

## COS Centenary concert 2024

### **“Some enchanted evening: celebrating 100 years of Colchester Operatic Society”**

Friday 21st June 2024 at the Mercury Theatre

Concert Co-ordinators: Katie Cutmore, Caroline Fritz and Andrew Hodgson

Musical Director: Neil Somerville

Colchester Operatic Society (COS) is heading into its 100th year. This occasion called for a departure from our usual one week run summer concert and the committee wanted to celebrate and mark this occasion with a special one-off summer concert, performed in a larger venue, created and co-ordinated by select committee members.

Our vision is to showcase what we do best with a strong chorus performing a range of songs from COS/CO2 productions over the last 100 years, alongside featured solos from the same back catalogue, showcasing members of the concert chorus alongside special guest performers linked to the Society's membership and history. We also hope to invite our CO2 cast of Legally Blonde to perform a number too. The songs will be linked with stories and information about the Society's history. There will be some numbers offering an opportunity for some of the cast to showcase their dance abilities also. We intend to invite key people involved with the Society, past and present, to help direct/set and/or choreograph specific numbers.

We are extremely pleased to be able to perform this concert at the Mercury Theatre, one of our regular venues for performing shows. We would like as many members as possible to be involved, new, past and returning.

Those wishing to take part in the concert must be available on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June evening** (to be ready and on stage at the Mercury **by 6pm** at the latest) and on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June evening** for a tech/dress run (though this will be at an alternate venue).

We welcome everyone interested in being in our concert cast, to attend **our 3 concert workshop evenings**, auditioning on one of those dates: **14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 7.30pm – 10pm** at Philip Morant School Dance Studio (Q-theatre block), Rembrandt Way, Colchester, CO3 4QS. It's fine to only attend one, two or all three but you will only need to audition once on one of the dates.

The workshops will run with a chance for everyone to get together, catch-up and meet socially first, followed by some vocal warm-ups and a singalong, then the second part of the evening will be auditions. Members not wishing to audition are also welcome to attend the first part of the evening. We will offer the option of open or closed auditions, which you can specify on your audition form. Open auditions mean others attending the workshop and/or auditioning can watch/listen to your audition along with the audition panel. Closed auditions mean only you and the audition panel are present for your audition. Please note that it is completely normal to get nervous when auditioning and COS fosters a supportive audition process for everyone involved, whether auditions are open or closed.

## Audition requirements

To audition you will need to **sing** a specific section of one song chosen from the following list, using a backing track. You can access the backing tracks to use here: [Audition Backing Tracks Concert 2024](#) and the lyrics for these can be accessed here: [Audition Lyrics Concert 2024](#)

### FEMALE VOCAL RANGES

- Three Little Maids –upbeat Gilbert & Sullivan Female - F#4-G5 (Sop/Mezzo)
- Worst Pies In London – character female – B3-Eb5 (Mezzo)
- You'll Never Walk Alone – Rodgers & Hammerstein ballad female – C4-G5 (Sop/Mezzo)
- Turn Back O Man – 70s female belt – D3-Bb4 (Alto)
- Suddenly Seymour verse/chorus – contemporary female – A3-C#5 (Alto/Mezzo) (same track as male version)

### MALE VOCAL RANGES

- I Am The Very Model – upbeat Gilbert & Sullivan Male – Bb2-Eb4 (Bass/Baritone)
- Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat– character male – F3-Bb4 (Tenor)
- Some Enchanted Evening – Rodgers & Hammerstein ballad male – C3-E4 (Bass/Baritone)
- Heaven on their Minds – 70s male belt – D3-A4 (at least) (Tenor)
- Suddenly Seymour verse/chorus section – contemporary male – A2-E4 (at least) (Baritone) (same track as female version)

Note: These songs have been chosen to demonstrate a variety of vocal ranges and song styles. They are not necessarily going to be included in the concert. They are certainly being considered, but final content is subject to change based on who auditions. Therefore, the backing tracks used for this stage of the process aren't necessarily of the quality, tempo, or orchestrations that will be used in the performance.

