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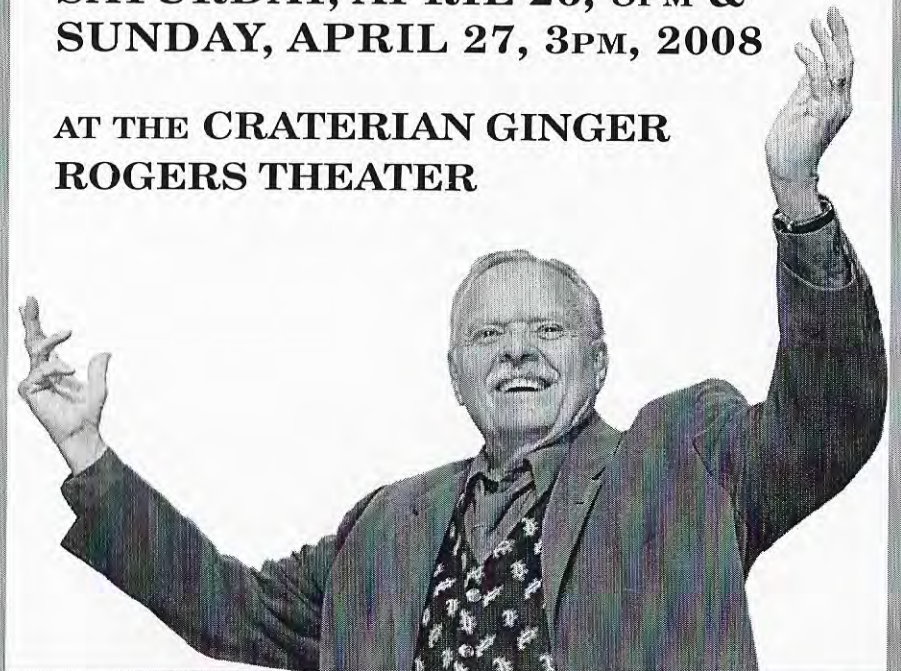
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presents

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The Tony-Award-Winning Broadway Musical!

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Director/Conductor
Lynn Sjolund

Stage Direction
*Livia Genise

Accompanists
Andrea Brock & Doris Sjolund

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Gladys.....Mary Lynn Lucas
The Cashier.....Don Dolan
Cleo.....Livia Genise
Rosabella.....Ellie Holt-Murray
The Postman.....Robert Begg
Tony.....Neil Wilson
Marie.....Jennifer Jacobs
Max.....Rex White
Herman.....Andrew Brock
Clem.....John Hunter
Giuseppe.....Ralph Dady
Pasqual.....Don Dolan
Ciccio.....Rod Alfsen
The Doctor.....Phil Koenig
The Priest.....Jim Post

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THE MOST HAPPY FELLA

THE STORY

The story unfolds as Amy, a waitress in 1927 San Francisco, is wooed through letters by a lonely middle-aged bachelor named Tony Esposito. From his vineyard in California's Napa Valley, he proposes to Amy (whom he calls "Rosabella"), enclosing a photograph of his handsome ranch hand, Joe, rather than one of himself. Despite this deception, Tony and Rosabella find love and, eventually, forgiveness and acceptance. Against this serious story is played the funny tale of Herman (Tony's gentle-natured employee) and Cleo (Rosabella's smart, tart-tongued friend), who play out a romance as playful as Tony and Rosabella's is passionate and painful.

ACT ONE

Overture

Scene One — A restaurant in San Francisco; January, 1927

Ooh! My Feet!.....Cleo, Rosabella
Somebody, Somewhere.....Rosabella

Scene Two — Main Street, Napa, California; in April

The Most Happy Fella.....Townspople, Tony
Standing on the Corner.....Quartet, Herman
Joey, Joey, Joey.....Joey
Rosabella.....Tony

Scene Three — Tony's Barn; A few weeks later

Abbondanza.....Trio

Scene Four — Tony's front yard

Sposalizio.....Townspople
Benvenuta.....Trio
Don't Cry.....Joey

- INTERMISSION -

ACT TWO

Prelude

Scene One — The Vineyards; In May

Fresno Beauties.....Townspople, Rosabella, Joey
Love and Kindness.....Doc
Happy to Make Your Acquaintance.....Rosabella, Tony
Big D.....Herman, Cleo, Townspople

