

WESTERN ARTS THEATRE INC PRESENTS
**INTO THE
WOODS**

Music and Lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM** Book by **JAMES LAPINE**

September 27th-30th

The Clocktower Centre
750 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

Tickets on sale July 15th at
www.cloctowercentre.com.au

Originally Directed on Broadway by JAMES LAPINE
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The
MIKADO

Presented by the Diamond Valley Singers
and the Eltham Orchestras

Music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by, W. S. Gilbert
(with a few minor variations)

Warrandyte High School Theatre
July 7 – 15, 2017

WHO IS INA?

International Needs Australia is a Christian organisation journeying to create a just world where girls and boys, men and women are treated equally with respect, dignity and opportunity to reach their full potential.

We work in 8 countries helping and serving the world's poorest people – since poverty touches all people regardless of race, religion, age or gender. These then are our target groups – those living on the edges of society who suffer the most.

Our small, dedicated team is passionate about their work – and as a result, INA do excellent work in the field achieving excellent results.

Our work is primarily funded through private donations from everyday Australians. Visit <https://www.ina.org.au/> or call us today on: 9877 7177



**POVERTY SHOULD NOT
BE A LIFE SENTENCE**



Synopsis

A year before this opera begins, Nanki-Poo, son of the CEO of Mikado Hotels International, fled his father's board room to escape marriage with Katisha. Disguised as a traveling musician, he met and fell in love with Yum-Yum, the young ward of Ko-Ko. Yum-Yum, however, was already betrothed to her guardian, and Nanki-Poo left Titipu in despair.

ACT I In the lobby of the Hotel Titipu

The act opens to find guests and staff of the hotel going about their business. Nanki-Poo—masquerading as a musician—returns to the hotel eagerly seeking Yum-Yum. He introduces himself, and to his dismay, he learns from Pish-Tush that although Ko-Ko was to have been fired, he was reprieved at the last moment and made Human Resources Manager instead. As the staff must be fired in order, and Ko-Ko was next to be dismissed, no one else can be sacked until Ko-Ko fires himself. For a small fee, Pooh-Bah, a ponderous aggregation of conflicts of interest, reveals that Yum-Yum is on her way home from school and will be wed to Ko-Ko this very afternoon.

The staff herald the appearance of Ko-Ko who appears and explains how he became the Lord High Executioner.

Yum-Yum and her sisters Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo arrive. Yum-Yum greets her betrothed less enthusiastically than she does Nanki-Poo. Ko-Ko introduces Pooh-Bah, who reluctantly greets the cheeky girls. Alone with Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo declares his love and shares with her the secret of his identity. Because of the excessive policies against flirting, Yum-Yum urges him to stay away from her. Nanki-Poo devises a plan to flirt by considering what they could do if it weren't for the law.

Ko-Ko has received a letter from Mr Mikado, who is concerned that there have been no sackings at the Hotel Titipu and threatens severe repercussions if one does not take place within a month. Although, as Pooh-Bah points out, Ko-Ko is next in line for that honour, Ko-Ko understandably would prefer to find a substitute. Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah, and Pish-Tush debate who should be terminated. Ko-Ko comes across Nanki-Poo, who is preparing to resign rather than face life without Yum-Yum, and they strike a bargain.

The hotel staff and guests want to know how Ko-Ko will comply with the Mikado's decree. All rejoice over this resolution, but the festivities are rudely interrupted by the appearance of Katisha. Pitti-Sing, taunts Katisha. Furious at Nanki-Poo's rejection, she attempts to reveal his true identity. She is silenced by the crowd, but vows revenge.

Synopsis continued...

ACT II Later the Same Day

Yum-Yum's sisters are helping her make ready for her wedding. Yum-Yum and her sisters are very sad at the thought of the very brief marriage, and Nanki-Poo enters and tries to lift their spirits. The wedding plans are disrupted upon Ko-Ko's discovery that, under the Mikado's law, when a married man is dismissed, his wife's reputation is besmirched beyond all repair.

To spare Yum-Yum this grim fate, Nanki-Poo decides to resign at once. This would leave Ko-Ko with nobody to fire—just as word arrives that the Mikado is at this very minute approaching Hotel Titipu. Nanki-Poo offers himself for immediate dismissal, but Ko-Ko is not equal to the task. Ko-Ko realises that he can accomplish the same purpose by swearing a false affidavit that he has done the deed, providing Nanki-Poo leaves at once and never comes back. Since Nanki-Poo will not leave otherwise, Ko-Ko sends Yum-Yum with him and the happy couple goes off to be married just as the Mikado enters the hotel.

The Mikado is delighted to hear that a dismissal has taken place, and is eager to hear the details. Ko-Ko, assisted by Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah, recounts a highly creative description. His son turns out to be Nanki-Poo, the man Ko-Ko has just testified he sacked. Ko-Ko and his accomplices are declared guilty of "compassing the death of the Heir Apparent" and scheduled to be terminated after luncheon.

The Mikado declares that he is sorry for them, but it is an unjust world, and virtue is triumphant only in theatrical performances. Their only hope is to admit the falsehood of their testimony, and produce Nanki-Poo alive and well. Nanki-Poo, having already married Yum-Yum, is no longer free to marry Katisha and cannot reveal himself. Ko-Ko is left with no other choice but to woo, win, and wed Katisha himself. Katisha at first refuses Ko-Ko, but he then sings her a touching ballad, and she accepts his proposal.

Nanki-Poo then returns and presents himself—and his new bride—to his father. Ko-Ko devises an explanation of his subterfuge that satisfies the Mikado. All ends with laughing song and merry dance.

