Assistant

Clair joined Diamond Valley Singers after seeing their production of *Kiss Me Kate* in 2011. Since joining she has performed in the chorus of *The Pyjama Game* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. She has also participated in various Oratorios and Concerts. Being invited to return as Director's Assistant for this show was a new challenge for Clair and she would like to thank the production team for this opportunity and their kind induction – what a team. You may also spot her on stage ruffling a few feathers.

**If I was a few, ok, ok, many years younger I would love to play Rizzo in Grease – as close friends could attest it wouldn't have been a big stretch.**



# Once Upon A Mattress Musical Numbers

## Act I

- Overture *Orchestra*
- Many Moons Ago *Minstrel*
- An Opening For a Princess *Prince Dauntless, Lady Larken, Ensemble*
- In a Little While *Sir Harry, Lady Larken*
- In a Little While (reprise) *Sir Harry, Lady Larken*
- On a Stormy Night *Minstrel*
- Shy *Princess Winnifred, Knights and Ladies*
- The Minstrel, the Jester, and I *Minstrel, Jester, King Sextimus*
- Sensitivity *Queen Aggravain, Wizard*
- The Swamps of Home *Princess Winnifred, Prince Dauntless, Ladies-in-Waiting*
- Normandy *Minstrel, Jester, Larken, King Sextimus*
- Spanish Panic *Orchestra, Ensemble*
- Song of Love *Prince Dauntless, Princess Winnifred, Ensemble*

## Act II

- Entr'acte *Orchestra*
- Quiet - *Queen Aggravain, Ensemble*
- Happily Ever After *Princess Winnifred*
- Man to Man Talk *Prince Dauntless, King Sextimus*
- Very Soft Shoes *Jester*
- Yesterday I Loved You *Sir Harry, Lady Larken*
- Nightingale's Lullaby *Nightingale of Samarkand*
- Finale - *Prince Dauntless, Princess Winnifred, Queen Aggravain, King Sextimus, Ensemble*

# Cast

<b>Meg Warren</b>	<i>Princess Winnifred The Woebegone</i>
<b>Nicholas Durbridge</b>	<i>Prince Dauntless The Drab</i>
<b>Rebecca Muratore</b>	<i>Queen Aggravain</i>
<b>Malcolm Wilton</b>	<i>King Sextimus The Silent</i>
<b>Sam Corr</b>	<i>Sir Harry</i>
<b>Kristen Ryan</b>	<i>Lady Larken</i>
<b>Giles Adams</b>	<i>Minstrel</i>
<b>Narada Edgar</b>	<i>Jester</i>
<b>Stephen Smith</b>	<i>Wizard</i>
<b>Eleesha Higbed</b>	<i>Lady Rowena</i>
<b>Jennifer Wilson-Richter</b>	<i>Lady Merrill</i>
<b>Grace Brown</b>	<i>Lady Lucille</i>
<b>Annette Dick</b>	<i>Lady Mabelle</i>
<b>Barbara Skewes</b>	<i>Lady Beatrice</i>
<b>Alan Flint</b>	<i>Sir Studley</i>
<b>Juliet Honey</b>	<i>Princess Number Twelve</i>
<b>Clair Stapley</b>	<i>Nightingale of Samarkand</i>

## Knights, Ladies and Castle Staff

<b>Mark Clark</b>	<b>Marlene Di Battista</b>
<b>Adam Conybear</b>	<b>Brooke Dunstan</b>
<b>Trevor D'Ambrosio</b>	<b>Jeanette Flint</b>
<b>Kevin Maynes</b>	<b>Robyn Hannan</b>
<b>Frank Meerbach</b>	<b>Sharon Harding</b>
<b>Kevin Pye</b>	<b>Anne Sharkey</b>
<b>Neil Spitzer</b>	<b>Helen Watt</b>



**Meg Warren** *Princess Winnifred*

Getting the opportunity to play Winnifred who is more like a Dreamworks princess has been a great addition to Meg's list of roles. Since debuting with DVS as Ado Annie in Oklahoma! in 2005, her roles for DVS have included Calamity Jane, Calamity Jane, Lalume, Kismet, Kate, Kiss Me Kate and Mae, Pajama Game. More recently Meg has moved to the production team where she directed Pirates of Penzance and Hello, Dolly!. Meg has always loved a fairytale where the damsel in distress is usually the pretty little fragile princess who is helpless to defend herself and would wait for her prince to come to save the day, but she hopes you enjoy this 'real' look at a whacky kingdom where the princess is not what you expect.



