



Program Notes

Many of the newsies are orphaned and homeless, but together they form a powerful bunch. They work for the publisher of *The New York World*, Joseph Pulitzer, and when he increases the cost of the newspapers to the delivery boys in order to outsell his competitors, the boys decide to go on strike. Jack, the leader of the boys, and Katherine, the daughter of Pulitzer, join the newsies in printing their own paper; one that will determine the outcome of the strike. The newsies' paper is sent to Governor Theodore Roosevelt, who arrives in full support of the newsies' cause. Defeated, Pulitzer compromises with Jack once more. He now seems more generous and as a result more boys want to sell papers for him.

Brooklyn's Here shows the support of the newsies in Brooklyn for Jack's protest with the Manhattan newsies. The newsies are gathered and Jack suggests that they accept Pulitzer's offer. As the sun rises, the newsies awake and prepare for another day on the job while they are *Carrying the Banner. The World Will Know* happens after Jack and the newsies discover that the cost of newspapers has been raised sixty cents per hundred. Jack is outraged and organizes a protest. The song *Santa Fe* is performed both at the beginning and the end of Act I. Jack Kelly tells his disabled friend, Crutchie, of his dream to one day leave New York for Santa Fe. When the strike makes the front page of the New York Sun, the newsies are thrilled and they all rejoice at making the headline and imagine what it will be like to be wealthy (*King of New York*). Jack later meets with Katherine who tells him that despite her father, she was always on Jack's side. Together they perform *Something to Believe In. Seize the Day* is the battle cry to rally and properly motivate the newsies for a full-scale strike against the New York World.

Matilda the Musical

The Tony Award-winning *Matilda the Musical* is a stage musical based on the children's novel of the same name by Roald Dahl. It is a story of an extraordinary girl who dreams of a better life. Armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, Matilda dares to take a stand to change her own destiny by overcoming obstacles caused by her family and school, and by helping her teacher to reclaim her life. *Matilda* has won 47 international awards, and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages on Broadway and in London's West End.

Matilda Wormwood lives unhappily with her parents and her brother. The Wormwoods frequently mock and verbally abuse her. Inspired by the stories in her books she decides to add some of her mother's hydrogen peroxide to her father's hair oil, leaving Mr. Wormwood with bright green hair (*Naughty*).

On Matilda's first day of school, her teacher, Miss Honey, is impressed by Matilda's ability and recommends that she be moved to the top of her class. However, the principal, Miss Trunchbull, dismisses Miss Honey's suggestion and tells her to adhere to the rules. Matilda soon learns of Miss Trunchbull's cruel punishments.



Program Notes

At school, Matilda befriends a fellow student named Lavender. Lavender proceeds to tell the audience of her plan to put a newt in Miss Trunchbull's jug of water later in the show. Meanwhile, at a playground, the children sing about what they hope life would be like when they grow up (*When I Grow Up*).

Miss Trunchbull then discovers the newt Lavender put in her jug; she accuses one of the boys, Eric, and begins to punish him. Matilda then scolds Miss Trunchbull. Outraged, Miss Trunchbull begins to yell at Matilda which makes her very angry, explaining to the audience what she has been feeling the entire time (*Quiet*). When Matilda discovers she can move objects with her mind, she successfully tips over the water jug causing the Newt to land on Miss Trunchbull. Terrified, Miss Trunchbull leaves.

Back at school, Miss Trunchbull forces the children to take a spelling test, threatening that anyone who misspells a word will be sent to the closet. When the children begin to spell every word correct, Matilda uses her powers to write on the blackboard and convinces Miss Trunchbull a ghost wrote it. Miss Trunchbull runs from the school, never to return or be heard from again. The children celebrate their freedom (*Revoltin' Children*). Miss Honey becomes the new headmistress of the school, making it a better place for the children to learn.

The Wormwoods tell Matilda that they must move to Spain. Matilda does not want to leave and Miss Honey offers Matilda to stay with her. The musical ends with the cast on scooters as they continue to imagine what it will be like when they grow up (*When I Grow Up - Reprise*).

Hairspray

Welcome to the 60's! *Hairspray* is the hit Broadway musical retelling of the 1988 movie that shares the same name. The show tells the story of teen Tracy Turnblad, her friends and their fight against the social prejudices prevalent in this era.

