



INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY

ENTERTAINING THE HIGHLANDS SINCE 1925

Important Member Information

Our next production

Our next production is "Calamity Jane" and will be performed in Eden Court Theatre. We will be in the theatre from 23rd to 28th March 2015. We have two shows on the 28th March; a matinee performance and an evening performance.

Our rehearsals

Our first rehearsal will be Thursday 4th September 2014 at 7.15pm at Millburn Academy, Inverness. This is an opportunity to meet and greet new and existing faces who are all taking part in the show. You'll also get to meet the Committee, and Production staff. We normally have a brief sing-through, and then some refreshments to socialise!

Following first rehearsal, chorus rehearsals will take place every Thursday until October. We have a 2 week break for the October holidays. After this, all members should make themselves available on all Tuesdays and Thursdays until December. Sometimes you won't be needed at every rehearsal but this will be the decision of the production staff, who will provide rehearsal schedules. After the Christmas break, we rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday up to show week. We also have 2 Sunday rehearsals and these will be 15th and 22nd March (in the afternoons, not evenings). Additional rehearsals may be required, and this is at the discretion of production staff.

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 November onwards. You will be directed by the Production staff - Director (Caroline Nicol) Musical Director (Fiona Stuart), Assistant Director (Lesley MacLean) and Stage Director (George Reynolds). They will keep you right!

It is essential that you can commit as best as you can to attending rehearsals. Of course we understand that there are personal and work commitments that cannot be avoided and we do our very best to accommodate this, however we do have to act in the best interests of the company and the production. If you are unable to make rehearsal, please inform the Director, Caroline Nicol of your absence. Poor attendance may unfortunately result in you being asked to leave the production and we certainly don't want that!

Auditions

Production staff decide on the audition pieces and will advise you of these. You can then fill out an audition form. The auditions will take place on 7th October. An audition schedule will be put together so you have an idea of when you should attend. We have a casting committee which is normally made up of the Director, Musical Director, and two other experienced members or past members of Inverness Opera Company.

Once decisions have been made, you will be informed by email. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have your correct email and contact information and to ensure that our address is added to your contact list to prevent our mails going to your junk or spam folders. Our email is invernessopera@gmail.com

If you are unsuccessful in getting the part you wanted, don't worry - you will have a place on stage! You may wish to be considered for another part or may decide to stay with the chorus. You do not need to audition for a chorus part.

Show Week

The run up to show week is very busy and the atmosphere is fantastic! Everyone's getting excited (and nervous) and looking forward to getting into the theatre to perform in front of an audience! We arrive at Eden Court on Monday 23rd of March and have a technical rehearsal on the stage from 7pm. This is to allow the setup of staging, lighting and sound. A full dress rehearsal (costumes, hair, makeup) is held on Tuesday 24th. Our opening night is Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm!

Dressing rooms are provided for all cast members, and we also arrange short tours for those who have never been backstage before. You will get instructions and detailed information on the arrangements from production and committee closer to the time.

Non performing roles

We also have plenty of opportunities for those who may not wish to be on stage. A lot of work happens behind the scenes, and jobs include props, costumes, publicity and backstage crew. There's always something needing to be done!

Publicity and advertising

We obviously want to sell the show as best we can, so all the stops are pulled out to get lots of tickets sold. We all have a responsibility as members, to get the word out among friends/family/businesses in order to raise awareness of our production. We also carry out a lot of press work and sometimes this may require you to be available for a photo opportunity, or a short "teaser" video, or sometimes pop up for our well-loved flashmobs! The more we do, the more we sell!

Our Social media

As well as the advertising and publicity, we have found that social media (Facebook, Twitter) is extremely helpful and gets a huge amount of interest in the run-up to the show. We have a Facebook public page as well as a private page so if you have an account, find us on www.facebook.com/invernessopera and share the various updates. Our twitter account is @inverness_opera

Please use these sites responsibly, thank you!

Our website

Our website contains as much information we can provide as possible. This includes links to company updates, rehearsal schedules, membership forms, contact details etc. Find us at www.invernessopera.co.uk

Communication

It's hugely important to have excellent communication throughout the year. This can be in many formats, but usually this is at rehearsals, but we also send regular emails and post updates on our website and social media pages. It's important to keep an eye on all of these, especially if there are last minute changes or requests. We endeavour to provide as much essential and helpful information as we can, however if there's something you're not sure about – just ask a member of committee or staff. It's better to ask than assume!

Similarly, we would ask that you remain in contact with us – especially if you're unable to attend rehearsal. There are many ways to get in touch with us: face-to-face, phone, email, web, Facebook and Twitter. So please – stay in touch!

Your personal information

The information you provide on your membership form is stored for our own use only. We never give out your details to anyone else, other than for Company business only. Your information is stored on a database, and used to create mailing and e-mailing lists. We do not misuse people's personal details. If your details change at any point in the year, please be sure to let us know, thank you.

And finally!

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 share this interest. In addition to the show, we also socialise regularly and have a few events throughout the year where we get together! You may have lots of questions, so we hope that this information sheet provides answers – but if there's something we haven't covered, or you need further information please don't hesitate to contact us. Details are as follows:

Email: Fiona Morgan on invernessopera@gmail.com