Scene Two — Later in May

How Beautiful the Days.....Tony, Rosabella, Marie,
Joey, Townspople

Scene Three — The Vineyards; in June

Young People.....Marie
Warm All Over.....Rosabella, Tony
Old People Gotta.....Tony

Scene Four — The Barn

I Like Ev'rybody.....Herman

Scene Four — The Vineyards; In July

My Heart is So Full of You.....Tony
Mamma, Mamma.....Tony

ACT THREE

Prelude

Scene One — The Barn; An hour later

Song of a Summer Night.....Doc, Townspople
Please Let Me Tell You.....Rosabella

Scene Two — Napa Station; A little later

Nobody's Ever Gonna Leave You.....(Trio), Rosabella,
Tony, Marie
Finale.....Tony, Rosabella, Townspople



About the Composer

FRANK HENRY LOESSER, COMPOSER AND LYRICIST 1910-1969

Frank Loesser has been called the most versatile of all Broadway composers. His five Broadway musicals, each a unique contribution to the art of the American musical theatre, were as different from each other as they were from the theatre of their day: *Where's Charley?*, *Guys And Dolls*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Greenwillow*, and *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*. Long before he wrote *Where's Charley?*, he was well known for penning the lyrics to standards such as "On a Slow Boat To China," "Heart And Soul," and his 1948 Academy Award winner, "Baby It's Cold Outside."

It took Loesser four years to write not only the score but also the book for *The Most Happy Fella*, which he called an "extended musical comedy." Opera like musicals such as *Porgy and Bess* were unsuccessful in their time but with hit songs like "Standing on the Corner" and "Big D," *The Most Happy Fella* opened on May 3, 1956, and ran for two years. It was the first show recorded in its entirety by Columbia Records.

Frank Loesser forged only five Broadway musicals, but the Loesser impact continues to be seismic. In recent years, there have been major revivals of *The Most Happy Fella*, both on Broadway and at the New York City Opera where it was added to their permanent repertory.

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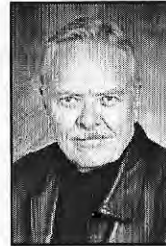
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Profiles

DR. NEIL WILSON



Neil Wilson has performed extensively in the United States and Europe during his wide-ranging career as a music educator and bass-baritone soloist. He has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle, Denver, Oregon, San Antonio, Rochester, Spokane, Richmond, Spokane, Boise, Annapolis and Austin Symphonies. He has been a guest artist in performances at the Oregon Bach Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, Alaska Music Festival, Britt Festival, Cascade Music Festival, the United States Naval Academy and The John F. Kennedy Center. European performances include oratorios and recitals in Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Nuremberg and Cologne, Germany, as well as in Lyon and St. Etienne, France. He has performed more than forty major opera and musical theater roles with Opera Southwest, Portland Opera, Eugene Opera, Oregon Repertory Theater, Boise Civic Opera, Chamber Opera Theater of San Antonio, among others. Musical theater roles have included Billy in *Roberta*, Joey in *The Most Happy Fella*, Mr. Maurrant in *Street Scene*, Tommy in *Brigadoon*, Captain von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, Emile de Becque in *South Pacific*, Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, and Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Dr. Wilson has performed in numerous POPS concerts with the Oregon Symphony, Spokane Symphony and Seattle Symphony with conductor Norman Leydon. Most recently he sang the role of Jesus in a performance of J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion* and was the baritone soloist in a performance of Ernest Bloch's Sacred

Service. Dr. Wilson was a professor of music at the University of Oregon's School of Music, the University of Texas at San Antonio and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, Virginia. Upon Dr. Wilson's retirement from VCU in 1996, he was honored by the university with the designation Professor Emeritus. He holds Bachelor and Master's degrees from the University of New Mexico and earned his Ph.D. at Indiana University.