Vale Marie Ryan

Members and friends of DVS were saddened to hear of the death of valued supporter and InnerFM broadcaster Marie Ryan late June.

We extend our sympathy to her husband John, her family and colleagues

OUR TALENT

CREATIVES

Director/Choreographer **Tamblyn Smith**

Assistant Director **Jennifer Wilson-Richter**

Co-Musical Directors **Rebecca Muratore and Jessica Carrascalão Heard**

Conductor **Marie-Louise Wright**

CAST

Ko-Ko **Steven Edwards**

Yum-Yum **Kristen Ryan**

Nanki-Poo **Asher Griffith-Jones**

Katisha **Jennifer Wakefield**

Pooh-Bah **Malcolm Wilton**

Pish-Tush **Mark Clark**

Pitti-Sing **Sarah Carpenter**

Peep-Bo **Stephanie Morgan**

Mr Mikado **Nicholas Durbridge**

Hotel Guests and Staff

Marlene Di Battista

Paul Draper

Brooke Dunstan

Sharon Harding

Rae Lawry

Claire McGannon

Ian Matanis

Frank Meerbach

Mitchell Portarianos

Kevin Pye

Malcolm Reeve

Anne Sharkey

Neil Spitzer

Helen Watt

Steve Wilkie

Songlist

Act I

- 1 If you want to know who we are (*Chorus*)
- 2. A wand'ring minstrel I (*Nanki-Poo & Chorus*)
- 3. Our great Mikado, virtuous man (*Pish-Tush & Chorus*)
- 4. Young man despair (*Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo & Pish-Tush*)
- 4a. And have I journey'd for a month (*Pooh-Bah & Nanki-Poo*)
- 5. Behold the Lord High executioner (*Ko-Ko & Chorus*)
- 5a. As some day it may happen ("I've Got a Little List") (*Ko-Ko & Chorus*)
- 6. Three little maids from school are we *Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, & Pitti-Sing*)
- 7 So please you, Sir, we much regret (*Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, & Pooh-Bah, Ladies Chorus – offstage*)
- 8. Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted *Yum-Yum & Nanki-Poo*)
- 9. I am so proud (*Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko & Pish-Tush*)
- 10. Finale Act I (*Ensemble*)

Act II

- 11 Braid the golden hair (*Pitti-Sing, Peep Bo & Ladies Chorus offstage*)
- 12. The sun whose rays (*Yum-Yum*)
- 13. Brightly dawns our wedding day (*Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Nanki-Poo, & Pish-Tush*)
- 14. Here's a how-de-do (*Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko*)
- 15. Mi ya sa ma (From every kind of man obedience I expect) (*Mikado, Katisha, & Chorus*)
- 16. A more humane Mikado (*Mikado & Chorus*)
- 19. The criminal cried as he dropped him down (*Ko-Ko, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, & Chorus*)
- 18. See how the fates their gifts allot (*Mikado, Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo, Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko & Katisha*)
- 19. The flowers that bloom in the spring (*Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko, Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, & Pooh-Bah*)
- 20. Alone and yet alive (*Katisha*)
- 21 On a tree by a river ("Willow, tit-willow") (*Ko-Ko*)
- 22. There is beauty in the bellow (*Katisha & Ko-Ko*)
- 23. Finale Act II (*Ensemble*)

Director's Notes

One of the earliest memories I have is sitting on my father's knee, and being introduced to theatre, and the Simon Gallaher's productions of G&S works. Having been able to work on a prod team, and then getting the chance to play the Pirate King, *Pirates of Penzance* has always been a favourite. Until this project.

Finding a new way to present this show, was important. Presenting the show traditionally today raises some big questions, and finding an adaptation that has an answer for every challenge isn't going to happen. So the decision to keep as much as we could from the original, whilst only changing what we needed to for our setting, and finding a balance between the two was made. A combination of taking lyrics from other G&S shows, to looking at the dialogue under a different light, or to keep it as is, for the joke to work. This has been a challenge, and finding solutions has been a real group effort. To the actors you see on stage, to the crew you shouldn't see on stage, and everyone in between. I thank you for the effort everyone has put in to see this vision come through.

Thank you to Diamond Valley Singers, for the trust, and allowing me to do what I love. Angela for the friendship and doing so much behind the scenes work that makes my job so much easier. Lucas for the continual support throughout the many roles that you took on this year. Mitch for coming on board and jumping in, and taking on props. Trevor for the amazing work with all the publicity photos and head shots, and Elena for the wonderful stage photos. The crew, for stepping in whenever you can and supporting everyone! Jennie and the front of house team for the warm welcome every night to our audiences. Sharon, for your time and support you put into this show, from the numerous markets you went to, to help publicise the show, to walking the stage for me.

Michael for all the time and effort you go to, as you make the show wonderful with your lights! Anita for your calming presence, and the support you give to everyone working on the project in your role as stage manager. Malcolm for the best job in publicity that I have ever seen. Mary, for making the transition from piano to orchestra as easy as you do every time! Robyn and Dianne, for stepping in, and taking on costumes (which look nothing but amazing!) as well sound, and the lengths that you go to, to make sure we can hear everyone. Mark for all the time and effort you put into making the set what it is! be proud, so proud! mate. I can't say thank you enough to all.

To my Musical Directors Jess and Bec, what an amazing job you have done, and what a team you have made. I'm looking forward to our next project, when ever that may be, and what ever roles where in. You have been a massive support through out this project. thank you so, so much.

Jen, you are one of a kind, your support, friendship and trust means more than you will know. thank you for being the best assistant director, a director could ask for.

And last but not least my cast. Thank you for your commitment to this project, bringing your ideas into the room and creating a space that has allowed us to create such unique and memorable show and experience. Thank you. One proud director here.

