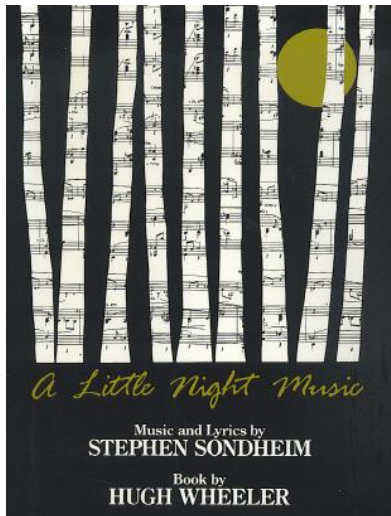


DLO e-Stage

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2012



*Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick
Suggested by a Film by Ingmar Bergman
Originally Produced & Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince*

Directed by Greg Williams
Music direction by Joe Grant

FRI., Feb. 17

Dinner at **6:30 p.m.**

Show immediately following

SAT., Feb. 18

Dinner at **6:30**

p.m.

Show
immediately
following

SUN., Feb. 19

Dinner at **12:30**

p.m.

Matinee
immediately
following

DACC Bremer Auditorium

*DLO's production of A Little Night Music
is sponsored by*



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Mathematical Magic

By Greg Williams, Director

Based on the Ingmar Bergman film *Smiles of a Summer Night*, Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, once described as "whipped cream with knives," tells the story of middle-aged lawyer Fredrik Egerman; his teenage bride, Anne, still a virgin after eleven months of marriage; and his grown son, Henrik, a sullen, miserable seminary student. Things go tolerably well for the couple until they attend a play featuring Desirée Armfeldt, an actress with whom Fredrik once had an affair. Fredrik and Desirée rekindle their relationship despite the threatening presence of the actress's jealous lover, Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm, himself married to the humorless Charlotte. Romantic entanglements ensue as all the characters meet for a weekend in the country at the estate of Desirée's imperious mother, herself the beneficiary of numerous European liaisons. The winner of five Tony Awards, this enchanting musical features the legendary Sondheim's most famous song, "Send in the Clowns."

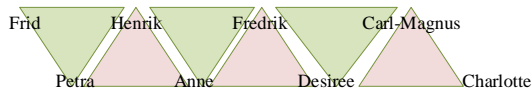
Whereas *Company* (1970) and *Follies* (1971) broke the musical theatre mold, *A Little Night Music* (1973) was producer Hal Prince and Sondheim's attempt to write a hit. Though the musical is more traditional than Sondheim's previous offerings—the story, set in Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century, still oddly familiar; the quirky, appealing characters demonstrating growth throughout the course of the plot; the ending rational and gratifying—the composer also set for himself a challenge: to write songs in triple time (3/4, 6/8, 9/8, 12/8), which Sondheim largely achieves, with a few exceptions.

(Continued on Page 2)

MATHEMATICAL MAGIC (continued from Page 1)

The number three actually dominates the production. Many of the songs in the show are either trios or duets regarding a third person. The songs, about alienation and yearning for cohesion and balance, represent the unstable number three drawn to the stable two—the love triangle giving way to the proper couple.

In addition to time signatures, the structure of the interrelationships between various characters is based on the classic love triangle:



Another intriguing Sondheim touch is the use of a quintet of *liebeslieders*, singers who remain detached from the main characters but who weave in and out of the settings and comment on the action, much like a Greek Chorus. Instead of a traditional instrumental overture, the quintet provides a sung version. The effect is one of elegance and theatricality.

A production of “gloriously barbed bliss and bewitchment” with “breathtaking” and “superbly witty” lyrics set to a “fanciful, twinkly” score, *A Little Night Music* is the ideal dinner theatre musical, especially so close to Valentine’s Day. You won’t want to miss it!

Join us for our season of Sondheim. Join us for a weekend in the country.



Andrew Peters and Marsha Williams rehearse “Send in the Clowns”.

Did You Know? “Send in the Clowns” became a huge hit largely because of Danville’s own **Bobby Short** who heard the song in a Boston preview, fell in love with it, and ended up including it in his act at the Café Carlyle in New York City. Judy Collins heard Short perform the song and obtained the recording rights. Of course, her single charted in 1975 and 1977, becoming Sondheim’s greatest hit.



Director Greg Williams working on a scene with Andrew Peters, Molly Netter, and Brett Nickle.

**Danville Light Opera's
Our 57th Season!**

Sweeney Todd

October 22 & 23, 2011

DHS Dick Van Dyke Auditorium

A Little Night Music

Dinner Theatre

February 17, 18 & 19, 2012

DACC Bremer Auditorium

Gypsy

April 28 & 29, 2012

DHS Dick Van Dyke Auditorium

SING, SING, SING! DLO Chorus!

No auditions required!

Age range young teen and up,

although if younger *with choral experience*, would be considered.

If you have ever been involved in any way in a DLO show at any time, and you are interested in being a part of the newly-forming DLO chorus, please contact Jeanne Dunn at jeanze@email.com or 217-446-7989 and leave a message. (Jeanne will call you back.) No audition necessary. This group will perform at Arts in the Park (June 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.), and the plan is to rehearse once a month beginning in January, with additional rehearsals as we get closer to the performance date. This will be laid back and FUN! There will be opportunities to audition for solos and duets. Also, if it goes well, this group may perform in other venues, such as DLO fundraisers and community events.

Danville Light Opera Information

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Please email your comments, suggestions and questions to danvillelightopera@hotmail.com, and put **e-Stage** in the subject line.