ELLIE HOLT-MURRAY



Ellie Holt-Murray was a finalist in both the San Francisco Opera's Merola Auditions and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions for the San Francisco region. She has performed leading roles for Rogue Opera, Sacramento Opera, Oakland Opera, Eugene Opera, Opera Theater of San Antonio, Marin Opera, West Coast Opera, West Bay Opera, and Berkeley Opera. For 10 years she performed with the San Francisco Opera Guild's educational outreach program, *Opera a la carte*. Rogue Opera performances include: Opera Sundae, Festival Italiano, Despina in *Cosi fan tutti*, and Mercedes in *Carmen*. She made her debut with Rogue Music Theater as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* followed by Bloody Mary in *South Pacific*, and Lynne in *A Grand Night For Singing*.

Ms. Holt-Murray's appearances have included solo performances with the S.F. Chamber Players, the Master Symphonians in Palo Alto as well as the Sacramento, Vallejo, and Rogue Valley Symphonies. She is a member of the Southern Oregon Repertory Singers and the Rogue Valley



Profiles

Chorale. She sang with the Rogue Valley Symphony in their *Three Sopranos* concert and with Rogue Opera as the First Lady in *The Magic Flute*. Her most recent recital, *Where The Music Comes From*, was performed in mid-October in Medford. In May, she will perform an encore presentation of *Where The Music Comes From* at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Ms. Holt-Murray is a vocal instructor at SOU and has a private voice studio. She was the Musical Voice coach for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and is co-founder of *SING IT! SAY IT! DANCE IT!*

LIVIA GENISE



Livia Genise has been a professional actress and member of Actors' Equity Association since 1969. She is also a member of AFTRA, AGVA and SAG. An Ashland resident, Ms.

Genise holds a B.F.A. in Voice from Southern Oregon University and has taught and directed for over 14 years. She began her 39-year stage career at the St. Louis Municipal Opera and has performed throughout the country from Broadway (Rizzo in *Grease*) to Hollywood, guest starring on everything from *Three's Company* to *Hill St. Blues*, including a four-month stint on *Days of our Lives*. Bay Area audiences have seen her in over 30 productions, from roles such as Mrs. Shubert in *Sheer Madness* at the Mason Street Theatre and Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* for the VITA Shakespeare Festival to Hesione in *Triumph of Love* at TheatreWorks. Ms. Genise has received Awards for Best Actress in a Musical from

Dean Goodman, Drama-Logue and the Bay Area Critics Circle. While serving as Resident Artist for the Willows Theatre Company, she founded the Willows Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts. Ms. Genise served as its Conservatory Director for four years in addition to becoming Casting Director for the Willows. Before moving to Ashland and her current position with CTC, she spent two years as Education Director at The Marin Theatre Company. The founder and Artistic Director of the Camelot Theatre Company in Talent, Oregon, Ms. Genise's directing credits include *Do I Hear a Waltz*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Gaslight*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Crucible*, *An Evening of Cole Porter*, *Into the Woods*, *Children of Eden*, *Camelot*, and *Elixir of Love*.

JENNIFER JACOBS



Soprano Jennifer Jacobs began performing as a singer in church at the age of six and has been a member of the Rogue Valley Chorale for fifteen years.

Her musical theater roles have included Oliver in *Oliver*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, Marion the Librarian in *The Music Man*, Chava in *Fiddler in the Roof*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and Jennie Parsons in the Chorale's production of Kurt Weill's, *Down in the Valley*. She also has performed such dinner theater roles as Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Liesl in *Sound of Music*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, and Nellie in *South Pacific*.

Jennifer has had many solos for the



Profiles

Chorale over the years, and she participated in the Chorale's tour of Scandinavia and performance at New York's Carnegie Hall.

ANDREW BROCK



Mr. Brock's eclectic performance background and acting training has made him into a well-rounded and effective singer and actor.

Major opera roles include: Jupiter and Apollo in Handel's *Semele*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflute*, Rinnuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, Kaspar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and Camille in *The Merry Widow*. Mr. Brock got his start with Eugene Opera, Obsidian Opera and the University of Oregon Opera Ensemble and currently performs with Rogue Opera, Siskiyou Singers, and the Rogue Valley Chorale.

Oratorio appearances include soloist in Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*, Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* (conducted by Helmuth Rilling), Saint-Saens' *Christmas Oratorio*, and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*.

