

CROWTHORNE MUSICAL PLAYERS

Proudly present



My Fair Lady

Adapted from George Bernard Shaws play and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture "Pygmalion"

Books and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, Music by Frederick Loewe

Production by arrangement with MUSICSCOPE

Director: **MAGGIE UTTLEY M.B.E.**

Musical Director: **NICK AUSTIN**

WILDE THEATRE, BRACKNELL

Tuesday 9th June - Saturday 13th June 1998

Chairman's Welcome

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I take great pleasure in welcoming you all to Crowthorne Musical Player's production of *My Fair Lady*, and I know that you will enjoy it every bit as much as we do.

As always, a huge amount of work goes into bringing you this show and I must take this opportunity to thank everyone, both on stage and behind the scenes who have helped with such enthusiasm and commitment. I would especially like to thank our Director, Maggie Uttley, and our Musical Director, Nick Austin, for their unending encouragement and hard work - even smiling (albeit through gritted teeth) when things did not go quite according to plan! I must also mention Richard Spong, our Stage Manager and his valiant crew, who work very hard during the lead up to the show and throughout each performance making sure that things appear and disappear when they should.

There is always a sense of achievement when we finally reach "show week" and can see the results of everyone's hard work, along with relief that we have actually reached the end of rehearsals! Most importantly, however, we all have a huge amount of fun along the way and enjoy ourselves immensely, as I hope you will too. Have a "*lovely*" evening!

Claire Lawson

Chairman

Crowthorne Musical Players

Crowthorne Musical Players was formed by members of the Parish Church in 1950. Since that time C.M.P. has performed many musical shows and has given a number of concerts for a variety of causes. Our main productions over the last ten years have been:

1988 *Kiss Me Kate*
1989 *Showboat*
1990 *Ruddigore*
1991 *Calamity Jane*
1992 *The Merry Widow*

1993 *Oklahoma!*
1994 *Half a Sixpence*
1995 *Carousel*
1996 *Fiddler on the Roof*
1997 *Pirates of Penzance*



Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Storyline....

The story of My Fair Lady, based on Bernard Shaw's play, "Pygmalion" is one of the best known and best loved musicals of all time.

It is the bewitching tale of a cockney flower girl's transformation from "guttersnipe" to the pride of London high society.

When Professor Higgins stumbles upon Eliza Doolittle in Covent Garden, he claims that the only thing that separates her from the upper classes is her dreadful accent. Eliza, who dreams of becoming a lady in a flower shop, is convinced by his argument and seeks him out so that she can have lessons to help her "talk proper". When Eliza appears at his home, Higgins cannot resist making a bet that he could pass her off as a Duchess in a matter of weeks. Pickering, whilst intrigued, is not at all sure that this is a good idea, but agrees to supervise the experiment. Immediately, and without a thought for Eliza herself, Higgins begins his task.

Eliza, believing that this is the only way to achieve her dream, works hard and puts up with Professor Higgins' constant rudeness.

Finally, late one night, Eliza manages to pronounce her vowels correctly. Higgins is delighted. He decides to try her out on polite society by introducing her at Ascot. Initially, all goes well, and Eliza's accent is impeccable. It is at Ascot that she meets Freddy Eynsford Hill, who quickly becomes besotted with her. He watches with bemused delight as Eliza strays from the permitted topics of conversation.....and suddenly things do not quite go according to plan...

Undaunted, Professor Higgins decides that the time is right to present Eliza at the Embassy Ball. She is a huge success and is accepted by all as a true member of the aristocracy.

Higgins is thrilled with what he considers to be his own success. Amidst all the self congratulation, Eliza is forgotten. Hurt and angry, she leaves. She returns to Covent Garden, but quickly discovers that she no longer belongs there. Too eloquent for a flower girl, but lacking the breeding of the true upper classes, what is to become of her...or of Professor Higgins?....