Tamblyn Smith tsa

Musical Directors' Notes

What we love most about Gilbert and Sullivan is the music. As young performers, we both began to tread the boards in G&S shows, and so when we were asked to Musical Direct this show with its beautiful score, we both jumped at the chance. And who would have thought that after all of those years as young sopranos stumbling across each other at callbacks for the same role (clearly the team couldn't decide if they wanted a tall or short character!) we would finally both get 'cast'!

If you are a G&S fan like we are you will notice that our *Mikado* is not the traditional version you are used to! Despite the modern take, we have (mostly) retained the music which audiences know and love. There are a few lyric changes here and there, however, it was important for both of us to retain the beautiful harmonies and soaring arias that this show is so well known for.

The biggest change to note is the abolition of the gendered choruses. In our show, we do not have a male and female ensemble per say, so our ladies chorus feature in the 'men's' opening numbers, rather than making their entrance later in the show. Our ladies have certainly risen to the challenge of learning and singing these new songs, and we hope you agree that a full chorus adds a new and exciting dynamic to the musical aspect of the show.

Our cast have worked incredibly hard to bring this show to life, and have risen to every challenge we have thrown at them along the way- from swapping harmony lines through to new lyrics, tempo changes and ridiculous warm ups! We both wish them all the best for a fabulous season and hope you enjoy their performance of *The Mikado* as much as we do!

Bec and Jess

Did you know that...

Singing in a choir can be good for our psychological well-being. Researchers set up an online study asking 375 people who sang in choirs, sang alone or were members of sports teams about their experience of these activities. All three leisure activities yielded high levels of well-being, but the analysis of the results revealed statistically significant evidence of higher reported well-being in people who sang with a choir, compared to those who sang alone.

Date: December 4, 2013

Source: British Psychological Society (BPS)

Creative Team

Tam Smith – Director/Choreographer

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

Tamblyn has been in the amateur theatre community since 2008 when 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. In 2015 Tamblyn got the opportunity to direct his dream show, *Once On this Island* with Fab Nobs. He put together and directed his own show *ENSOMBLAH* for BuSTCo, earlier this year which was a great success receiving much critical acclaim. It featured many songs from different musicals.

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 others.

Jennifer Wilson-Richter – Assistant Director

Jennifer has been involved with Diamond Valley Singers for twelve years. She has performed in *Oklahoma!* *Calamity Jane*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Kismet*, *Carousel*, *Hello, Dolly!* and *Once Upon a Mattress* as well as working behind the scenes as backstage crew on multiple shows.

She has directed productions of *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore* and *All That Jazz* with Monash University Choral Society, 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 performs with the Australian Chamber Choir, the Diamond Valley Singers, Sisu Collective and holds a scholarship position at the Scots' Church Melbourne.





Rebecca Muratore – Co-Musical Director

The Mikado marks Bec's second DVS show and her second stint as a Musical Director, after she Co-Musically Directed Waterdale's *Pirates of Penzance* and performed with DVS as Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon a Mattress* last year.

As a performer Bec has been involved in G&S, Musical Theatre and Opera/Classical around Melbourne for over 10 years. Performance highlights include playing the Enchanted Wardrobe in *Beauty and the Beast*, Waterdale, Domina in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Phoenix TC, Josephine Strong in *Urinetown*, Williamstown, Constance, *The Sorcerer*, GSOV, Leila, *Iolanthe* Savoy, Lady Angela, *Patience*, Savoy, Fiametta, *The Gondoliers*, GSOV, and Cymon in the Australian Premiere of *Thespis*, GSOV. Bec would like to congratulate the cast and crew and creatives of *The Mikado* on a fantastic season!

In particular a big congratulations and thanks to her Co-Musical Director Jess.



Jessica Carrascalão Heard – Co-Musical Director

Jessica completed an honours degree in music at Monash University in 2009. An unashamed Gilbert and Sullivan fanatic, this will be the third *Mikado* she has been involved in, having played Pitti-Sing in GSOV's *Mikado* in 2012, and Yum-Yum in Monash University Choral Society's *Mikado* in 2010.

Since her first show with Diamond Valley Singers, performing the title role in *Iolanthe* in 2010, Jessica has been involved with the company in many different ways, including as a cast member, stage crew, front-of-house, chorister and last year made her conducting debut alongside fellow conductor and DVS member Lucas Wilson-Richter in DVS and Yarra Valley Singers' performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Handel's *Coronation Anthems*.

For *The Mikado*, she has had the pleasure of co-Musical Directing the cast with fellow G&S lover and musical co-conspirator Bec Muratore.

For Jessica, the charm of Sullivan's clever, intricate, often cheeky and sometimes heart-rending music, along with Gilbert's genius lyrics is what keeps bringing her back to their work. She hopes you enjoy the show!

The Main Players

Steven Edwards – Ko-Ko

Steven is thrilled to take on the role of KoKo. He was most recently seen in *The Wedding Singer* with Oxagen Productions and *The Normal Heart* with Phil Scanlon Productions. Other past roles include: Ed Parsley in *The Witches of Eastwick*, WMTC, Walter in *Chess*, Catchment, Richie in *A Chorus Line*, Players, Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown*, OCPAC, Miss West Coast in *Pageant*, Shoosh!, Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods*, ACUPA, Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Show*, GLCT, and Victor in *Cabaret*, FTC. Steven would like to thank DVS for the opportunity and "Bruce" for all his love and patience.

