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October 14, 2024

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John Trexler

The Ardensingers' Fall 2024 Production **Arden Pre-Holiday Madness Spectacular**

MCs: Sean O'Donnell & Celia Maurice
Music Director: Helene Furlong

Nov. 22 & 23, 2024 at 7:30pm
Nov. 24, 2024 at 2pm
at the Arden Gild Hall



A holiday cabaret for the whole family, an Ardensingers Chorus & Orchestra musical event where we can reflect on love's important place in our lives, especially during the holiday season. There is no charge for the performance, although donations are certainly welcome. Hope to see you there!

Chorale selections include solos, ensemble numbers, and chorus numbers:

- Films and musicals (Doctor Doolittle, Ever After, Funny Girl, Pete's Dragon, Rent, and Thoroughly Modern Millie)
- Songs popularized by a wide range of performers, including Louis Armstrong, Andrea Bocelli, Peggy Lee, and others
- Everything from a 15th century French chanson, to G&S, American composer Samuel Barber, and modern pop

Instrumental selections (strings, flute, harp, trumpet, and piano):

- Traditional Scottish tunes
- Irish folk song arrangement by Beethoven
- Opera, Broadway musicals, George Gershwin, and more

[Cast List & Full Listing of Musical Selections](#)

Auditions for the show took place in May; however, we are still welcoming singers to join the chorus. To sign up: Email Sean O'Donnell at lastcatipromise@gmail.com.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AT THE BLUE ROCKS FRIDAY, JULY 29

The Ardensingers sang the “Star Spangled Banner” at the Wilmington Blue Rocks’ baseball game on Thursday evening, August 15.

Many thanks to Helene Furlong (our music director), to Jon Williams (rehearsal accompanist), to Rik Raphael (our trumpet accompanist), and to our singers: Lewis Agosta, Steve Benigni, David and Elise Bjordammen, Jill Coghlin, Dave DeGarmo, Alli Johnson, Julie Leavitt, Sean O’Donnell, John Trexler, Lisette Walker and Steve Zimmerman! It was a lovely night for a game, but the Brooklyn Cyclones came out ahead, 8 to 5.



BEER & WINE BOOTH AT THE ARDEN FAIR



The 116 th Arden Fair was held on Saturday August 31, 2024 from 10am – 6pm. As in previous years the Ardensingers staffed the Beer and Wine Booth. The day was almost perfect weatherwise, and Fair attendance was very good. Our “organized pandemonium” worked out well, and the lines to be served never got very long. The Arden Club made out very well financially this year.

We’re very thankful to our Biermeister, Jim Smith, and to all our Beer and Wine Booth volunteers: Lewis and Tracey Agosta, Meg Averill, Steve Benigni, Laurene Eckbold, Larry Hamermesh, Beverly Hawkins, Jen and Brett Heller, Wil House, Sharon Kelly, Leslie Leach, Julie Leavitt, Cynthia Moore, Sean O’Donnell, Mary Punshon, Rik Raphael, Margaretta Sacco, Lindsey Sherwood, Cindy Tobias, John Trexler, Lisette Walker, Keith Weiss and Steve Zimmerman. The Fair is always the Saturday before Labor Day. If you weren’t able to join us this past year, come out and join us at the 117 th Arden Fair!

The Ardensingers' Spring 2025 Production

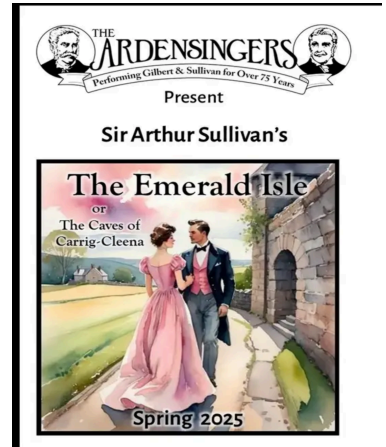
Sullivan's *THE EMERALD ISLE*

May 2, 3, 9 & 10, 2025 at 7:30pm
 May 4 & 11, 2025 at 2pm
 at the Arden Gild Hall

Stage Directors: Sean O'Donnell
 Music Director: Helene Forlong

A comedic romp set in the Irish countryside with redcoats, rebels, star-crossed lovers, charlatans, and the mysterious fairy Cleena! *The Emerald Isle* contains some of Sullivan's most beautiful music as well as gorgeous contributions from Edward German (who completed the score following Sullivan's death), with a libretto by Basil Hood.