**Nicholas Durbridge** *Prince Dauntless*

Nicholas is a self-made method actor. (He also has an office job, but that may pay off in next year's "Office Space: The Musical".) This "method acting" is how he explains the genuine feel to his performance as the naively good-natured man-child, Prince Dauntless. Nicholas has performed on stage and screen in various capacities, and is a co-host of the Whatcha Podcast. He most relishes those performing opportunities that allow things to get a little silly, and to even make things up on his feet. If you're really lucky, he might just make a few silly things up tonight...

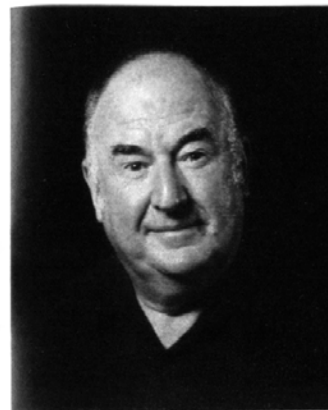
**His dream role would be the title role of "Batman" in the yet-to-be-written "Batman: The Musical"**



**Rebecca Muratore** *Queen Aggravain*

Bec is thrilled to be making her DVS debut as the slightly terrifying Queen Aggravain. Bec has been involved in theatre for over 10 years and has almost exclusively been cast as a fair maiden in G&S operas, or a fierce and fabulous matriarch in modern musicals. Favourite roles include Lady Angela (*Patience*- Savoy) The Enchanted Wardrobe (*Beauty and the Beast*- Waterdale) Josephine Strong *Urinetown*- Williamstown TC) Leila (*Iolanthe*-Savoy) and Domina (*Forum*- Phoenix TC) Outside of theatre, Bec is a union and political activist. If you are reading this before 6pm on July 2 she urges you to put the Liberals last on your ballot paper!

**Maria in The Sound of Music- It's such a lovely sing! Plus you get to wear curtains!**



**Malcolm Wilton** *King Sextimus*

Malcolm first took to the musical theatre stage with the Sandringham Light Opera Company with *Showboat* in 1987 His first appearance with Diamond Valley Singers was as a chorus member in *Patience*. Subsequent years saw him become the Learned Judge in *Trial by Jury*, *Poo Bah* in *The Mikado*, *the Sergeant of Police* in *Pirates of Penzance (twice!)* as well as other principal roles. In 2014 he took on a whole new role as the love interest of Dolly Levi as Horace Vandergelder in *Hello Dolly*. This year his role is that of a mute king: and his family was very happy with all the silence while he learned his lines!

**His ideal role is Max Bialystock in The Producers for its humour, fun, frustrations of landing a show on stage.**



**Sam Corr** *Sir Harry*

Rising up, back on the street; Did my time, took my chances; Went the distance, now I'm back on my feet; Just a man and his will to survive.

So many times it happens too fast; You trade your passion for glory; Don't lose your grip on the dreams of the past. You must fight just to keep them alive.

It's the eye of the tiger; It's the thrill of the fight; Rising up to the challenge of our rival; And the last known survivor Stalks his prey in the night; And he's watching us all with the eye of the tiger.



**Kristen Ryan** *Lady Larken*

This is Kristen's first time performing with DVS, and she has had an absolute blast working with the loveable cast and crew. Her previous credits include Gianetta in *The Gondoliers* (GSOV), Lady Ella in *Patience* (GSOV), Glinda/Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz* (Players), Kate in *The Wild Party* (Ubermensch), Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (BuSTCo.), Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (CPP), Ensemble/Lucy in *Sweeney Todd* (NOVA), and Laurey in *Oklahoma!* (Trinity College Colac). If she could play any role, she would want to be Gabe in a genderbent production of *Next to Normal*. Kristen is ecstatic to announce that she'll be travelling by bubble once again, but this time in the huge role of Galinda/Glinda in NOVA's October/November production of *Wicked*.

**Giles Adams****Minstrel**

Mathematician by day, newly converted theatre nerd by night. This is Giles' third production, having previously performed in Waterdale's *Urinetown* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Somehow avoiding the call of Diamond Valley Singers despite his uncle and aunty's six year stint back in the naughties, well, just look what happened. It is inevitable. You all must submit.