My Fair Lady

Cast of Characters

Eliza Doolittle

Mrs Pearce

Mrs Eynsford Hill

Mrs Higgins

Mrs Hopkins

Professor Higgins

Colonel Pickering

Alfred P. Doolittle

Freddy Eynsford Hill

Zoltan Karparthy

Sue Prior

Mavis McCormack

Doreen Hart

Jean Frost

Carol Hardy

Mark Conolly

Trevor Leuty

Alan Bowman

Alex Aucken

Tony Kershaw

Cockneys and the Upper Classes

Sally Aucken, Rachel Bolt, Christine Charlton,
Monty Cook, Sue Ford, Carol Hardy, Karen Hunt,
Sue Humphrey, Carole Kershaw, Claire Lawson,
Debbie Mann, Diana Mears, David Oxborough,
Stella Pearmain, Chris Pask, Pete Rupp,
Angela Smith, Keay Smith, Christine Tilbury,
Dave Town, Paul Tysoe and Audrey Wybrow

Scenes:

Act One

- Scene 1. Outside the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
Scene 2. Higgins Study, Wimpole Street. The next day.
Scene 3. Tottenham Court Road, three days later.
Scene 4. Higgins Study. Later that afternoon.
Scene 5. At the race meeting, Ascot. A sunny June afternoon.
Scene 6. Outside Higgins' house, Wimpole Street. Later that day.
Scene 7. Higgins' study. Evening. Six weeks later.
Scene 8. The Embassy Ballroom. Later the same evening.

Act Two

- Scene 1. Higgins' study. 3.00 a.m. the following morning.
Scene 2. Outside Higgins' house. Immediately following.
Scene 3. Covent garden. The Flower market. 5.00 a.m. that morning.
Scene 4. Higgins' study. Later that morning.
Scene 5. Mrs. Higgins' house. Shortly after.
Scene 6. Outside Higgins' house. Wimpole Street.
Scene 7. Higgins' study. A little later.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Act One and Act Two

ACT ONE

Why Can't the English?	Higgins
Wouldn't it Be Lovely?	Eliza and Chorus
With A Little Bit of Luck	Alfred Doolittle & Chorus
I'm An Ordinary Man	Higgins
With A Little Bit of Luck (reprise)	Doolittle and Chorus
Just You Wait!	Eliza
The Rain In Spain	Higgins, Eliza and Pickering
I Could Have Danced All Night	Eliza and Maids
Ascot Gavotte	Chorus
On The Street Where You Live	Freddy

ACT TWO

You Did It!	Higgins and Pickering
Just You Wait (reprise)	Eliza
On The Street Where You Live (reprise)	Freddy
Show Me	Eliza and Freddy
Wouldn't It Be Lovely? (reprise)	Eliza and Chorus
Get Me To The Church On Time	Doolittle and Chorus
A Hymn To Him	Higgins
Without You	Higgins and Eliza
I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face	Higgins

Profiles.

Mark Conolly(*Higgins*)

Mark's first venture onto the stage was with CMP for their production of "Oklahoma!" in which he played the rather "fly" pedlar, Ali Hakim. His most recent performance was in November playing the same part (in the same sweltering jacket!) for another local society EBOS. Between the two "Ali's", Mark has enjoyed a number of principal roles including Mr Snow in "Carousel" and the Pirate King in "Pirates of Penzance". Mark lives in Woodley with his ancient dog, Scrumpy. Myopic, deaf, arthritic and with disgusting personal habits. (And the dog's not much better.)

Sue Prior.....(*Eliza*)

After her latest performance as part of the group "Take Note" for Twickenham Rugby Club, Sue is pleased to get back to the relative normality of CMP. Previously, for CMP, Sue has played Mabel in "Pirates", Julie in "Carousel" and Ann in "Half a Sixpence". She has also enjoyed the roles of Florence in "Chess", Polly in "Beggars Opera" and most recently, Aline in "The Sorcerer" which is to be performed at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival at Buxton later this year.

Alan Bowman.....(*Alfred P. Doolittle*)

Since moving to Bracknell in 1973, Alan has appeared in many musicals and operas for other local societies, but this is his first appearance for CMP. Alan enjoys variety, and has appeared in operas by Bizet, Verdi, Puccini and Mozart and musicals too numerous to mention, usually playing a "heavy". Appearing as one of Shaw's finest creations has been an ambition for many years, since playing an overweight, heavy drinking Londoner should not tax his acting abilities too much! Future theatrical plans include "Pirates of Penzance" and "The Flying Dutchman" for Windsor & Eton Operatic Society and directing the Bracknell Drama Club Christmas Production.

Mavis McCormack.....(*Mrs Pearce*)

Since joining CMP ten years ago, Mavis has shown her talents in a variety of roles, both on and off stage. She is well known for her contributions to our Autumn and Winter shows, for which she has written and performed poems and sketches, and frequently appears in the chorus, but she has also been active backstage in essential roles such as prompt and costume co-ordinator. Now, according to her husband, she has found the perfect role as the bossy Mrs Pearce. By day, Mavis can be found muttering lines under her breath (or so she would have us believe) in a local library where she works.