To organise the audition part of the evenings, all interested members must complete the following **audition form**: [COS Centenary Concert - Audition Form](#) specifying their preferred audition date and their chosen audition song by **Midday 10<sup>th</sup> March** (before attending the workshop evenings). We cannot guarantee everyone will be able to audition on their preferred date (though will try our best to accommodate) so please do enter all dates you are available on the form, and we will let you know the date you have been allocated to audition, as soon as possible after the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

To audition you must be a **paid member of COS (aged 16 years or over)**, or for new and returning members joining us, pay your £10 membership for the 2024-2025 year slightly ahead of time (before auditioning). Our centenary gift to new and returning members is therefore 2-3 weeks free membership to the Society. For existing members, please be aware membership will need to be renewed (using same account details as listed below) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 in order to take part in the concert.

New and returning members can pay the £10 membership fee by BACS to the following account using your name and MEM FEE as reference:

Colchester Operatic Society

Bank account no. 90238775

Sort Code. 20-22-67

Please contact Natasha, our Secretary, on [secretary@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk) to let her know you have paid/joined.

To us, inclusion matters, so if you have any access requirement or need any extra support in order to participate in our workshops and auditions please do let us know, and we will do our best to meet those needs, where reasonably possible. However, it is important to note that we will have a maximum cast size and being a member and auditioning does not guarantee anyone a part in any show. Casting is decided by an appointed audition panel (please see our [audition processes](#) for more information). For this concert the audition panel will be made up of Neil Somerville (musical director), Andrew Hodgson (part of the concert co-ordinating team) and Wayne Setford (committee member). If you are not successful following auditions, you still remain part of the Society and are welcome to be part of the show in other capacities behind the scenes, an incredibly vital part of any production.

#### Proposed Concert Rehearsal Schedule

As with every show and concert we produce, cast attendance to rehearsals really matters in order for all cast members to rehearse effectively, making the best use of the rehearsal time and ultimately produce the best quality production for our audiences. Whilst we understand there will be some rehearsals people might not be able to make, we would expect cast to attend a majority and ideally all of them, and wherever possible, to catch up on anything they missed by being absent, in their own time outside of the rehearsals. Any known/planned absences must be written on your audition form and we expect those cast to notify us of all absences (whether planned or unplanned) with a reasonable explanation and as much notice as possible in advance. You should assume you will be called for every rehearsal (though if there are times that not everyone in the cast will be needed, we will endeavour to let you know as much in advance as possible) and our proposed rehearsal schedule is as follows:

<b>Mondays 7.30-10pm</b>	<b>Thursdays 7.30-10pm</b>	<b>Sundays 10am-4pm</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> April	18 <sup>th</sup> April	-
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	25 <sup>th</sup> April	-
29 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	5 <sup>th</sup> May
6 <sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday)	9 <sup>th</sup> May	-
13 <sup>th</sup> May	16 <sup>th</sup> May	-
20 <sup>th</sup> May	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	-
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	6 <sup>th</sup> June	9 <sup>th</sup> June
10 <sup>th</sup> June	13 <sup>th</sup> June	-
17 <sup>th</sup> June	20 <sup>th</sup> June	-

Please also note there are no rehearsals during school holidays and that it is vital that everyone cast attends the Sunday dates. All rehearsals will be at Phillip Morant School Dance Studio (in Q theatre block) **except those in red**, which will be held at an alternate venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

### Further details

Further and more specific details on the exact set list, who will be supporting us with directing/choreographing and any costume information will be shared by the time of the first rehearsal on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Please be aware that there will also be a show fee of £40 payable by those who are cast, which goes towards rehearsal and show costs.

Once cast, we will provide online copies of all sheet music/lyrics needed by cast but there will be an option to purchase a pack printed sheet music if requested (cost TBC dependent on amount of printing involved).

In line with our Inclusion, Equality and Diversity strategy, we want to improve access to our productions for cast members from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds and this bursary aims to enable those with low or no income, who can't afford to pay their show fee, to participate in our productions. If you are cast in this production and would like to apply for a COS/CO2 Bursary, it can be done here: <https://forms.office.com/e/CYN0iX3zys>

Once cast, you must either pay the show fee or apply for a bursary by 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

We look forward to seeing lots of you at our concert workshops and auditions!