**If he could play any role, in any production it would be: Jack from *Into the Woods*, since he's always wanted a cow for a friend.**

**Narada Edgar****Jester**

Once Upon a Mattress will be Narada's second production with DVS after choreographing *The Merry Widow From Bluegum Creek* last year. Narada has also worked a lot with WATERDALE in such productions as *Pirates of Penzance* as part of the Fab trio, and *Urinetown* as Choreographer.

Narada would like to thank DVS and the production team for the opportunity to play the Jester and for encouraging her to step outside the box (no pun intended) and try something new.

**If Narada could play any role in any production it would be Velma Kelly from *Chicago* because it's one of her favourite musicals and the role of Velma is sexy, sassy, and full of dancing and gutsy singing.**

**Stephen Smith****Wizard**

A life-long interest in theatre Stephen is truly grateful for the opportunity to work with his son Tam again. His journey through the theatre world has seen Stephen playing many roles in shows like *A Man For All Seasons* and *By The Skin of our Teeth* with The Maroondah Theatre Company.

His interest in dance led him to Ballet Victoria and studying under Garth Welsh. Stephen ran a drama program for people with a disability for 12 years, he says this was a humbling and rewarding experience. He thanks DVS for support and encouragement not only of himself but also of Tam. Stephen hopes you, the audience enjoy the show and have a wonderful evening.

**Eleesha Higbed****Lady Rowena**

Eleesha teaches English and Literature, and enjoys the opportunities that performing gives her to ignore her marking. This is not her first show with DVS, most recently as Kate in *Pirates of Penzance* (2013) and Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly!* (2014). Eleesha also appeared as Marmee in *Little Women* (OXAGEN), and as Grace – the finest duck on the lake – in *Honk!* (PEP). She has enjoyed the opportunity to return to DVS in *Once Upon a Mattress*, particularly since she gets to have so much fun as a member of the terrible trio.

**Eleesha's dream role would currently be Francesca in *The Bridges of Madison County*, as she is carried away by the tragedy of the story and the beauty of the music.**

**Jennifer Wilson-Richter Lady Merrill**

Jennifer has been involved with Diamond Valley Singers for 11 years, performing in productions of *Oklahoma!*, *Calamity Jane*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Kismet*, *Carousel* and *Hello, Dolly!* as well as working behind the scenes on multiple shows. She has directed productions of *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore* and *That Jazz* with MonUCS, as well as Western Arts Theatre's premier production *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Musical Theatre*.

Jennifer completed a certificate III in Musical theatre with Box Hill TAFE in 2004. She is also a choral singer, and regularly performs with the Australian Chamber Choir, the Diamond Valley Singers and Cantores Silvae.

**Jennifer's dream role would be Girl from Once because of her emotional depth.**

**Grace Brown****Lady Lucille**

Grace has been involved in theatre of all kinds for a while now, from MacMillan in *Big: The Musical*, Mary Warren in *The Crucible* and Jock E. Schwartz in *Return To The Forbidden Planet* in high school, to Cherry in *Cosi* and Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest* with BuST Co. This is her first venture with The Diamond Valley Singers and her first musical in two years. She's had a wonderful time during *Mattress*, and hopes you enjoy her impression of a grape as she did crafting and perfecting it.

**Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, it's the perfect cover for her green skin and consumption of blood.**



**Mark Clark** *Drugo, Apothecary*  
 Born into a theatrical family where, my Father was an Magician, Actor, Director, Set Designer, my Mother did Lighting and Costumes, I had very little chance growing up of not being involved. I played child actor parts in shows such as *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Oliver*. I worked many other shows back stage. I have returned to musical theatre after an extended absence (approx. 30 Years). I was asked by Meg (Fred) to have a go with Diamond Valley Singers and *Mattress* and I felt it was time to give it a go again and see if I could still sing and act.

**Jean Valjean from *Le Miserables*, the music is so powerful and what a character.**



**Adam Conybear** *Squire to Sir Studley*  
 Adam has been involved in theatre since 16 years of age, but wasn't until 2002 that he began performing regularly. He made his musical debut with *St. Gabriel's Community Theatre Group* in *Guys and Dolls* in 2002 and since then has performed in *Grease*, *Les Miserable*, *Oliver*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Mary Poppins*, *Westside Story*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Annie*.

