



THE SPOTLIGHT



Editor: Pat Boera

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September 2020

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

By Christopher Brown

Hello, September! As we usher in the new season, the Board of Directors is welcoming a few new members and saying farewell to a couple more. As voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting (a BIG thanks for those who attended and to the Membership Committee for organizing and running the event), we are excited to have Rebecca Raskin, Mattison and Steve Kendall joining the board. A little bit about each new board member is below:

Rebecca Raskin – Rebecca has been active in the Lyric and greater Burlington Arts community for many years – as a performer, a choreographer and an educator. Rebecca comes to the board with a diverse professional background and education. She is a great listener, a strong strategic thinker and the mother of this year’s Delano Nulty Scholarship winner!

Mattison – Mattison is a mover and shaker in the Burlington community. Growing up as a ‘theatre nerd,’ she has been a Lyric supporter for a long time. She is an incredible connector and is extremely thoughtful and personable. Mattison has an incredible mind for tackling complex problems while staying grounded in purpose, process and people.

Steve Kendall – Steve grew up as a self-described “Lyric Brat” and has been involved with Lyric alongside his family for many years. Steve has previously served on the board and acted as Board Chair. He brings skills in finance, critical thinking and decision making. He is rooted in Lyric history and tradition while keeping an eye on evolution and growth.

The board is saying farewell to Doug Viehmann, who has served two consecutive terms, dedicating his service and expertise for the past six years. Doug has been extremely involved with the Facilities Committee and has been instrumental in the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of our facility, helping develop policies and best practices for our space. He has helped advise on future growth, expansion and visioning of the warehouse.

My tenure on the board is also coming to a close, having joined alongside Doug six years ago. It has been a pleasure to serve the organization in many different roles, including this past year as Board Chair. While my role will be changing, I certainly won’t be a stranger and will continue my involvement as an active volunteer at the committee levels.

Here’s to an amazing year of new challenges and adventures!

ANNOUNCING THE CAST AND TEAM

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

Songs for a New World is a contemporary song cycle written by Jason Robert Brown. This show will be Lyric’s first full-scale musical to be recorded for a virtual audience. With a streaming release date in November, we look forward to bringing our cast and crew together this fall for the rehearsal process and recording of this production both in the Lyric Creative Space and “on location.”

Team

Artistic Director	Brita Down
Music Director	Nate Venet
Producer/Stage Manager	Lauren Genta
Assistant Stage Manager/Social Media	Kylie Halpin
Choreographers	Katy Albert, Jane Burchard, Kyla Paul
Videographer	James Buck
Video Assistant	Buddy Meilleur
Sound	Justin Brault, Rick Pingert
Lighting	Cat Meyers
Props	Lesley Graham

Cast

Kim Anderson	Nathaniel Miller
Philip Caycedo	Noelle Nilo
Jayden M. Choquette	Carah Pioli-Hunt
Grace Chris	Billy Ray Poli
Stephanie June*	Eric Rainville
Connor Kendall	Jennifer Warwick
Elise Killian*	Rosalie Wasser*
Owen Leavey	

Featured Dancers

Halee Bernier	Amelia Mason
Kaitie Bessette	Carah Pioli-Hunt
Jenna Giguere*	Hayley Ryan
Owen Leavey	Rosalie Wasser*

**Denotes first time in a Lyric production*

LYRIC FROM THE LIVING ROOM: FALL EDITION

By Erin Evarts

As the fall approaches, we are looking forward to updating our successful Lyric from the Living Room Series. It will look a little different this fall and be part performance and part fundraiser for Lyric. If you are interested in helping out by singing, dancing, OR sharing a technical skill (like how to lace a corset, paint a flat, or focus a light) please email erin@lyrictheatre.org to get on the list.

REFLECTIONS ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

By *Serena Magnan O'Connell, Membership Chair*

Thanks to all those who showed up and made our Annual Meeting such a success! We got the business of show business done, all while being able to socialize at a safe distance. We are proud to announce Lyric's newest Board of Directors members: Rebecca, Raskin, Mattison, and Stephen Kendall. Special thanks to the Membership Committee for their planning and coordinating; Ian Ferris, Rick Pingert, Justin Brault and Andy Pearson for making sound and video come to life complete with a showing of *Kinky Boots*; and thank you to Grazers and Lake Champlain Chocolates for the delicious eats! A huge congratulations and gratitude to Kirsten Anderson for her work in the Lyric office earning her "The Mask Award," and Ian Ferris, who received Volunteer of the Year for all of his hard work sharing our archives this winter and spring. We also thank LCC, Essex Family and Fun Center, Jessica Renae, and O'M Salon for their contributions to the raffle and silent auction.

Stay tuned...more to come soon from the Membership Committee!