The story takes place in Baltimore where Tracy wins a contest to be on the *Corny Collins* dance show. During this contest she is exposed to this era's prejudices firsthand. After seeing Tracy, the producer and primary antagonist, Velma Von Tussle, argues against Tracy's appearance on the show because she is overweight. Velma then turns down another girl, Little Inez, because she is African American. Despite the interference from Velma, Tracy makes her way onto the show and becomes an instant celebrity. With her newfound fame she decides to use the opportunity to change the show's policy on segregation, a policy that only allows African American teens to dance on the show once a month.

With support from her friends and family, Tracy and the rest of the cast stage a protest that ultimately gets many of them arrested. With a daring escape and eventual pardon from the Governor, Tracy arrives at the show in time for the awards night just as they crown *Miss Teen Hairspray*. It is during this climactic finale that Tracy is crowned and it is declared that the show will no longer be segregated.



Program Notes

Hairspray has resonated for years with theatergoers, balancing the serious issues of social and racial prejudices in the 60's with an upbeat score that highlights its themes of acceptance and hope for a bright future. You can't stop the beat!

Special Thanks

I am so grateful to the FCCC Auction Committee, and the parents and friends who contributed time, donations and their creativity to help make our biggest fund-raising event of the year a success. Many thanks to everyone who bid generously on our auction items. The help, financial support and dedication from all of you keep FCCC's voices in perfect harmony!

Heidi Vanderwal

2016 AUCTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Additional Thanks:

Robert Grosshart, Photography



For audition and ticket information, call

Fairfield County Children's Choir

P.O. Box 110588 Trumbull, CT 06611 • (203) 414-4292 • SingFCCC.org

Fairfield County Children's Choir
presents
NEWSIES
SIDE STORY
hairspray
Matilda
BRILLIANTLY
Broadway!

Saturday, February 6, 2016
7:00 pm Concert
Silent Auction 5:30 pm
Klein Memorial Auditorium
Bridgeport, CT

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Fairfield County Children's Choir

presents

B A I L L I A N T L Y



Saturday, February 6, 2016 7:00pm

Silent Auction at 5:30pm

Klein Memorial Auditorium - Bridgeport, CT

The Performers

The Choristers of the Fairfield County Children's Choir

Jon Noyes

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER

Lisa Bettke, Kevin Cotellese, Ashley Zdravec

CONDUCTORS

Lisa Bettke & Donna Beatty

PIANO

Donna Beatty & Kevin Cotellese

SYNTHESIZER

Rodger Bryan

BASS

Peter Hohmeister

PERCUSSION



Medley from *West Side Story*

Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Sondheim • Conducted by Jon Noyes

Tonight	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
Something's Coming	Jared Bovine
America	Anika Vanderwal & Lauren Smith Brooklyn Boehme, Dana Calamari, Grace Camera Kirsten Metellus, Anna Morin, Emma Palomba, Clarice Pennock and Allie Siclari
Maria	Jared Bovine
One Hand, One Heart	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
I Feel Pretty	Katherine Waugh and Brooklyn Boehme, Dana Calamari and Emma Palomba
Somewhere	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC

Medley from *Newsies The Musical*

Alan Menken/Jack Feldman • Conducted by Lisa Bettke

Brooklyn's Here	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
Carrying the Banner	Colleen Callahan, Isabella Capponi, Margaret Carroll, Charlotte Coccozza, Samantha Hoffman, Genevieve Horne, Ella Miller and Katie Siclari
The World Will Know	Emmanuel Chinyumba, Alex Killian, G Korth Rockwell, Michael McLaughlin and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
Santa Fe	Emily Hoffman, Sarah Kryspin, Hallie Lavin, Shoshana Markel, Norah Procopio and Kaitlin Reed
King of New York	Patrick Agonito and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
Something to Believe In	Stephen Kelly and Tara Kotulsky
Seize the Day	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC

INTERMISSION

Visit the Auction!