This is Adam's second show for DVS. His first was *Hello Dolly*. He has been enticed to return because of the production team of *Once Upon a Mattress*, and the hilarious comedy of the show.

**I don't aspire to any role, I'm happy to be involved as ensemble, and small cameo parts of any musical.**



**Trevor D'Ambrosio** *Barber/Dentist*  
 This is the ninth DVS production, both on and off stage for Trevor. Set construction has figured high in Trevor's commitment to *Mattress*. He didn't realise how much work was involved with Tam's, "Minimalist Set" The circles, angles, and crenelations kept his brain busy and helped fill his working folder with many columns of scrawly pencilled arithmetic.

He hopes you enjoy the show and you leave with a smile on your face..

**He would love to be a puppeteer in any show.** When his children were small, he was particularly fond of the joy they got when he produced the funny voices and daggy hand puppets.



**Marlene Di Battista** *Lady's Maid*  
 This is Marlene's 8th production with DVS having appeared in *Carousel*, *Iolanthe*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Pirates Of Penzance*, *Hello Dolly* and *The Merry Widow From Blue Gum Creek*. She has performed *Barnum* with Dandenong Theatre Group, *Dinkum Assorted* with Essendon Theatre Group, *Mama Mia* with Michelle Slater Performing Arts Group and with Eltham Little Theatre and is an active member of the Heidelberg Allstars. She loves being a part of *Once Upon A Mattress* because it is a fairy tale for both adults and children full of fun & comedy. She hopes you enjoy the show.  
**Although she is female Marlene would love to play the part of the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance***



**Annette Dick** *Lady Mabelle/Elisabeth*  
 This will be Annette's 12th show with DVS and she is still loving the glamour and excitement that the theatre brings. This year, she plays dual roles of Lady Mabelle, a French drunk. (Annette thinks she has been typecast) and her other role is in the chorus as Lady Elizabeth who is quite a diva and loves the attention.  
 Annette sings with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Channel 9 Carols by Candlelight, Camberwell Chorale and was very happy to be accepted into Melbourne Opera this year. She knows you are going to love *Once Upon A Mattress*, so sit back and enjoy.



**Brooke Dunstan** *Coraline (Scully maid)*  
 This is Brooke's first production with DVS and she has had a lot of fun participating with the cast and crew. Brooke enjoys music and musicals having done some productions with other companies in high school and her adult life.  
 When she's not on stage Brooke is working in childcare and spending time with family friends and her two cheeky fur kids.



**Alan Flint** *Sir Studley*

Alan has previously performed in several leading roles with DVS productions and also in chorus. He is pleased to play Sir Studley this year.

**He would like to play Inspector Javert in *Les Miserables* as the character is so extraordinary.**



**Jeanette Flint** *Lady Ethalreda*

Jeanette's first theatre experience was in *South Pacific* playing a native child complete with a liberal coating of make-up, with Regent Dramatic Society. They even took the show on the road for one night in Yea and were billeted at local homes, a memorable experience. Jeanette has enjoyed returning to the theatre by joining DVS and been involved in many shows over the last ten years.

**She would like to play the Ghost of Christmas Past in *Scrooge* as she loves the show.**



**Robyn Hannan** *Ninette, Dressmaker*

Robyn Hannan is greatly enjoying herself in this production of OUAM, wearing all blue and dancing the Spanish Panic was always on her bucket list! This is Robyn's fourth show with DVS and last year she played the role of Sylvia Boggins in *The Merry Widow* of Blue Gum Creek. Prior to becoming involved in DVS she has performed as a chorus member in the G&S Society for more than 50 productions, and in the *Sound of Music* with Whitehorse Theatre Co.

One of her favourite musicals is *Chicago* and *Mama Morton* is a role she wouldn't mind having a crack at now that she's past the youthful love interest stage of life!



**Sharon Harding** *Lady's Maid*

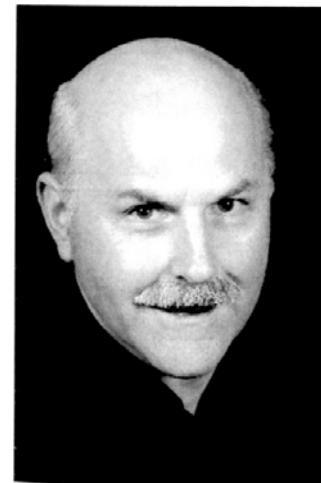
Sharon has been a member of the Diamond Valley Singers since 1995. Over the years, she has performed in the chorus of a variety of stage productions, including *HMS Pinafore*, *Brigadoon*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Hello Dolly*, and in many of the oratorio performances. Sharon has also been a part of the publicity team for some of the stage shows.