New Leaf is a musical theatre cabaret that will have four outdoor, socially-distant performances in September and October. These free concerts, with themes of change, will highlight both traditional and contemporary musical pieces from the Broadway catalog.

Show Dates

September 26 and October 3 at 5:00 p.m. – Trapp Family Lodge Meadow

September 27 at 2:00 p.m. – Snow Farm Vineyard in South Hero

October 4 at 2:00 p.m. – Burlington City Hall Steps

Team

Artistic Director
Musical Director

Pearl Guerriere
Andriana Chobot

Cast

Kaitie Bessette
Max Chlumecky*
Jayden M. Choquette
Sarah Connor
Victoria Fearn
Kira Johnson*
Connor Kendall
Timmy Lewis
Amelia Mason
Kaitie McSalis

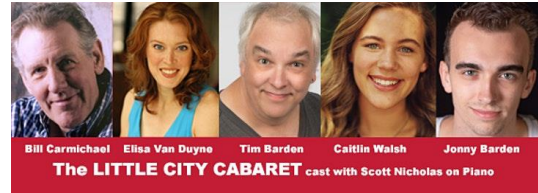
Kristina McSalis
Vonnie Murad
Nathaniel Miller
Noelle Nilo
Taryn Noelle
Stella Pappas
Erika Polner*
Eric Rainville
Sarah Wright

*Denotes first time in a Lyric production

ACTIVE AND SUSTAINING LYRIC MEMBERS!

By *Serena Magnan O'Connell*

Keep an eye out for an upcoming email from the Lyric office...we want to know who you are! The Membership Committee has compiled a survey to help us keep track of who our active Lyric volunteers are. The questions will revolve around your experiences and interests within our organization. Please fill out and return to the office; it is useful information that will be vital in helping us fulfill our future membership needs and activities. All information will be kept in our database to be updated annually. Direct any questions you may have regarding the survey or your active/sustaining membership levels to serenamagnan@hotmail.com.



VIDEO OF THE LITTLE CITY CABARET AT VERGENNES OPERA HOUSE

The hardworking team at Vergennes Opera House pulled off a successful live, indoor, performance in mid-August featuring Tim Barden, Jonny Barden, Bill Carmichael Walsh, Caitlin Walsh, Elisa Van Duyn with Scott Nicholas on piano. The performance was top-notch and the team at VOH took great measures to ensure the safety and comfort of performers and audience members. The event was recorded and a \$6.50 donation will get you the link and password to see the video of the Little City Cabaret and support the Vergennes Opera House in the process. Let's help keep the Arts alive in the Green Mountain State. To donate and order your video:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-little-city-cabaret-online-performed-live-and-recorded-in-august-2020-tickets-113205566898>



BROADWAY CABARET UNDER THE STARS: A DELIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE AT CAMP MEADE

On September 5, an enthusiastic audience, stacked with lots of hometown fans, showed up at Camp Meade in Middlesex for a one-night-only Outdoor Broadway Cabaret featuring Lyric alums Liana Hunt, Paul HeeSang Miller, and Nick Caycedo, joined by New York actors and friends Larkin Bogan and Emily Walton. Musical direction was provided by Ashley O'Brien and the event was produced by ArtsRiot. It was a magical evening under the stars. Camp Meade is the Middlesex Village Hub, uniting the community and giving visitors a showcase of their quirky Vermont taste. Learn more about upcoming events at campmeade.today/events.



**MIRACLE ON GREEN TREE DRIVE:
A LYRIC FAMILY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**
By Serena Magnan O'Connell, Producer

Miracle on Green Tree is our solution to celebrating the holidays from the safety and comfort of your own home with the entire Lyric family. This 45- to 60-minute television special will be pre-recorded and streamed for a modest ticket price in mid-December. Exact date and time to be announced. Please join us for our version of Lyric's holiday time capsule! Auditions will take place from September 15-17. See Lyric's website for all of the details. In addition to auditioned roles, there will be volunteer opportunities on crews as well as chances to be an extra in a few of the scenes. Proudly announcing the Artistic Team:

Production Supervisor/Writer	Serena Magnan O'Connell
Creative Director	Mike Fidler
Video Director	Ian Ferris
Music Director	Ashley O'Brien
Lead Choreographer	Tara Mayhew
Additional Choreography	Sue Bailey, Jane Burchard, and Rebecca Raskin
Art Director	Cheri Forsythe
Production Manager	Freda Tutt
Contributing Writers	Hannah Marshall and Rick Ames

Stay tuned...this project is unfolding quickly and we want you to be part of the holiday fun!

SPOTLIGHT SHOUT-OUT

By Serena Magnan O'Connell, Membership Chair

The Membership Committee would like to give this month's Spotlight Shout-Out to Emma Jarvis, who worked in the Lyric office this summer, donating her time and efforts to make events like The Mystery Movie Night possible. Emma the office appreciates all of the hard work you put in! You will be missed!

