

ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

OC plays 'Night Music' as spring musical

By TONY GOINS

News & Public Opinion Reporter

Send in the clowns.

Otterbein College Theatre and the Otterbein Department of Music will present Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* as its annual spring musical from April 29 to May 8.

The entire show is in three-four time, giving it a smooth, waltz tempo, said director Dennis Romer, the artistic director for Otterbein's Department of Theatre and Dance.

"It's a very elegant, beautiful musical," Romer said.

A Little Night Music is a "strong book musical," Romer said, meaning it relies heavily on dialogue and less on dancing than other musicals.

In 1973, the Broadway production of the show won six Tony awards.

The show is difficult and not done often, said audience services director Brian Falck, but the setting is "gorgeous."

The play is based on the Ingmar Bergman movie *Smiles of Summer*, according to a press release, and deals with, "illusions and disillusion of love as it follows the matchings and mismatches of four couples."

Frederick, a lawyer, and Desiree, an actress, are a pair of long-separated old flames who meet again and seek to untangle their present ties to recapture old love.

Besides Otterbein stu-

dents, the show is helped along by some distinguished professionals, Romer said.

Kevin Purcell, a new member of Otterbein's Department of Music faculty, will conduct music, Romer said. Last year, Purcell was conducting *Cats* on London's West Side.

Purcell brings the performance "up a level," Romer said. "We're very fortunate to have him."

Equity guest actor Linda Dorff will play Madame Armfeldt in the performance, Falck said. Dorff, a local professional actress, has performed with Otterbein students in the past.

Dorff has played leading roles in more than 22 productions with the Contemporary American Theatre Company, and has done numerous videos and voiceovers.

Stella Kane, dance coordinator for the Department of Theatre and Dance, choreographed *A Little Night Music*.

The show also uses a variety of technical innovations, Romer said. Motorized set pieces will move off the stage automatically, and the trees in Act II can be whisked up above the curtain.

The first tech rehearsal, with light cues and mechanical set pieces, was Friday, Romer said.

The show runs Thursday through Sunday and May 6-8. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and other evening performances are at 8 p.m. The



Madame Armfeldt, played by Equity guest artist Linda Dorff (left), her daughter Desiree, played by Allison Sattinger, and their friend Mr. Lindquist, played by Chris Sloan talk about an upcoming weekend in the country during a scene on Otterbein College's production of *A Little Night Music*.

Sunday matinee on May 2 is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for Thursdays and Sundays and

\$14 Fridays and Saturdays, and can be reserved by calling the Otterbein box office at 823-1109.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH
COLUMBUS, OH.
EUN CIRC. 402,193

SEPT-6-98

Musicals take cue from films

389 Lights. No cameras. Action: Movie-inspired musicals will dominate the theater season.

The Broadway Series will present a new stage version of *Footloose* (Feb. 2-7, Ohio Theatre), adapted from the 1984 film about a teen-age boy who moves to a small town where dancing has been outlawed.

The gigantic rising staircase is gone, but Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony-winning score is intact in the scaled-down Broadway Series tour of *Sunset Boulevard* (Dec. 15-20, Palace Theatre), with Petula Clark playing Norma Desmond from the Billy Wilder film.

Toni Tennille will play the female singer pretending to be a gay man pretending to be a woman in *Victor/Victoria* (Jan. 12-17, Palace), author-director Blake Edwards' recent Broadway adaptation of his 1982 film.

Otterbein College Theatre, known for its well-done spring musicals, will offer *A Little Night Music*, (April 29-May 8). Stephen Sondheim's sophisticated operetta is adapted from Ingmar Bergman's 1955 film *Smiles of a Summer Night*, a romantic comedy about

19th-century couples who meet for a weekend in the country.

Contemporary American Theatre Company rarely attempts musicals, but will try again with *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (March 2-April 11, Riffe Center), the long-running off-Broadway revue about the dating and marriage difficulties of men and women.

Gallery Players will celebrate its 50th anniversary and its third season as a semiprofessional troupe with its first musical in five years: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Oct. 24-Nov. 8). The Tony-winning saga is adapted

from Sholom Aleichem's stories about Jewish peasants in czarist Russia. It's a fitting choice because

Gallery staged *Fiddler* to acclaim in 1983 as the first production in the Leo Yassanoff Jewish Community Center's Roth-Resler Theatre.

Two of Broadway's best musical actors will star in *Direct From Broadway* (May 12, Otterbein College's Artist Series). Tony winners Michael Maguire and Debbie Shapiro Gravitte will sing songs by Irving Berlin, Sondheim, Lloyd Webber and others.

—Michael Grossberg



Toni Tennille



Petula Clark

Otterbein to stage Sondheim's 'Night Music'

389 Otterbein College Theatre's annual spring musical, co-sponsored by the Department of Music, brings the sounds of Stephen Sondheim to the stage this year.