**Juliet Honey** *Princess #12*

Juliet first became involved with DVS while playing oboe in the orchestra pit for *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Kismet*. The following year she climbed out of the pit and onto the stage for the next few DVS shows, including playing Vibrata, the fierce courtesan with giant golden wings, in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. She has also enjoyed playing chorus roles in *Carousel*, *Iolanthe*, *Kiss Me Kate* and a dancing waiter in *Hello Dolly*. Juliet is thoroughly enjoying this larger than life production of the favourite fairytale, *Princess and the Pea*, and hopes you enjoy it too.

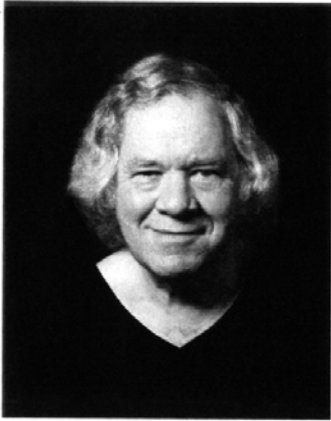
**Ursula the Sea Witch: There are few roles where you can really revel in such nastiness!**



**Kevin Maynes** *Friar*

Imagine my surprise when the producer rang and said, "You have the part of a Friar." "Well, *of course!*" I replied, "That's just how it grows; it's genetic." Talk about being personal! Regardless, I decided to ignore the comment. Ah! back treading the boards with DVS once again. My mind wondered off and imagined the singing; the dancing; the costumes; the glamour; the parties; the applause and adulation **as *Jean Val Jean*, the role of all roles** and with a French revolution period hair-piece included. Regardless, I decided to tread the boards with DVS once again: after all, I did have the right *part* for the role!





**Frank Meerbach**

**Lord**

Born in Holland I was just five years old when my family migrated to Australia. My dad was a music teacher and I remember many hours around the piano as he played tunes from Snow White and the Seven Dwarves while we kids sang along. Nowadays I am a chess teacher very interested in games and puzzles, particularly difficult Sudokus. Last year I began singing lessons and earlier this year looked for the nearest choir the Diamond Valley Singers.

**This is my first show and I have no real acting ambition, but would absolutely love to be a member of a choir that could perform with Andre Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra.**



**Barbara Skewes**

**Lady Beatrice**

Barb loves to perform, and has featured as leads in *Hairspray*, *Oliver*, *My Fair Lady*, *Chicago* and *Annie*. She has also been involved in *Oklahoma*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Calamity Jane*, *Brigadoon*, *Me and My Girl*, *Iolanthe*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Hello Dolly*. Barb has worked with various companies, such as DVS, Catchment Players, Heidelberg Allstars, Ross Hendy Dancers and Michelle Slater Performing Arts. Barb also entertains at Nursing Homes, RSL Clubs and Retirement Villages, and has appeared at Crown Casino.

**Barb's favourite role that she would love to play again is Miss Hannigan from *Annie*.**



**Neil Spitzer**

**Castle Cook**

Neil has been in Musical Theatre for over 25 years. For the past few years, he has been with DVS. His highlight was playing the role of Crompton in last year's production of *The Merry Widow Of Bluegum Creek*. He is excited to be in "Mattress" and to work with Tam again. He is currently a member of the DVS Committee.



**Helen Watt**

**Petunia, Lady's Maid**

At age 8 or 9 all the school class had to audition for the choir. Helen passed and has been in various choirs since.

My first acting role was at aged 12 as a Telegram Boy in the *Church Christmas Concert* which was followed by a small role in the *Merchant of Venice* at a Girls School in Geelong. I don't have the desire to be a lead in any show I am more than happy being involved in the Chorus.