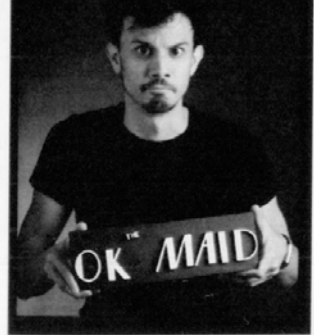
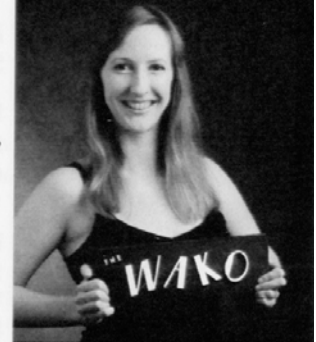
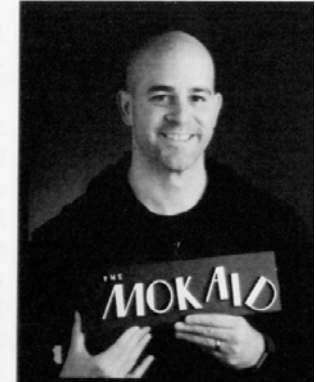
Kristen Ryan – Yum-Yum

This is Kristen's second time performing with DVS, after playing Lady Larken in *Once Upon a Mattress* last year. She is slowly working her way through the G&S canon, having previously played Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, BuST Co., Gianetta in *The Gondoliers*, GSOV, and Lady Ella in *Patience*, GSOV. Her most recent performance was in *Ensemblah*, a variety show with BuST Co., and other recent roles include Glinda/Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz*, Players, Kate in LaChiusa's *The Wild Party*, Ubermensch, and Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, CPP.

Her absolute career highlight to date was playing Galinda/Glinda in *Wicked* with NOVA last year. Kristen works as a teacher and runs a YouTube channel with a rabid fanbase of musical theatre nerds who sing along with her in virtual duets. She hopes you enjoy her portrayal of Yum-Yum as a vain and frivolous (but still loveable) English schoolgirl!

Asher Griffith-Jones – Nanki-Poo

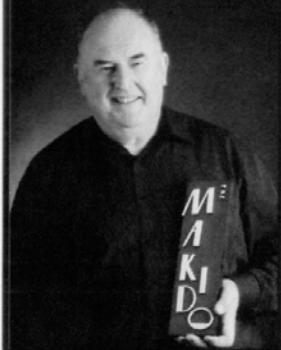
Asher has been singing songs from the *Mikado* and dreaming of performing in an English interpretation of the show ever since the 'wee' age of 23. It has been a complete and utter ball for Asher as he has worked with the super talented cast from DVS. Asher is sure you will enjoy the show. Asher is positive you will love the show. Asher is confident this will be the best thing you've seen all year. ASHER HAS BEEN SHOWN ETERNITY, SEEN ALL THAT HAS BEEN, IS, AND WILL BE. .. and is quite sure you will walk away from the show with a nice lovely smile!





Jennifer Wakefield – Katisha

Since graduating from the Victoria College of the Arts Jennifer has sung with The Victoria State Opera, Australian Opera, the State Opera of South Australia, Royal Philharmonic Society and Brisbane City Opera. She sang with Opera Queensland understudying Marte in *Faust* and Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff*. Jennifer's principal roles include Ulrica in *Un Ballo de Maschere*, Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*, Marcellina in *The Marriage of Figaro*, The Mother in *The Consul*, Florence Pike in *Albert Herring*, Aunt March in *Little Women*, Miss Todd in *The Old Maid and the Thief* and Ma Moss in the Australian Premiere of Aaron Copeland's *The Tender Land* for which she received a Green Room Nomination. Jennifer's Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire includes Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*, Duchess of Plaza Toro in *The Gondoliers*, Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe* and Lady Jane in *Patience*. This is Jennifer's first show with Diamond Valley Singers.



Malcolm Wilton – Pooh-Bah

Malcolm first took to the stage with the Sandringham Light Opera Company with *Showboat* in 1987. He joined the Diamond Valley Singers in 1994 with a performance of *Patience*, then he played the Learned Judge in *Trial by Jury*. He has since enjoyed performing in many shows produced by DVS. He has been in three Melodramas with Eltham Little Theatre. In *Kismet* (2008) he played Omah Khayham the mentor to the Caliph, and then the Star Keeper in *Carousel*.

Malcolm enjoyed playing King Sextimus in *Once Upon a Mattress* (2016). but the good news is that he has found his voice again from last year, and performs this year as the Manager of Everything at the Hotel Titipu. Pooh-Bah is a great character .enjoy the character and the show!



Mark Clark – Pish-Tush

Mark returned to musical theatre just last year with DVS for *Once Upon a Mattress*. *The Mikado* will be Mark's first appearance in a principal role. This has set him some new and interesting challenges. In this reimagined 1920s *Mikado*, Mark is playing Pish-Tush the Hotel Titipu Concierge. Pish is a bit of a grumpy character not ideally suited to his position in the hotel.

The Mikado has special ties for Mark as it was one of his late father's favourite shows. He is very much looking forward to giving this his all, and a performance that would have made his Father say, "I am so Proud"

Sarah Carpenter – Pitti-Sing

A lifelong chorister and sometimes vocal soloist, Sarah has had a tumultuous relationship with theatre since the age of eleven when she was passed over for the title role in her school production of *Annie* because she was too tall.

This is Sarah's first show with DVS, after over a decade spent heavily involved in university choirs across Melbourne, but she and Gilbert and Sullivan are old friends. She has played Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance*, the Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe* and the Duchess in *The Gondoliers*, all with Monash University Choral Society, and the Plaintiff in *Trial by Jury* with RMIT Occasional Choral Society.