"A Little Night Music," one of the most popular and praised Broadway musicals of the early 1970s, will be staged April 29-May 2 and May 6-8. The play received six Tony awards in

1973, including those for book, music and lyrics.

Based on Ingmar Bergman's "Smiles of a Summer Night," the show deals with illusions and disillusion of love as it fol-

lows the matchings and mismatchings of four couples.

Frederick, a lawyer, and Desiree, an actress, long-separated old flames, meet again and seek to untangle their present al-

liances in order to recapture lost love. But Frederick has a child bride of 18, who has declined for nearly a year to consummate the marriage, while Desiree is the "other woman" of

a possessive army officer. An additional complication: Henrik, Frederick's religious son, is being pursued by the maid-servant but is himself preoccupied by a crush on his step-mother.

Guest Equity artist Linda Dorff will play the role of Madame Armfeldt; 20 years ago she appeared in the play with Players Theatre of Columbus in the role of Amy. She was previously seen at Otterbein in "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and last summer's "Steel Magnolias." She is a longtime actor with Contemporary American Theatre Company, where she has played lead roles in 22 productions since its beginning in 1987.

The production will be directed by Dennis Romer, artistic director of Otterbein's Department of Theatre and Dance. He has directed numerous musicals at the college.

Kevin Purcell will serve as music director and Stella Kane is choreographer. Purcell, a new Otterbein faculty member, was music director of last fall's "The Secret Garden." Kane is dance coordinator for the Department of Theatre and Dance and has choreographed a number of Otterbein musicals.

The opening night performance is at 7:30 p.m.; other evening performances begin at 8 p.m. The Sunday matinee on May 2 is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for Thursdays and Sunday and \$14 for Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College box office at 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

OHIO
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THIS WEEK - WESTERVILLE
WORTHINGTON, OH.
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APR-21-99

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SUNBURY NEWS
SUNBURY, OH.
W CIRC. 2,890

APR-22-99

389

Performance slated



Submitted

■ Linda Dorff, rear, watches Allison Sattinger, left, and Chris Sloan in a scene from "A Little Night Music," Otterbein College's spring musical. Otterbein College will present the musical April 29-May 2 and May 6-8. This production is co-sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Dance and the Department of Music. Tickets are \$12 for Thursday and Sunday performances and \$14 for Friday and Saturday. Call the ticket office at 614-823-1109 for more information.

THIS WEEK - REYNOLDSBURG
WORTHINGTON, OH.
W CIRC. 14,237

389

APR-14-99


ON THE TOWN


the Beat


By Jim Fischer


Classical calendar

379
389


 The Columbus Symphony Orchestra string ensemble will perform in the 1999 Justine Hackman Friday Afternoon Concert Series at 4:30 p.m. April 16 at Congregation Tifereth Israel. Call (614) 253-8523.


 The Columbus Chamber Music Society will present the **Takacs Quartet** at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, in the Gloria Dei Worship Center, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, East Main Street and College Avenue. The program includes works by Haydn, Bartok and two pieces by Beethoven. A pre-concert lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18/\$8. Call (614) 267-2267.

 The Ohio State University School of Music will present **Katarzyna Mycka** in a guest marimba recital at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 18, in Hughes Auditorium. Admission is free. Call (614) 292-6571.


 The Columbus Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of

Maestro Alessandro Siciliani, will perform at the Ohio Theatre at 8 p.m. Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24. Guest soloist Gil Shaham, violin, will join the CSO for Sibelius' *Concerto in D Minor, Op. 47*. The program also includes Barber's *Essay No. 2, Op. 17*, and Brahms' *Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98*. Tickets are \$11-\$48, with students/senior discounts available. Call (614) 228-8600.

 Worthington Presbyterian Church will host **Musica! — Vocal Virtuosity** as part of its Celebration on Sound concert series at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25. Based in Dayton, Ohio, the 16-piece group performs a wide variety of classical and popular music. A goodwill offering will be collected. Call (614) 885-5355.

 **Otterbein College Theatre's** annual spring musical, co-sponsored by the Department of Music, will be presented on the Cowan Hall April 29-May 2 and May 6-8. Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music," is based on

Bergman's "Smiles of a Summer Night." The show, which won six Tony Awards in 1973, follows the matchings and mismatchings of four couples. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and other evening performances are at 8 p.m. The Sunday matinee May 2 is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for Thursdays and Sunday and \$14 for Fridays and Saturdays. Call (614) 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

 **Columbus Women's Orchestra**, a part of Women in Music — Columbus, will be in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 1, in Capital University's Mees Hall. "Double Your Pleasure" features two works for two instruments, including a double concerto for oboe and clarinet by June Kirlin with Ailene Munger-MacKay, oboe, and Jane Ellsworth, clarinet, and Poulenc's *Concerto in D minor* for two pianos performed by Vivigian Ripley and Joann Hopper. Also on the program are Elgar's *Morning and Evening* and Haydn's *Symphony No. 99 in E-Flat*. Tickets are \$7. Call (614) 470-0098.