A full scholarship recipient, he attended the Aspen Music Festival and School in the summer of 2003. In 2007, again a scholarship winner, Mr. Brock participated in the extensive four-week vocal camp *OperaWorks* in Los Angeles. He has also received instruction from world-renowned Bach scholar and conductor Helmuth Rilling.

Mr. Brock currently teaches music at Talent Elementary School and is on faculty with the music department at Southern Oregon University. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon, where he received Master's Degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance.

KENNE HORTON



Kenne is a local product and former choir student of Lynn Sjolund's, as well as Chorale members Gary Lovre and Carroll Graber. He has sung lead in a couple of successful Barbershop Society quartets and has spent much of his professional

life as a music minister. He also serves as a rehearsal assistant with the Cantare Chorus of the Rogue Valley Youth Chorus organization founded by Doris Sjolund and sponsored by the Chorale. Kenne is married and has three lovely daughters. He is currently ministering at Gold Hill Christian Church.

ROBERT BEGG



Born amid the corn fields of Northwestern Ohio, Robert Ray Begg grew up dreaming of singing "...the corn is as high as an elephant's eye..." on Broadway, but never made it that far.

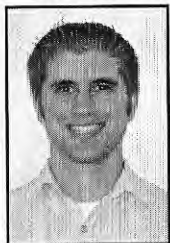
Instead, he sang in high school and college musical productions at Ohio State University and with the Symphonic Choir, Men's Glee club and a music theatre group "The Strollers." Stage roles included Jimmy in *Irene*, Eddie in *Funny Girl*, Bobby Van Huesen in *The Boyfriend* and Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*. After moving to Michigan to finish his schooling, his singing career moved to church choirs, weddings and the occasional Bar Mitzvah. When he relocated to Klamath Falls in 1996, he joined the Klamath Chorale and there joined up with several singers led by Kathleen Adams who sang love songs, show tunes and



Profiles

holiday carols for local dinner houses and local business group luncheons. His favorite role, that of Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* came here at the Linkville Playhouse. After moving to the Rogue Valley, Robert joined the Rogue Valley Chorale, where he also serves as a board member, and recently joined the Southern Oregon Repertory Singers. When not singing, he enjoys being a father to his sons and working as a Human Resources Manager for Asante Health System.

PHIL KOENIG



Phil was born and raised in Southern Oregon and sang throughout school (Wilson Elementary, Hedrick Jr. High, and North Medford High School). He has been with the Rogue Valley

Chorale since the end of 1999 and recently joined the Southern Oregon Repertory Singers. Phil says he is pretty new to all this but is enjoying the role of Doc.

ANDREA BROCK



Andrea Brock is currently the choir director at South Medford High School, where she has been teaching since 1996. Before moving to Medford in 1996, Andrea received her

Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Oregon. She also attended the University of Colorado-Boulder and studied for a summer at the Musique Conservatoire de Lyon in Lyon, France. Andrea has worked with Helmuth Rilling and Anton Armstrong at the

Oregon Bach Festival for 7 years and has performed numerous benefit concerts for the Doernbecker Children's Hospital with her sister, Hilary Hall, as a piano duo team. She has conducted "Crazy For You" with Rogue Music Theater and numerous other musicals at South Medford High School, and recently was musical director for Craterian Theater's production of "Songs for a New World."

Andrea has been the accompanist for the Rogue Valley Chorale for nearly 10 years, and has collaborated with many musicians in the valley. She is married to Andrew Brock, and has three lovely children.

DORIS SJOLUND, a charter member of the Rogue Valley Chorale, has served as its assistant rehearsal accompanist for many years. She has degrees from the University of Northern Iowa and University of Oregon and attended the German Center for Music Education in Ludwigsburg, Germany. She has taught music at all levels from pre-K through college and has served as musical director for musicals in Iowa and Oregon.

Mrs. Sjolund is the founder of the Rogue Valley Children's Chorus, a group she directed for twenty-two years, and was the impetus for founding the other three choruses of the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. She is currently serving as co-organist at the First Methodist Church, Medford, and serves on the Craterian Board of Directors and the steering committee of the Youth Choruses.