Stephanie Morgan – Peep-Bo

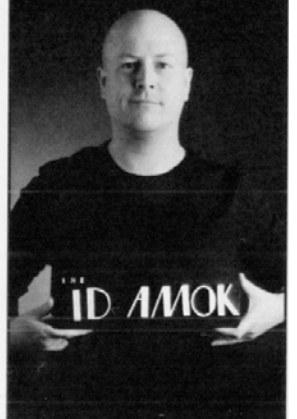
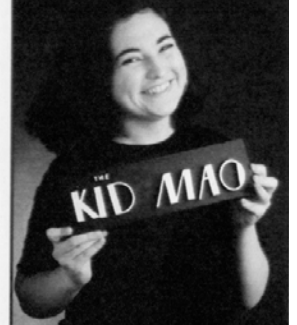
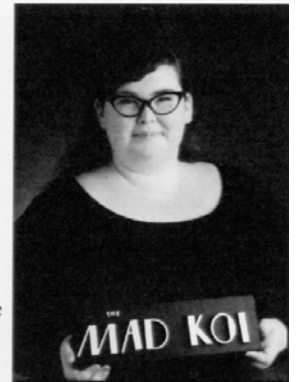
The Mikado is Stephanie's first show with Diamond Valley Singers. She has thoroughly enjoyed playing Peep-Bo so far and has loved creating her own interpretation of the role. Although this is her first show with DVS, Stephanie is not new to the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. She has previously played the roles of Celia in *Iolanthe* (GSOV 2017) and Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, BuST Co. 2014) and has featured in the chorus of *The Gondoliers*, GSOV 2016, *Trial by Jury*, ECS 2014, and *Iolanthe*, ECS 2013.

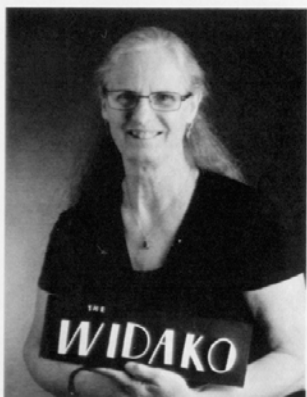
Stephanie is currently studying a Bachelor of Music for classical voice at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. She previously studied at Deakin University for the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Drama).

Nicholas Durbridge – Mr Mikado

Nicholas has performed in a great many shows as terrible characters. He's also been many great characters in terrible shows. Some of you may recognise him from his pale blue turn as Prince Dauntless in last year's *Once Upon A Mattress*. Some may also recognise him as Judge Brandeis in WAT's *Annie*.

Others may think they recognise him as the Dean from the TV show *Community* – that wasn't Nicholas, he just looks a lot like him. *The Mikado* marks only the second time he has performed in a Gilbert and Sullivan musical, but it's a role he's been interested in since he was six, so let's cut him some slack, shall we?





Marie-Louise 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. She is a 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*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, 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

1st Violins

Euja Park
Lisa Filmer
Fiona Walsh
Jessica Callaway
Charlotte Hall
Robyn Gibbons

Cellos

Jane Moon
Jo Parr
Claire Pasquali
Lyn Fraser
Isaac Kim
Chiara Kelle

Oboes

Judy Lewis
Charlotte Chidell

Bassoons

Penny Mayes
Ian Lowe

2nd Violins

Angus Walsh
Kevin Mullin
Chloe Dillon
Mia Herricks
Sarah Mclellan

Flutes

Betty Martin
Katy Neesham

Trumpets

Johnny Andrei Medina
Bill Pattinson

Flute/Piccolo

Kevin O'Donnell

Trombone

Don Jordan

Violas

Henry Rugers
Kami Castellynos Krol

Clarinets

Derek Wright
Tony Robinson

2nd Trombone

Nanki Poo

Percussion

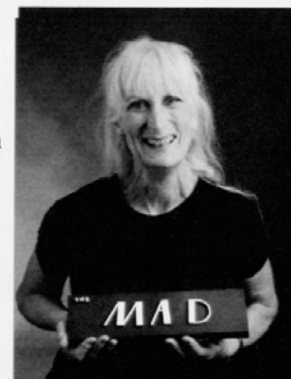
Heather Wright

Hotel Guests and Staff

Marlene Di Battista – Maid

Marlene was a Calisthenic Girl when she was younger but in 2005 she decided to join her son in Dandenong Theatre's production of *Barnum*. This was Marlene's first performance in musical theatre. She loved it.

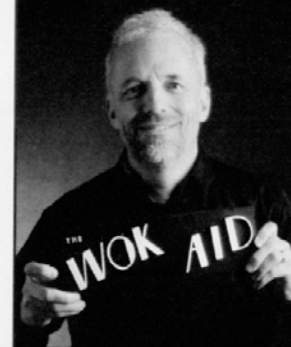
Since then she has performed *Dinkum Assorted* with Essendon Theatre Group, *Mama Mia* with Michelle Slater Performing Arts Group and with Eltham Little Theatre. She was part of the *Mahler 8* performance at the Melbourne Town Hall and is an active member of the Heidelberg Allstars. This is Marlene's ninth production with DVS having appeared in *Carousel*, *Iolanthe*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Hello Dolly*, *The Merry Widow From Blue Gum Creek* and *Once Upon A Mattress*.



Paul Draper – Porter

Paul Draper – a porter at the Hotel Titipu in the gentlemen's chorus. Paul has performed in a number of amateur operatic performances including *Robert and Elizabeth*, *Half a Sixpence*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Hello Dolly*, *Calamity Jane* and *Oliver*

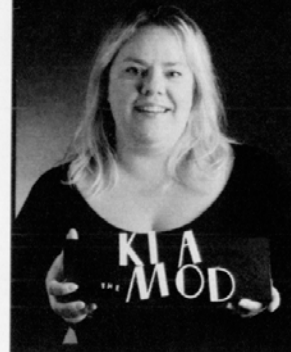
He previously took part in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Diamond Valley Singers. Paul enjoys performing in musicals and especially Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas whose witty lyrics can readily be updated to make them appropriate to current affairs. He hopes you enjoy today's performance.



