

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Erin Evarts

It has been a challenging time, life as we knew it has been upended by the global health crisis. We are committed to finding new ways to share our art and strengthen our connections to our members and the community at large. Live theatre offers relief in hard times – a safe place to find a smile, feel your feelings, and perhaps even escape for a little bit. With that in mind:

- We have launched a virtual “concert series” called *Lyric from the Living Room* on our Facebook page, follow us to see members of the Lyric family sharing songs from their homes each day.
- You can join in Lyric BINGO on our Instagram and Facebook pages to help pass your time staying home and staying safe.
- AND – We are working with the City of Burlington to make masks for essential workers in our region. This has been a huge undertaking and we are very grateful for all those who have helped us sew. We aren't done yet and if you can help, please drop by the Creative Space for more information. With over 12,000 masks already distributed to more than 78 organizations we are proud to be the hub for distribution and volunteers for this massive project. (If you are interested, masks have gone to UVMCC, Lund, CHCB, Burlington Police Department, COTS, Howard Center, and many more.)

We continue to be guided by principles of placing health and safety first and strive to have an approach that is nimble enough to respond to changing conditions. We promise to be in touch with all our members and ticket holders as soon as possible regarding any updates. The health and safety of our staff, artists, and audiences will always be of utmost importance.

VOLUNTEER HOURS TRACKING

By Serena Magnan O'Connell, Membership Chair

In an effort to accurately track and retain our active membership, which I would note continues to grow and expand as individuals contribute to our mask-making efforts and beyond, please make sure you are submitting your hours on a monthly basis to the office. You can find forms on the website listed under “volunteer.” Show and committee hours are submitted by stage management, crew chiefs and committee chairs, but all those other hours should be tracked by you! Mask-makers new to our Lyric community, we welcome you and thank you for your skills...now let us know how much time you are putting in so we count you as part of our amazing Lyric family!

BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

By Christopher Brown

Hello Lyric Community! Wow, what an unusual time we are living in. For almost everyone I know, myself included, daily life is looking quite a bit different than just a few months ago. The same has happened with our daily operations at Lyric, as I am sure you have heard a lot about.

Sitting in on several committee meetings and having weekly, sometimes daily, conversations with Erin, there is something that hasn't changed – the love we all have for this organization. Our unwavering commitment to Lyric shows up at the Board level when discussing what the upcoming few months may look like, in our Nominating Committee when chatting about the skills our Board will need in the next few years, at Production Selection when discussing how to best support our upcoming shows. These are just a few examples. You, our volunteers are spreading the word about our mask making efforts, contributing to *Lyric from the Living Room*, staying connected with current and past shows, and are dreaming (and working towards) our future.

Has the current state of the world taken a toll on us and our organization? Absolutely. Is it something we cannot pull ourselves out from? Absolutely not. Just because our ‘usual work’ has stopped, it doesn't mean we our dedication to Lyric has. When I sit back and take a look at all of the productive and inspiring work going on in our community, it's quite a beautiful image. I know that because of you, we will resume stronger, more resilient and ready to take on the future. Thank you for everything you do.

DELANO-NULTY AWARD 2020

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

By MaryBeth Nuovo

Each year Lyric helps an area high school senior defray expenses during his or her freshman year of college. The Delano-Nulty Award honors two of Lyric's founding members, Howard Delano and Polly Nulty. This year's award is \$2,000. Criteria for applicants:

- Graduation from an area high school with plans to attend college the following September
- Involvement in theatre through Lyric Theatre Company, school productions, or other area theatre companies
- Demonstration of continuing interest in the performing arts
- Educational/career goals that relate to the performing arts (theatre, music, dance or technical theatre)

Applications can be obtained by calling the Lyric Office at 802-658-1484 or on the Lyric website at <https://lyrictheatre.org/education/delano-nulty-award/>. **Scholarship applications and letters of reference must be received by May 15, 2020.**

SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

By Serena Magnan O'Connell, Membership Chair

So many of you are contributing to keeping our Lyric theatre family relevant, present and stronger than ever in the community and in each of our members' lives; but a few individuals are especially stepping up to make this true. Ian Ferris, I don't believe you'll ever fully appreciate just what you've done for us in the past several weeks by bringing us together over Zoom and sharing our archives, but we are incredibly grateful for your time and efforts and are forever indebted to you for getting our history in order and keeping it alive in our hearts. This month the membership committee would like to give you a Spotlight Shout-Out!

We would also like to acknowledge Kerstin Anderson and Kerry Farrell and the many, many Lyric volunteers hard at work sewing for keeping the mission of Lyric Theatre alive by spearheading the mask-making efforts. I have never been prouder to be a Lyric member because we are made up of individuals like you – many of whom come to Lyric for the first time! – who have channeled and adapted your creative energies for the greater good. We say it loudly with love. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts with a Spotlight Shout-Out!



PARTY ON! THE ENCORE PROM

We have officially re-scheduled *The Encore Prom* event. We can't wait to dance the night away with you!

Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Showcase Lounge at Higher Ground

1214 Williston Road, South Burlington

Tickets: \$50 advance purchase; \$40 advance purchase (two or more); \$60 day-of the event.

Give yourself another chance to misbehave at prom, with this special event from the people who really know how to put on a show – your friends at Lyric Theatre Company. Don't miss out on this decadent evening of dancing, drinks, exciting prizes, and live music from the Ward Eights, all to benefit Lyric. Generously sponsored by Physician's Computer Company and Thornton Investment Management.