Retired from the Medford School District, Mrs. Sjolund now serves as a CASA volunteer, a SMART reader, a volunteer with the Southern Oregon Historical Society and Gold Diggers Guild, and interim editor of the state's choral directors' magazine, *Choral Focus*.



Chorale Members

Soprano

Sylvia Bardes
Donna Barrett
Dee-Marie Broyles
Janet Dolan
Connie Fisher-Crooks
Karen Foster
Beth Gibson
Kathie Gordon
Leslie Hall
Mary Kay Harmon
Merry Harris
Jan Jacobs
Jennifer Jacobs
Terrie Kirkpatrick
Ellie Holt-Murray
Alice Nykreim
Phyllis Skinner
Carol Snider
Gini VanNortwick
Julie Vistaunet
Susan White

Alto

Mary Jo Bergstrom
Sharon Dady

Donna Daniels
Barbara Dellenback
Kristy Denman
Charleen Fike
Laurie Henning
Jana Hogan
Carol Jacobs
Barbara Johnson
Andrea Levingston
Mary Lynn Lucas
Nancy Mason
Bonnie Miller
Lucy Milojevich
Cathy Morrison
Diane Newland
Marjorie Overland
Nancy Purdy
Sylvia Pyeatt
Joan Vieira

Tenor

Andrew Brock
Herb Cole
Ralph Dady
Don Dolan
Terry Faulkner

Peter Funch
Phil Koenig
Bill Matthews
Gary Miller
Eric Overland
Michael Quirk
Rex White

Baritone/Bass

Rod Alfsen
Robert Begg
Phil Cooper
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IN MEMORIAM

The Van Den Berg family gratefully acknowledges gifts to the Rogue Valley Chorale in memory of Darlene Van Den Berg, a member of the Chorale for many years. These gifts are included in the listings above.

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association is deeply indebted to Jeannie Saint Germain, who has graciously donated the use of office space to house the music library.

The Rogue Valley Chorale is organized as an Oregon corporation (non-profit) with tax exempt status as provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. For 34 years the Chorale has been at the heart of the arts scene and has enjoyed the company of tremendously loyal supporters, without whom it could not have reached its current level of excellence. **Contributions are the life blood of arts organizations, and the Chorale is no exception. Financial support is essential to the Chorale's ability to continue to entertain and educate Rogue Valley audiences.**

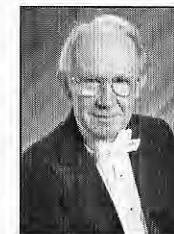


About the Chorale

Founded in 1973, the Chorale has flourished as one of the Rogue Valley's finest musical organizations. With over 100 members on its roster, it performs choral music of all types. Last year the Chorale opened the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater's tenth anniversary celebration with two "standing room only" productions of *100 Years of Broadway*. We're already looking forward to our 2008-2009 Season, celebrating our 35th year of providing excellence in choral music to residents of our Valley.

The Chorale has always enjoyed singing many kinds of music, acknowledging that both our patrons and our singers love variety. Audiences who heard and saw the recent production of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* are still raving about how effective and meaningful it was. The group has also presented the great masterpieces of choral music by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Mozart, Verdi, and others. In addition to five concert tours to Europe, most recently during July of 2006, the Chorale has appeared with the Britt Festival Orchestra and the Rogue Valley Symphony, and as a featured choir in New York's Carnegie Hall.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Lynn Sjolund is well-known as a conductor and choral clinician. He has directed festival groups and adjudicated choruses around the country. His tenure with the Chorale began with its founding and has been continuous, with the exception of three years when he was Director of Choral Studies at Loyola University in New Orleans. He has been a regular conductor for Rogue Opera and has served as president of the Oregon Music Educators Association and the Northwest Music Educators Association.

Locally he worked on the renovation of the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater and he currently serves on a committee for the Oregon Community Foundation. He has conducted the Chorale at New York's Carnegie Hall, and in March, 2002, he received the "Award of Merit for a lifetime of excellence in choral music" from the Northwest American Choral Directors Association. In October, 2002, the Arts Council of Southern Oregon presented Lynn with its "Lifetime Achievement Award."



Rogue Valley Chorale

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