Terence O'Brien, an Irish patriot, is in love with Lady Rosie, daughter of Lord Lieutenant, the agent of English oppression. Can the 'Clan-na-Gael' (society of Irish patriots) escape the attention of the Lieutenant, and is there any hope for the love of Terence and Rosie? Maybe...come to the show and find out.



We are thrilled to announce our cast:

The Countess of Newtown	Mary Punshon	Terence O'Brian	Jay Anstee
Lady Rosie Pippin	Genevieve Hahn	Professor Bunn	Ed Neally
Molly O'Grady	Alli Johnson	Pat Murphy	Matt Gerry
Susan	Alison Erwin	Black Dan	Kevin Freel
Nora	TBD	Micki O'Hara	TBD
Kathleen	Sarah Norton	Sergeant Pincher	Doug Kurtze
The Earl of Newtown, K.P.	Steve Zimmerman	Private Perry	Max O'Donnell
Dr. Fiddle D.D.	Lisette Walker		

Many thanks to all who participated in auditions in September! Please email us at ardensingers@gmail.com, and let us know if you'll be joining the chorus.

Rehearsals will be held Tuesday evenings from 7–9:30 PM and Sunday afternoons from 2-4:30 PM, starting Sunday, January 12, 2025.

Hey there Ardensingers!

Feeling crafty? Handy with tools? Like to paint? Got some OCD you want to work out? I've got the job for you. I'm looking for any willing and able volunteers to join me on the following Sunday mornings in October, November, and December. We will be building set pieces for *The Emerald Isle* (This will include some light carpentry, paper macheing, and painting), continuing the cleanout/organization of the loft and backstage areas, and sorting fasteners (we have several buckets of assorted screws from last summer's cleanout that need to be sorted by size and type). I'll happily provide donuts if you let me know you'll be there ahead of time! Please email Sean O'Donnell at lastcastipromise@gmail.com if you are interested.

October 27, November 3 & 10, December 1, 8, & 15 9am-12 noon

ARDENSINGERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Ardensingers annual general meeting was held on Sunday, September 29th, 2024. Current, former and future Ardensingers came together for a cookout and learned about past Ardensingers events, future plans and opportunities to participate in and help out with Ardensingers productions. We also voted on new Ardensingers Executive Board members and welcomed Celia Maurice, Rik Raphael and John Trexler to the Board. We thank Susan Ryan, Rosemarie DeLuca, Peter DeLuca and Steve Benigni for their service on the Board these past three years. The remaining opening on the Board will be filled shortly.



COSTUME COMMITTEE UPDATES

Many thanks to Lynda Gillow, Star Maddox, Alli Johnson, Carina Jennings, John Trexler and Sean O'Donnell for helping out on our Tuesday Sept. 24th Costume Work Day! We're a little better organized now, and the Gold Room looks less clustered. The assistance of our costume workday participants is very much appreciated, but we are also in need to identify "permanent" costume committee participants; i.e., people who can help get cast members fitted up in costumes or who can do costume alterations (or make costumes). If you are interested in joining the costume committee, please email us at ardensingers@gmail.com.



THE ARDENSINGERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024-2025

Lauren Betts
Elise Bjordammen
Jennifer Heller
Carina Jennings
Alli Johnson
Celia Maurice

Sarah Norton
Sean O'Donnell
Rik Raphael
John Trexler
Lisette Walker
TBD

If you are interested in joining the Ardensingers Board in the future, please contact ardensingers@gmail.com.

RUDDIGORE, SPRING 2023, IN PICTURES







Our Newsletters: If there is information that you would like included in a future edition of the newsletter, please contact ardensingers@gmail.com. To be added to our mailing list, complete the online form on our home page (scroll down), or contact us at ardensingers@gmail.com.