Purchase tickets for the Encore Prom at

<https://www.highergroundmusic.com/e/the-encore-prom-let-s-misbehave--79263911493/>



LYRICKIDS SUMMER CAMPS 2020

By MaryBeth Nuovo

LyricKids is proud to announce our two summer camp offerings for campers between the ages of 8 and 13. Join us for *Disney's Frozen Kids* from July 20-24 and *Disney's The Lion King Kids* July 24-31. Both camps run from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Camp will meet at 7 Green Tree Drive, South Burlington, Monday through Friday. Non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required with application to reserve a spot for your child. Full payment of \$275 (minus \$50 for the deposit) for camp is required by June 1, 2020. For more information and to enroll, visit <https://lyrictheatrevt.org/portfolio/lyric-kids/>.

FLOWERS FOR SALE TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

By Rachel Bruce Drew

Our community partners for *Matilda* – KidSafe Collaborative and Prevent Child Abuse Vermont – will be selling flowers in the Flynn lobby before performances. This is a wonderful opportunity to support both our community partners AND your friends or family members who are involved in the show. All proceeds from these flower sales will stay with KidSafe Collaborative and Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, so please consider bringing some cash to the performances and buying flowers there rather than making a separate trip to the florist.



MATILDA THE MUSICAL: A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

By Rob Parzych, Producer

Please allow me a few lines to heap praise on the entire *Matilda* cast and team. Our phenomenal cast has taken the news of our postponement (twice) with an amazing amount of empathy, good humor and fortitude. All of the amazing tech designers, chiefs and crews are as dedicated as ever to finish the final touches on their creations and bring *Matilda* to the Flynn stage.

I'd also like to give thanks to the membership, who have reached out to me and offered their encouragement and support. To say these are strange days, indeed, in an understatement. Knowing you all have my back, and are supporting the *Matilda* team and cast is heartening.

The core team is resolute in bringing *Matilda* to our audiences as soon as it is responsible and safe to do so. We cannot wait!

I hope to see you all very soon!

ON OTHER STAGES ... VIRTUALLY

★ Kim Bent and Kathleen Keenan, our friends at Lost Nation Theater, are offering a subscription model using the Patreon app to deliver content to their audience. Benefits include clips from past productions, a full-length show, featured songs and more. Stay informed at lostnationtheater.org.

★ Vermont Stage cancelled the remaining week of performances of *Marie and Rosetta*, their production of *The Pitmen Painters*, the Spring Youth Company Showcase, and SYC production of *Twelfth Night*. *The Bake Off* in June and the Summer Youth Program remain on their calendar. Stay informed at vermontstage.org.

★ Shelburne Player's production of Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* has been cancelled until next spring. Stay informed at shelburneplayers.com.

★ Essex Community Players made it just under the wire with their hilarious production of *Drinking Habits* which many of us enjoyed before the theater went dark. Their spring production of *Much Ado About Nothing* is cancelled. Stay informed at essexplayers.com.

★ Stowe Theatre Guild had an ambitious summer season planned. Three of this season's shows have been shifted to 2021 and they are moving forward with plans to prepare and present *Much Ado About Nothing* in a new time slot, August 12-29. Stay informed at stowetheatre.com.

★ Middlebury's Town Hall Theater invites folks to connect virtually through *The Quarantine Sessions*, a series of short videos showcasing THT all-stars, including resident companies and staff, filmed in their homes and delivered to yours. Stay informed at townhalltheater.org.

★ Lamoille County Players will not be producing *The Philadelphia Story*, *Annie*, or the Children's Theater Workshop but remains hopeful that they'll be able to proceed with the remainder of their season which includes *Carousel*, September 24-October 4, and *Clue: On Stage*, November 13-22. Stay informed at lcplayers.com.

★ Your humble editor has been enjoying the magic of Broadway by subscribing to Broadway in HD, an on-demand digital streaming media company. Pay by the month (\$8.99) or opt for an annual subscription.





P.O. Box 1688
Williston, VT 05495



Postponed...Stay tuned for new dates!

The Spotlight: A monthly publication of Lyric Theatre Company. To submit material for the next issue, email boerap@champlain.edu. Distribution questions? Call 802-658-1484.
Deadline for June issue: May 28, 2020

AT YOUR SERVICE—LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY BOARD & STAFF

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**MEETING TIMES FOR LYRIC'S STANDING COMMITTEES
MEETING VIRTUALLY FOR NOW**

Board (Chair: Christopher Brown): 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Facilities (Chair: Doug Viehmann): 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
PR/Development (Chair: Rachel Bruce Drew; Interim Chair: Kathy Grise): 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Education (Chair: MaryBeth Nuovo): 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington
Finance (Chair: Karen Sheedy): Meeting details TBA
Membership (Chair: Serena Magnan O'Connell): 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., home of Chris Brown, South Burlington
Show Selection (Contact: Nate Venet): Monthly, Time TBA, Location varies
Technology (Chair: Andy Pearson): 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office, 7 Green Tree Dr., South Burlington



Awaiting new dates
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT

Generous support from



MATILDA – POSTPONED

With the health and safety of our community in mind, the Flynn has decided to keep its doors closed through the summer. So, as we have done once before, we will postpone presenting our production of *Matilda* until we can do so with the unbridled joy that it deserves. We can't wait to share this story with you. Stay safe, stay strong, and stay tuned!