Medley from *Matilda*

Tim Minchin • Conducted by Ashley Zdravec

Naughty	Szilvia Cimino, Piper Gilbert, Adeline Horne, and Alexandra Leite
When I Grow Up	Matt Huang, Samuel Peterson, Sarah Shippee, Chloe Sarno, Kaitlyn O'Brien, Liam Cadavid, Vandy Sampson and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
Quiet	Kennedy Boehme
Revolting Children	Kyle Geriak and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
When I Grow Up/Naughty <i>reprise</i> . . .	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC

Medley from *Hairspray*

Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman • Conducted by Kevin Cotellese

Welcome to the 60's	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
Good Morning Baltimore	Maddie McDermott and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
I Can Hear the Bells	Aleksandra Suvorova
Mama I'm A Big Girl Now	Eliza Elliot, Abigail Varsos and Amanda Lewin
Without Love	Temidayo Garritano, Alexandra Blitzer and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
I Know Where I've Been	Dasha Bazile
You Can't Stop the Beat	The Combined Choirs of the FCCC

Program Notes

Welcome to the Annual Broadway Concert and Silent Auction of the Fairfield County Children's Choir. We are sure you will enjoy the music presented here tonight and we also hope you will find our auction items to be interesting and exciting. Thank you for attending the concert, bidding on the auction items and supporting the programs of the Fairfield County Children's Choir.

Musical theater, one of the most popular forms of entertainment on the stage or screen, evolved from a marriage of operetta and the British, European and American music hall acts of the early days of the 1900's. It came into its golden age on Broadway in the mid-20th century, with composers such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, Leonard Bernstein, Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe creating many memorable masterpieces. These productions are a treasure trove of irresistible songs loved and embraced by the public. In addition, Broadway show tunes are an important part of the cultural heritage of America and tonight we are thrilled to perform selections from *West Side Story*, *Newsies*, *Matilda* and *Hairspray*.



Program Notes

West Side Story

West Side Story is a cornerstone of American musical theater which debuted in 1957! It was inspired by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, with a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and co-written by Bernstein, and conception and choreography by Jerome Robbins.

The story, set in the Upper West Side neighborhood in New York City in the mid-1950s, begins with the bitter tensions between the Jets and the Sharks. The leader of the Jets, Riff swears to drive the Sharks, led by Bernardo, from the streets. Riff determines to challenge Bernardo that night at a dance in the gym and prevails upon his old friend and the co-founder of the Jets, Tony, to help him. Tony has been growing away from the gang and feels the stirrings of other emotions (*Something's Coming*) but agrees.

Bernardo's sister Maria attends the dance and despite the obvious hatred between the gangs meets Tony, who at once falls in love with her (*Maria*). Later while the gangs begin to assemble at Doc's drugstore Tony visits Maria on the fire escape of her apartment and they pledge their love (*Tonight*). Later a playful argument develops between Anita and two homesick Puerto Rican girls over the relative merits of life back home and in Manhattan (*America*).

Next day, Tony visits Maria at the shop and they enact a touching wedding ceremony (*One Hand, One Heart*). Maria makes him promise to stop the fight between his gang and her brother's. As the gangs are about to meet for the fight, Tony hurries in and begs them to stop. Suddenly knives appear and Riff and Bernardo begin to fight. In the ensuing action Riff is knifed and Tony, grabbing his weapon, in turn knifes Bernardo.

In her room, Maria is happily preparing for her meeting with Tony (*I Feel Pretty*). She is unaware of what has happened until Chino bursts into her room and tells her that Tony has killed her brother. Seizing a gun, he rushes out in search of Tony. Tony, however, has climbed the fire escape to Maria's room, and in spite of her grief she is unable to send him away. Clinging together desperately they envision a place where they can be free from prejudice (*Somewhere*).

With a slight variation from Shakespeare's original, the story tragically ends later that evening when Tony finds Maria who has been searching for him. But their moment is brief: Chino appears from behind a building and shoots Tony dead. The stunned gangs appear from the shadows and, drawn together by the tragedy, lift up the body of Tony and carry it off.

Newsies The Musical

Newsies The Musical is a Disney stage musical based on the 1992 musical film *Newsies*, which in turn was inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City. It debuted on Broadway in March, 2012 and ran for 1,005 performances until it closed in August, 2014. Currently, there is a national tour production.