**BROADWAY SONGS TO CELEBRATE
11 O'CLOCK NUMBERS**

Source: broadwaydirect.com

The 11 o'clock number is the theatre term for that big, show-stopping song that happens late in Act 2, usually sung by a major character that comes to a realization. They have this name because the song would often occur around 11 o'clock. These songs often are some of the most well-known songs from a Broadway show, and for good reason. Here, we've created a playlist full of some of the most memorable 11 o'clock numbers from these celebrated productions. From *The Color Purple*'s "I'm Here," to *Gypsy*'s "Rose's Turn," this playlist is full of the iconic showstopping 11 o'clock numbers we all know and love. Listen to each hit song after hit song, and jam out to these quintessential Broadway tunes. Listen at: <https://broadwaydirect.com/broadway-songs-to-celebrate-11-oclock-numbers/>

ON OTHER STAGES ... VIRTUALLY

- ★ The artistic spirit in Vermont continues to thrive! Dominic Spillane's **TheaterEngine** is an online platform for people who love live performance and for people who create live performance. Go to theaterengine.com to learn more.
- ★ The **Flynn Center** presents *Hurly Burly*, a series of events held at outdoor locations in Burlington at times TBA. The lineup includes *KeruBo*, September 12; *Burlington Taiko*, September 13; *Mal Maiz*, September 19; and *Dwight & Nicole*, September 20. Learn more at flynncenter.org.
- ★ **Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre (ART)**, the Rutland community theater, will present Zoom Play Fests – readings of five to nine short plays in three festivals, in September, November, and February. The first offering is *A New Fabric for Our American Quilt*, full dress rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 11; and performances at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, September 12, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 13. Admission is free, with talk-backs with the playwrights, actors and directors following Saturday and Sunday performances. Zoom links will be available through ART's Facebook page, and its website, actorsrepvt.org.
- ★ 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. Fall foliage Shakespeare returns to Lost Nation Theater in a one-time-only, FREE, abridged staged reading – *A Midsommers Night Dreame* – on the steps of the Vermont State House in Montpelier, September 20 at 2:00 p.m. Learn more at lostonationtheater.org.
- ★ There are still laughs to be had at the **Vermont Comedy Club** where you can watch live shows online. Co-founders Natalie Miller and Nathan Hartswick invite you to learn more about laughing together at vermontcomedyclub.com/.
- ★ Middlebury's **Town Hall Theater** invites folks to connect virtually through *The Quarantine Sessions*, a series of short videos showcasing THT all-stars filmed in their homes and delivered to yours. Stay informed at townhalltheater.org.
- ★ You can also enjoy the magic of Broadway by subscribing to [Broadway HD](#), an on-demand digital streaming media company. Pay by the month or opt for an annual subscription. Other sources of online theatre are [National Theatre Live](#), [Broadway on Demand](#), and [The Shows Must Go On!](#) Some are free once you create an account and some are subscription-based.

PLAYBILL

**CAN YOU NAME THESE CHARACTERS FROM
THEIR LYRICAL MONIKERS?**

Source: Playbill.com

- Who is known as a "Daughter of Delta Nu?"
- Who is known as the "Knight of the Woeful Countenance?"
- Who is known as "Master of the House?"
- Who is known as "A Cockeyed Optimist?"
- Who is known as "The Lancelot of the Revolutionary Set?"
- Who is known as "The Hostess with the Mostess?"
- Who would like to be known as "The Genius on Cleveland Street?"
- Who is known as the "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer?"



P.O. Box 1688
Williston, VT 05495



Live performances return...with a twist!

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

Board (Chair: Nate Venet): 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office
Facilities (Chair: Tim Henderson): 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office
PR/Development (Chair: Rachel Bruce Drew): 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office
Education (Chair: MaryBeth Nuovo): 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office
Finance (Chair: Karen Sheedy): 2nd Friday of the month, 12:00 p.m., Lyric Office
Membership (Chair: Serena Magnan O'Connell): 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., home of Serena Magnan O'Connell, Burlington
Production Selection and Evaluation (Chair: Jane Harissis): 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Lyric Office
Outreach & Inclusivity (Chair: Hillary Read): 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Lyric Office



**Awaiting new dates
Flynn Center MainStage
Burlington, VT**

Generous support from



Answers to the Playbill Quiz:

Elle Woods, *Legally Blonde*
 Don Quixote, *Man of La Mancha*
 Thenardier, *Les Misérables*
 Nellie Forbush, *South Pacific*
 Lafayette, *Hamilton*
 Sally Adams, *Call Me Madam*
 The Old Man, *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*
 Anna, *The Rink*