FREE PRESS STANDARD
CARROLLTON, OH.
W CIRC. 7,414

389

MAY-6-99

ON THEcampus

CHRISTI CARTER, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Willis Carter of Mechanicstown, will play the part of Charlotte in the production of "A Little Night Music" to be presented April 29-May 2 and May 6-8 by Otterbein College's Theatre in Westerville.

Carter, a 1996 graduate of Carrollton High School, is a senior at Otterbein where she is majoring in musical theatre. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College box office at (614) 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

JACOB BAXTER, a 1996 graduate of Malvern High School and son of Richard and Sandy Baxter of 61 Oneida Trail, Malvern, is a member of Delta Mu Delta at Ashland University where he is a junior accounting major.

The purpose of Delta Mu Delta is to recognize and reward superior scholastic achievement by business administration students.

JEFFREY PEARCH, son of Dr. and Mrs. Gary B. Pearch of 5223 Cobbler Rd. NE, Carrollton, is the recipient of the A. Bruce Gill

and Mable Woodrow Gill Scholarship fund award.

The award is given by the science division faculty to an outstanding student majoring in biology, chemistry or physics who is pursuing a degree in a medical field.

Pearch, a 1996 graduate of Carrollton High School, is a junior majoring in pre medicine at Muskingum College.

JAIME VAHILA, daughter of Jim and Terry Vahila of 166 Cheyenne Trail, Malvern, is a member of the graduating class at Kent State University and is to receive a bachelor of science degree in nursing cum laude during ceremonies to be held Saturday, May 15.

Miss Vahila is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, an international nursing honor society, and Golden Key National Honor Society at KSU.

She plans to work following graduation in an intensive care or trauma setting at an area hospital and continue her education by receiving a masters degree from KSU to become a nurse practitioner specializing in emergency/intensive care.

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DUBLIN NEWS
COLUMBUS, OH
W CIRC. 17,175

APR-21-99

ARTS BRIEFS

389

Otterbein offers a little Sondheim

Otterbein College Theatre will present Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* April 29 through May 2 and May 6-8 in Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St.

Jennifer Minter of Dublin will portray Petra in the musical.

The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m., and other evening performances are at 8 p.m. A matinee will be offered at 2 p.m. May 2.

Tickets are \$12 for Thursdays and Sunday and \$14 for Fridays and Saturdays.

For reservations call 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

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OLENTANGY VALLEY NEWS
COLUMBUS, OH.
W CIRC. 6,956

APR-21-99

Otterbein offers a little Sondheim

389 Otterbein College Theatre will present Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* April 29 through May 2 and May 6-8 in Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St.

Jonathan Yount, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Yount of Powell, will play the part of Mr. Erlanson.

The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m., and other evening performances are at 8 p.m. A matinee will be offered at 2 p.m. May 2.

Tickets are \$12 for Thursdays and Sunday and \$14 for Fridays and Saturdays.

For reservations call 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

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LOUISVILLE HERALD
LOUISVILLE, OH.
W CIRC. 3,429

APR-29-99

LHS graduate in Otterbein 389 spring musical

Otterbein College Theatre's annual spring musical, co-sponsored by the Department of Music, brings the sounds of Stephen Sondheim to the state this year. "A Little Night Music" will be presented April 29 - May 2 and May 6-8.

The show deals with illusions and disillusion of love as it follows the matchings and mismatches of four couples. Frederick, a lawyer and Desiree, an actress, a pair of long-separated old flames meet again and seek to untangle their present alliances in order to recapture old love.

ELIZABETH HAROLD, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harold of Louisville, will be playing the part of Mrs. Nordstrom in this production. Harold, a 1998 graduate of Louisville High School, is a freshman at Otterbein majoring in musical theatre.

Tickets can be reserved by calling the Otterbein College box office at (614) 823-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

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THE INDEPENDENT
MASSILLON, OH.
PM CIRC. 17,495

MAY-6-99

Crystal Edwards, a 1997 Washington High graduate, is appearing in the Stephen Sondheim musical, "A Little Night Music," this weekend at Otterbein College in Westerville. She is cast as Mrs. Anderssen.

The daughter of Loretta Edwards of Massillon and the late Richard Edwards is a sophomore musical theater major at Otterbein,



Edwards
In musical

where she appeared in "Pinocchio" in the fall. She is a member of Kappa Phi Omega Sorority.