After moving from Geelong to Eltham I became an avid audience member of DVS and eventually joined. My favourite shows are *Pirates of Penzance*, *Hello Dolly* and *Once Upon A Mattress*. Enjoy the show



**Kevin Pye**

**Castle Blacksmith**

21 years ago Kevin first had contact with Diamond Valley Singers bringing his son along to perform in *HMS Pinafore*. After a couple of years he had to come alone, but he's been around ever since. He had to miss four major performances in that time, mainly because of ill-health, but he's glad he's over that now and is enjoying being back in the saddle.

He has also sung in many other DVS activities.

**Kevin's ideal role is anything that doesn't expose his lack of acting and dancing capability.**

**Anne Sharkey Dorothea, dressmaker**

Anne caught the musical theatre bug after performing in *Oklahoma* with DVS 11 years ago, since then she has been in the chorus for all productions since, including *Calamity Jane*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Kismet* in which she played the Widow and Panacea. *In A Funny Thing a Happened on the Way to the Forum*. She has also performed in productions with St Gabriel's theatre and played Inez in *Gondoliers*. *Mattress* was on Anne's must do list after watching the movie version, she hopes you enjoy it as much as she has enjoyed performing it.

**A role Anne would like to perform is Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music* as she loves the character and the songs.**



## Marie-Louisse Wright Conductor

Originally from Graz Austria and later Switzerland, Mary studied music in Australia.

She studied Violin with Tim Wachtel, Zefferino Mendes and Warwick Stengards and conducting with Robert Rosen, Peter Clinch, Marvin Rabin, Jerry Nowak, Robert Culver as well as attending Symphony Australia workshops in Melbourne, Adelaide and Tasmania. She has also attended workshop with the Royal Australian Navy Band and the Cairns Winter School for Orchestra.



Mary currently conducts Surrey Hills Orchestra, Eltham Orchestra and its two string ensembles and teaches strings at Briar Hill Primary School. Past conductor of Henry Touzeau Strings for Melbourne Youth Music, Preston Junior Strings and Victorian Concert Orchestra.

Mary has conducted many operettas including *Mikado*, *Gondoliers*, *Merry Widow*, *Merrie England* and *Iolanthe*. She has also conducted musical theatre productions of *Oklahoma*, *Calamity Jane*, *Brigadoon*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Kismet*, *Carousel*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Pajama Game* and Mary's favourite, *The Pirates of Penzance* as well as *Hello Dolly*. Mary has also been privileged to conduct eight out of the nine Beethoven Symphonies.

Mary's favourite music is Ballet especially that of the Romantic Era.

### Eltham Orchestra

<b>1st Violins</b>	<b>2nd Violins</b>	<b>Viola</b>	<b>Oboe</b>
Euja Park	Charlotte Hall	Finn Endries	Judy Lewis
Hiromi	Angus Walsh	<b>Cellos</b>	<b>Flutes</b>
TokunagaLisa	Daniel Lin	Jane Moon	Katy Neesham
Filmer	Linda J oyce	Jo Parr	Kevin O'Donnell
Fiona Walsh	Hayden Lee	Claire Pasquali	<b>Percussion</b>
Jessica Callaway	Kimberley Teo	<b>Trumpet</b>	Peter Robb
William Lin		Johnny Andrei Medina	<b>Keyboard/Piano</b>
<b>Clarinets</b>	<b>Bassoon</b>		Gerard Banner
Derek Wright	Sari Nigol	<b>Trombone</b>	Ian Lowe
Tony Robinson	Penny Mayes	Don Jordan	



## Eltham Orchestras

The Eltham Orchestras Inc. is the umbrella organisation for a range of orchestral groups centred on the north-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, in Victoria, playing a variety of classical and light music in regular concerts and theatre performances.

These groups give amateur players opportunities to perform in a full symphony orchestra, string orchestra, or training group, in a friendly environment without audition. They are particularly suited to family groups and adults who are beginners or returning to playing.

Three groups make up the Eltham Orchestras organisation:

- *Eltham Beginner Strings* this is an open age beginner string group, ranging from Preliminary to Grade 3 standard
- *Eltham String Ensemble* this is an open age intermediate string group with a standard from Grade 4 to Grade 6
- *Eltham Orchestra* (formerly known as the Diamond Valley & Eltham Community Orchestra) this is an open age orchestra. The Eltham Orchestra requires a minimum of Grade 6 AMEB standard or equivalent

Vacancies exist in many sections and potential players are warmly invited to contact us. If you would like to attend a Wednesday evening rehearsal to see whether the orchestra is suitable for you, and you are at the appropriate playing level, please contact Mary Wright (details below).

