



INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY

ENTERTAINING THE HIGHLANDS SINCE 1925

New Members - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who are Inverness Opera Company?

A. We are an amateur musical theatre group that normally performs one show every year. We are fortunate to have a professional theatre to perform in - Eden Court Theatre, in Inverness. We have been around since 1925 and currently have a membership of around 85 people.

Q. Do I have to sing opera?

A. No! We generally perform musicals, and a list of our previous productions is available on our website: www.invernessopera.co.uk

Q. Do I have to have experience?

A. No! Everyone has to start somewhere, and we always like to encourage new beginners! We will make you feel very welcome, and you are not expected to know everything from the start. We have a wealth of experience among our members - young & old.

Q. Do I have to be able to sing?

A. If you are interested in being involved in the chorus, or would like a part in the show, we do ask that you have a suitable singing voice. We may ask you to sing briefly so that you can be "voice-placed" - i.e. Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass. We are not expecting voices like Pavarotti or Maria Callas, but would like you to be able to sing along in tune to a piece of music, and along with other voices.

Q. Do I have to be able to dance and act?

A. Most productions do involve singing, dancing and acting and if you are expecting to audition for a part, then all of these areas are looked at, as part of your audition. But, again we don't expect Frank Sinatra or Ginger Rogers - our producers, musical directors and choreographers will show you the ropes, and even the basic beginners will pick up the moves.

Q. Can I be involved even if I don't fancy singing, acting or dancing?

A. If you have a genuine interest in musical theatre productions, we have "behind the scenes" roles that can be taken on. These include props, costumes, publicity, backstage crew (scenery etc.)

Q. When are the shows?

A. Our show is normally in March each year at Eden Court Theatre. We are in the theatre from the Monday night of the show week and have rehearsals on the stage on the Monday and Tuesday nights. We then perform the show on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, and on Saturday we both have a matinee and an evening performance.

Q. When are rehearsals?

A. Rehearsals normally begin on a Tuesday evening in August of the year before the show. (From 7.30pm to 10.00pm - prompt). We rehearse every week on a Tuesday until October then we start to rehearse on both a Tuesday and Thursday evening. Sometimes you may not be required on Thursdays until after Christmas, as Thursdays can sometimes be for the principal characters only.

As we get closer to show week, extra rehearsals may be required and these can take place on the 2 Sundays prior to the week of the show.

Q. What happens in rehearsal?

A. This really depends on what you are doing in the show. You need to be able to learn the music, dance moves (if you have them) and lines (if you have them). You do have books to start with, but as you get to learn the music you don't generally use these from around December onwards. You will be directed by the Production staff - Musical Director, Producer, Choreographer and Stage Director. They will keep you right!

Q. Do I have to audition?

A. To join the company for the first time, you may be asked to sing briefly (in private to the musical director) so that you can be voice-placed. If you wish to have a part in the show (known as a principal part) then yes, you will need to audition. There is a casting committee normally of around 4 people and usually, you will sing only in front of them. They will then decide if you get the part - or not.

Q. How much does it cost me?

- Full and performing members currently pay £40 per year (*which can be payable in instalments*)
- Younger members (under 18) pay £20 per year
- If you are not participating in the show, but still would like to be a member, this is also £20 per year.

Q. What else should I know?

A. We are a very friendly and welcoming company, with loads of enthusiasm and a shared passion for musical theatre. We always like to encourage new members who likewise share this interest. In addition to the show, we also socialise regularly and have a few events throughout the year where we get together.

Q. How do I get in touch with you to find out more?

A. You can get in touch in a number of ways. Our website address is www.invernessopera.co.uk
If you would like to email, please contact Fiona Morgan on invernessopera@gmail.com
We are also on Facebook www.facebook.com/invernessopera