Brooke Dunstan – Hotel Guest

This is Brooke's third performance with Diamond Valley Singers and she has had a lot of fun participating with the cast and crew.

Her previous shows were *Once Upon a Mattress* and the songs of David Schwartz *More than Godspell*.





Sharon Harding – Amorous Guest

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. This year she has also joined the DVS fundraising team, supporting the committee to raise funds for our group.

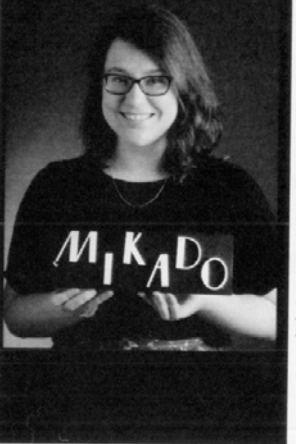


Rae Lawry – Maid

Rae has been involved with DVS for around 13 years initially as stage crew then plucked up the courage to become a chorus member with *Fiddler on the Roof*. Rae's love is Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas. She first saw Gilbert and Sullivan opera when she was eight years old only a little while ago).

With DVS Rae has performed in the choruses of *Iolanthe* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Rae is excited to be involved with *The Mikado* she always has a 'little list' and likes to 'braid the raven (golden) hair.

Rae hopes you enjoy the wonderful music and entertaining show as much as she does.



Claire McGannon – Maid

Claire is thrilled to be taking part in *The Mikado* as her first production with Diamond Valley Singers. Claire was a long time member of the Australian Youth Choir during school, and has always loved singing and acting.

This will be her third Gilbert and Sullivan performance, having played both Leila in *Iolanthe* (2013), and Gianetta in *The Gondoliers* (2015) with the Monash University Choral Society.

She has loved getting to know the cast and production team, and hopes to remain involved in DVS in the future.

Ian Matanis – Amorous Guest

He has joined the Ensemble in *The Mikado*, performing as a visitor to Hotel Titipoo, under the alias Mr Smith, with his girlfriend for a romantic stay. Ian is loving this role amongst a fabulous talented and friendly cast.

His previous performance was another Gilbert and Sullivan show, *The Pirates of Penzance* in the Ensemble with an amateur light opera group in Dandenong 40 years ago. He has watched lots of different musicals, both amateur and professional, feeling there is something magical about the theatre.

Ian also sings with Sisters and Misterys, and is enjoying his 6th year with them. He also sang with the Boite Millennium Choir for two seasons.

Frank Meerbach – Golfing Guest

Frank joined DVS last year and *The Mikado* is his fourth production as a member of the chorus.

Frank's character for this show is that of a gentleman guest at the hotel Titipu who meets up with an old friend in order to play some golf but he soon gets caught up in the nonsense going on within the hotel.

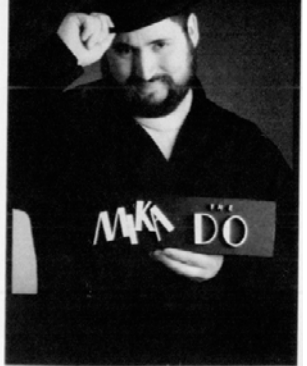
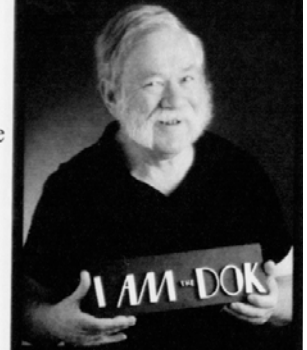
He is in turn bemused, amused, horrified and elated by what he sees and hears around the hotel and discovers that life in this hotel is more fun than a round of golf.

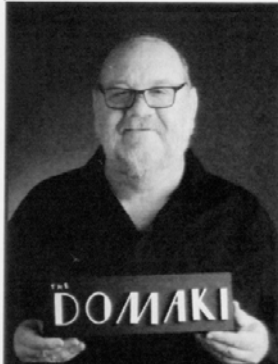
Mitchell Portarianos – Doorman

Hailing from lands of myth and legend, Mitchell was dragged by the director Tam from the realms of fantasy and steps onto the stage in his debut performance.

Taking the role of the doorman, set piece and gossip centre of the hotel, Mitchell has had to learn the art of standing still, non-vocal emotions, and not bursting into dance at inappropriate times. As well as learning the ropes of being a theatre cast member, Mitchell doubled down and took on the role of prop master for the show.

Showing much promise, many look forward to the shining future Mitchell will have on stage.

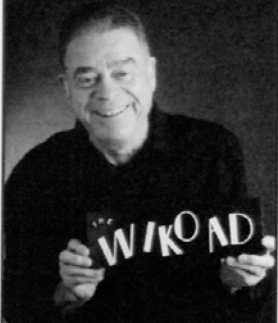




Kevin Pye – Hotel Guest

Kevin has been performing with DVS since *HMS. Pinafore* in 1995. Since then he has appeared in most shows, only missing one in 2002 and three recently because of ill health. He particularly enjoys a bit of Gilbert and Sullivan, but will try anything. He has also branched out into other forms of singing with DVS and other groups.

When he is not performing he enjoys being out in the bush or playing with his grandchildren. He hopes everybody joins the organ donor registry so that others can enjoy the health he has today.