Up to 50 players attend the weekly rehearsals, which are held on Wednesday evenings.

There are two main concert seasons each year, March/April and November/December. Once a year, the Eltham Orchestra combines with the Surrey Hills Orchestra for a series of concerts in different venues. Many members choose to take part in the annual Carols in the Park on Christmas Eve at Wadeson Park, Diamond Creek.

We have a regular theatre show season and some information for members.

For further information please contact Mary or Derek Wright on 9434 2147 or email [marielouise.wright@bigpond.com](mailto:marielouise.wright@bigpond.com)

[www.elthamorchesteras.org.au/](http://www.elthamorchesteras.org.au/)

## Production Team

Director/Choreographer	<b>Tamblyn Smith</b>
Musical Director	<b>Lucas Wilson-Richter</b>
Director's Assistant	<b>Clair Stapley</b>
Conductor	<b>Mary Wright</b>
Stage Crew	<b>Anita Wilton</b> (stage manager), <b>Jess Heard</b> , <b>Karen Mulder</b> , <b>Ash Richter</b> , <b>Ben Richter</b> , <b>Hannah Warren</b>
Sound	<b>Dianne Richter</b> , <b>Robyn Mulder</b> , <b>Gary Richter</b>
Lighting	<b>Michael Gerrish</b> (design), <b>Jeremy Alford</b> , <b>Kyle Turpin</b> , <b>John Keys</b> , <b>John Lemcke</b> (operation)
Costumes	<b>Barbara Skewes</b>
Sets	<b>Tamblyn Smith</b> (design & painting), <b>Lynne Counsel</b> (graphic artist), <b>Trevor D'Ambrosio</b> <b>Mark Clark</b> (construction) and cast
Props	<b>Helen Watt and cast</b>
Poster & Program Cover	<b>Joshua Thomas</b>
Publicity	<b>Malcolm Wilton and cast</b>
Front of house	<b>Jennie Barnett</b> , <b>Kristen Barnett and volunteers</b>
Parking	<b>John Keys and volunteers</b>
Rehearsal Accompanists	<b>Gerard Banner</b> , <b>Ian Lowe</b>
Make Up & Hair	<b>Nicole Tabone</b> (design), <b>Tamblyn Smith</b> , <b>Lynne Counsel and cast</b>
Photographs	<b>Aaron Purnell &amp; Lesley Walton</b> (portraits), <b>John Lemcke</b> (stage)
Videographer	<b>Bod</b>
General Assistance	<b>Maxine Lemcke</b>
Production Manager Ticketing & Program	<b>Angela Hennel</b>

## About Diamond Valley Singers

Diamond Valley Singers formed in 1985 among a group of enthusiasts in the Diamond Valley region of Melbourne. Since then the group has performed an annual fully stage musical or operetta production and major choral work, often fitting in minor works in between. Members participate in local carols services in December.

DVS does not audition chorus or choristers, nor is there a requirement to be able to read music to join us. With over 60 members aged from post-secondary to 80+ years DVS caters for a wide variety of musical tastes.

Apart from giving local people the opportunity to sing and perform, DVS donates profits from performances. To date DVS has donated over \$150,000 to local and international charities.

You may like to leave your name at the box office to go onto the DVS email and/or mailing list so you can keep in touch with our activities; or contact The Secretary, [secretary@dvsingers.org](mailto:secretary@dvsingers.org).

For further information check out our web site [www.dvsingers.org](http://www.dvsingers.org)



## DVS Activities 2016

2016 sees Diamond Valley Singers offering a number of singing opportunities.

A small choral group performed Purcell's *Triumph Victorious Love* in May. Our major production is *Once Upon A Mattress* rehearsing from February with eight performances in July.

The second half of 2016 sees a minor production of *More Than Godspell: Song of Stephen Schwartz* for the music theatre inclined. Auditions have been held and rehearsals take place from 7:30pm on Mondays in Diamond Creek.

*Coronation Anthems* by Handel and Vivaldi's *Gloria* will be on offer for the choral enthusiasts starting on July 13. Performances for both of these activities will be in October and November.

Rehearsals are from 8pm on Wednesdays at the Uniting Church in Diamond Creek. Contact [secretary@dvsingers.org](mailto:secretary@dvsingers.org) if you'd like to join in.