Trevor Leuty.....(*Pickering*)

Trevor joined C.M.P. in 1989 to play the role of Joe in "Showboat". Since then in CMP productions he has played Sir Ruthven in "Ruddigore", Bill in "Calamity Jane", Jud Fry in "Oklahoma!" and last year the rather inept "Sergeant of Police" in "Pirates". He has a repertoire of English Classical songs and sings Oratorio and Church music and has appeared several times at the Mill at Sonning with Sonning Village Players.

Alex Aucken..... (*Freddy*)

This is Alex's third year with CMP and his second principal role.- you may remember his swash buckling performance as the Pirate King's sidekick, Samuel, last year. Alex is a man of many talents (unfortunately, joke telling is not among them although he does persist in practicing on unsuspecting CMP members) and somehow manages to fit in rehearsals, photography and drinking wine around his job, which involves much travelling around Europe on behalf of Ford Motor Company.

Doreen Hart (*Mrs Eynsford Hill*)

Doreen has been involved in the theatre for more years than she cares to remember! She has played a large number of principal roles, her favourites being "Adelaide" in "Guys and Dolls" and Annie in "Annie Get Your Gun". After a few years "resting" from the stage, Doreen joined CMP in 1995. She enjoys variety, and has certainly taken it to extremes - she has gone from playing an evil, screaming apparition (Fruma Sara in "Fiddler") to a member of the upper class at Ascot! Doreen feels that this role is much more in keeping with the manner to which she would like to become accustomed.

Jean Frost..... (*Mrs Higgins*)

A founder member of Warfield Players, this is Jean's second appearance with CMP, having played Golda in our production of "Fiddler". Last Year she played Lady Hadwell in "Charlie Girl" for Riverside Players and now as Mrs Higgins hopes that she is on the aristocratically ascending ladder. Anyone need a Duchess?

Tony Kershaw..... (*Zoltan Karparthy*)

Tony joined CMP in 1990 and became our Treasurer in 1991. He has appeared in all productions since then and his principal roles include Lazar Wolfe in "Fiddler", Mr Shalford in "Half a Sixpence" and Kromov in "The Merry Widow". Tony is a little concerned that he may be type cast as he tends to play bearded foreigners with strange accents.....I wonder why that is?!

Maggie Uttley - Director

Maggie trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and moved from performing to directing during the 70's. She has directed over 100 productions covering the whole spectrum of theatre - opera, musical comedy, pantomime and plays included - for companies in Kent, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. She has just retired from her job in the Social Services and tells us that when she has time to stop, she'll probably enjoy it! We are very happy that Maggie has decided to make her invaluable contribution to C.M.P. for the seventh time!

Nick Austin - Musical Director

Having graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1979, Nick spent a year at King Alfred's College, Winchester, where he qualified as a teacher. He has been Head of Music at St. Crispin's School in Wokingham since 1983. Nick first came to C.M.P. as accompanist for Showboat in 1988 - "My Fair Lady" is his eighth show with the society as Musical Director. In between school work and C.M.P. he also teaches the piano and acts as rehearsal pianist for Bracknell Choral Society. A busy man indeed and we are delighted that he can fit us into his schedule!

Production Team

Director	Maggie Uttley
Musical Director	Nick Austin
Rehearsal Pianist	Nicki Austin
Choreography	Maggie Uttley
Stage Manager	Richard Spong
Assistant Stage Manager	Chris Evans
Lighting	Keith Uttley
Sound	The Sound Foundation
Backstage Crew	Friends of the Society
Scenery	Stage Productions Ltd.
Properties	Company and Friends
Costumes	Crescendo
Costume Coordinator	Ann Deller
Box Office	Manda Crouch
Front of House Manager	Pam Medcroft
Photography	Brian Hardy
Programme	Claire Lawson

Orchestra

Leader	Harold Kershaw
Violins	Giles Wade, Kate Gale, Sarah Ashley John Spurgeon, Vanessa Craig, Nicola Brown.
Viola	Amanda Bayley, Christine Davies
Cello	Neil Charlton, Ingrid Dorell
Double Bass	Karen Aplin
Flute/ Piccolo	Tess Hawken
Oboe / Cor Anglais	Hazel Todd
Clarinet	Jane Forder, Julie Britton
Bassoon	Alex Platt
Trumpet	Kevin Ransome, David Gray
Trombone	Nicholas Kershaw, Trevor Jones
Horn	Ian Stott
Percussion	Ray Dare
Harp	Satu Salo