Malcolm Reeve – Golfing Guest

Malcolm joined Diamond Valley Singers three years ago when he wanted to sing and perform again as he did as a young man.

He is looking forward to his second performance since being in the ensemble in *The Merry Widow from Blue Gum Creek*. He has also taken part in several oratorios which he enjoys very much.

Malcolm invites you to come in, sit back and enjoy this year's production of *The Mikado*.



Anne Sharkey – Maid

Anne joined DVS for its production of *Oklahoma* in the chorus in 2005 and has performed in numerous shows since then with both DVS and St Gabriels, such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Calamity Jane*, *Iolanthe* and *Les Miserables*.

She has valued the experience of learning from so many talented and committed artists. She mainly hides in the chorus, but has enjoyed playing the role of widow in *Kismet*; Panacea, a courtesan, in a *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with DVS and Inez in *The Gondoliers* with St Gabriel's.

The Mikado is a great show and Anne hopes you enjoy it as much as she enjoyed performing it.

Neil Spitzer – Hotel Guest

Neil has been in the cast of all DVS shows since *Iolanthe*. He has mainly been in the ensemble but has performed the roles of Joe in *The Pyjama Game* and Crompton in *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*.

He is delighted to be in this innovative production.

Helen Watt – Kleptomaniac Guest

Over the past decade Helen has enjoyed being a member of the DVS chorus some of her favourite shows include, *Carousel*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Hello Dolly* and *Once Upon a Mattress*.

It has been exciting to work with our talented principals.

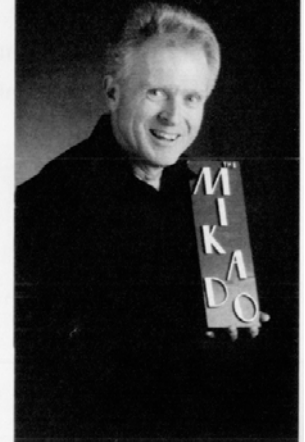
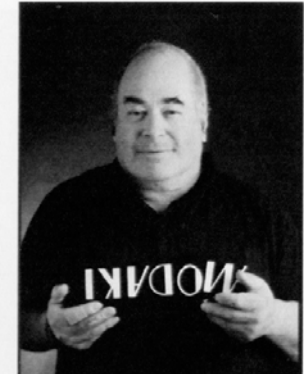
Helen hopes you enjoy *The Mikado* as much as she has during rehearsals.

Steve Wilkie – Porter

Steve has come back for another go at a musical with Diamond Valley Singers because it was fun. He has sung with DVS for about nine years in their oratorios and smaller productions with some solo roles.

He played the part of Bill Boggins in *The Merry Widow from Blue Gum Creek*, 2015. During the last year he has performed with a touring singing troupe TREK in principal roles. A few years ago he was an active member of Sisters and Masters, a local community performing singing group.

This year's role in the chorus is the first experience of a silly Gilbert and Sullivan show and fills the gaps around his busy work schedule. Hope you enjoy the show.



Diamond Valley Singers The Mikado 1999

We welcome all those involved in the 1999 production and hope you enjoy our re-imagined version this year

Production

Mary Wright Conductor
Graham Ford Director
Ian Lowe Vocal Coach
Lisa Stampf Choreographer
Dianne Richter Producer
Cast
Kate Taylor Yum-Yum
Lesley Walton Peep-Bo
Judith O'Shea Pitti-Sing
Diane Morgan Katisha
Michael Try Nanki-Poo
David Cox Ko-Ko
Paul Dennelly Pish-Tush
Tim Warren Mikado
Malcolm Wilton Pooh-Bah

Chorus

Sue Adderly, Helen Cerin, Trish Dale, Janette Fly, Maxine Lemcke, Allison Lemcke, Liz O'Hanlan, Ann-Maria Plevier, Anna Smolenaers, Jane Smolenaers, Margaret Tacke, Lisa Miller, Ann Pearce, Dianne Richter, Carrie Salter, Norma Turnbull-Smith, Gerard Fullarton, Phillip Adams, Daniel Bellis, David Blackman, Gareth Pye, Kevin Pye, Phillip Tune, Geoff Vaughan, Kevin Whiting

TDImages

Contact Trevor D'Ambrosio

9719 7339

www.tdimages.com.au

Angela Hennel – Production Manager

Angela comes from an equestrian management and public relations 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 in choral works and as a member of the Melbourne Opera chorus.

Angela has performed in several operas with Melbourne Opera – *Der Freischütz*, *Maria Stuarda*, *Anna Bolena*, *The Abduction From The Seraglio*, *Tannhäuser* *HMS Pinafore* – and is currently rehearsing for *Lohengrin* which opens in August at the Regent Theatre.

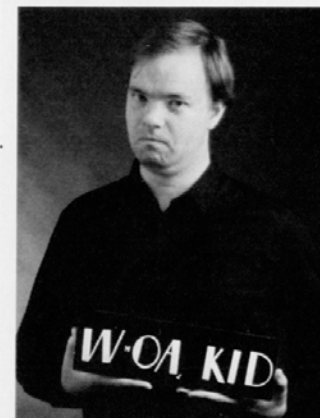
The Mikado is the sixth DVS show Angela has produced, and the tenth for which she has sold tickets.

Lucas Wilson-Richter – Assistant Everything

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' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, 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 and 2017.

Lucas shared the privilege of conducting DVS's 2014, 2015 and 2016 choral programs, as well as serving as Musical Director for DVS's *Hello, Dolly!* in 2014 and *Once Upon a Mattress* in 2016. He is looking forward to leading rehearsals for Mendelssohn's *Elijah* later this year.





Anita Wilton – Stage Manager

Anita is back again as Stage Manager for this production of *The Mikado*. She enjoys contributing in this way to the show and particularly enjoys seeing the production come together.

This is the third time that Anita has been involved with a *Mikado* production – first at high school, then with the DVS 1999 production when her whole family was on stage.

Thanks to Tam for his vision for this staging and all of the people who support DVS in fostering social connection through singing and performance.



Robyn Mulder & Dianne Richter – Sound & Costumes

Robyn has been responsible for DVS' sound board since we introduced microphones to our productions in *Oklahoma* in 2005. An experienced performer with a number of choirs and theatre companies, her first theatre production with DVS was in *Mikado* – the 1999 production where she earned compliments as a naughty schoolgirl! With DVS, Robyn has sung a number of solos in oratorios and the role of the Duchess in *The Gondoliers*.

Dianne has been a part of DVS since the original DVS *Mikado* production in 1987! And was also a naughty schoolgirl in 1999! As well as performing on stage, she has sung solos in oratorio and as was producer of stage shows for a number of years.

This year, as well as responsibilities with sound, Robyn and Dianne have returned to costuming and are really enjoying the increased involvement with the cast and crew.



Jennie Barnett – Front of house co-ordinator

Jennie joined DVS in 2000 and for nine years performed on stage and in oratorios.

After she stopped treading the boards, Jennie agreed to organise Front of House – and just keeps coming back! Jennie enjoys being part of the production each year and the opportunity to catch up with old friends.

She also appreciates that DVS welcomes anyone who wants to join in and that donations to charities are made out of the profits.



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

www.elthamorchesteras.com

Production Team

Director/Choreographer	Tambyln Smith
Assistant Director	Jennifer Wilson-Richter
Co-Musical Directors	Rebecca Muratore and Jessica Carrascalão Heard
Conductor	Marie-Louise Wright
Stage Crew	Anita Wilton (Stage Manager), Karen Mulder, Grace Brown, Ben Richter, Ash Richter
Sound	Robyn Mulder, Dianne Richter, Gary Richter
Lighting	Tamblyn Smith, Michael Gerrish, John Keys, Trevor D'Ambrosio
Costumes	Dianne Richter, Robyn Mulder, and cast
Sets	Tamblyn Smith (Designer), Mark Clark (Builder), Lucas Wilson-Richter, and cast
Props	Mitchell Portarianos and cast
Poster	Teresa Ingrassi
Program	Angela Hennel
Publicity	Malcolm Wilton and cast
Front of House	Jennie Barnett and volunteers
Parking	John Keys and volunteers
Rehearsal Accompanists	Gerard Banner, Ian Lowe, and Jodie Lockyer
Hair and Make-up	Robyn Mulder, Jess Heard, Tamblyn Smith, and cast
Photography	Trevor D'Ambrosio (Portraits) Elena McGannon (Stage Photos)
Videography	Bod
Ko-Ko's Handler	Grace Brown
Foyer Display	Robyn Mulder
General Assistance	Lucas Wilson-Richter
Production Manager	Angela Hennel

Diamond Valley Singers thank

**Our creative team, Tam, Jen, Bec and Jess for their vision, skills,
and application and leadership**

**Joe Caruana, Jill Treeby and Steve Parkin
from Warrandyte High School**

**Michael Gerrish - Starmist Studios
Hudson Bond Real Estate, Doncaster
Cheryl Threadgold - The Melbourne Observer**

**96.5 InnerFM
Brian Amos and Ken Donnelly - 98.1 EasternFM
Julie Houghton - 3MBS
Classic Press
Diamond Valley Printing
Teresa Ingrassi**

**Marie-Louise Wright and The Eltham Orchestras
Accompanists Gerard Banner, Ian Lowe and Jodie Lockyer**

**All our volunteers assisting with Front-of-House and parking -
Mardi Harding, Norma Turnbull-Smith,
Nick Hanson, Kristen Barnett, Juliet Honey,
Mary Wilkie, Clair Stapley, David Cox,
Tony and Leonie Morgan**

**Crew, technicians, photographers
and videographers
For their assistance with, and work on, this production.**

Diamond Valley Singers

Diamond Valley Singers was formed in 1985 to provide local singers with opportunities to be heard in public and to raise money for charity. Since then DVS has donated over \$150,000 to various charities and has continued to provide a musical or creative outlet to the community.

If you have been inspired today to join us on stage, or would love to assist behind the scenes, or would simply like to have a sing, please feel free to come along. Our chorus and choir is not auditioned and all are made welcome. We have a number of performance opportunities coming up over the next five months to suit all. 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

Calendar 2017

Comic Songs (I could have laughed all night)

Auditions Sunday July 23 – afternoon – rehearsals Monday evenings in Greensborough

Performances

September 10 Living Faith

Living Faith Church, Greensborough.

September 17 Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall

Cnr Yarra Street and Mitchell Avenue, Warrandyte

September 24 The Avenue Uniting Church

The Avenue Uniting Church, Blackburn

Diamond Valley Vocal Eisteddfod

Friday September 29 at All Saints Church in Greensborough.

From 10am – 10pm (section times are subject to entry numbers)

Mendelssohn's Elijah

Performance with the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra, Yarra Valley Singers, Singularity, and the Maroondah Singers. Rehearsals commence on Wednesday July 19 in Diamond Creek.

The performance is on Sunday November 26, 2:30pm
at the George Wood Performing Arts Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar
Kalinda Road, Ringwood

Christmas Carols Program – commencing early November.

Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings.

Performances are in December at various venues.

Details www.dvsingers.org or tel 9435 5841



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Studio**

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

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