October 4 – 13, 2019
39th Season, 22nd Autumn Production

BRIDGET McDonough
General Manager

RUDY HOGENMILLER
Artistic Director

presents

LERNER AND LOEWE’S GREATEST HITS

Book and Lyrics by
ALAN JAY LERNER

Music by
FREDERICK LOEWE

With
SAMANTHA BEHEN
ALICIA BERNECHE
BILLY DAWSON
MARTIN L. WOODS

Music Director & Conductor
Linda Madonia

Violin
Nina Saito

Bass
Joseph Krzysiak

Drums
Joey Zymonas

Members of Chicago Federation of Musicians, Local 10-208

Production Manager
Jim Davis

Director
Rudy Hogenmiller

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MUSIC THEATER WORKS is a resident professional not-for-profit music theater, founded in 1980 as Light Opera Works. MUSIC THEATER WORKS’ mission is to produce and present musical theater from a variety of world traditions. Such works include American and Continental operettas, classic American musical theater, as well as contemporary fare. Since its inaugural season in 1981, MUSIC THEATER WORKS continues to be a leader in the United States for the presentation of these historically important and theatrically delightful works of art in productions similar in size and scope to their originals, in modern productions with professional artists and full orchestra. Other programs include musical theater workshops for young performers ages 8 to 18 and concert performances throughout the Chicago area, including an annual appearance at the Nichols Concert Hall. MUSIC THEATER WORKS is a member of Arts Alliance Illinois, League of Chicago Theatres, National Alliance for Musical Theatre, the Evanston and Wilmette Chambers of Commerce and Chicago’s North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more about MUSIC THEATER WORKS, including background on LERNER AND LOEWE’S GREATEST HITS and information on repertoire and past productions, visit our website at www.MusicTheaterWorks.com.

LERNER AND LOEWE’S GREATEST HITS is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Please contact your representative to let them know you support State funding for the arts.

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LERNER AND LOEWE’S GREATEST HITS opening reception is sponsored by Found.

The MUSIC THEATER WORKS Paul S. Mavros Building, Administrative Office and Rehearsal Center are located at 516 4th Street, Wilmette, Illinois 60091. The Box Office phone number is (847) 920-5360 and the Box Office fax line is (847) 920-5358.

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Welcome to our 2019 fall concert as we celebrate the songs of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, creators of some of the most endearing of all American musicals.

I am so grateful to have Alicia Berneche and Martin Woods return to the Nichols Concert Hall stage, and happy to welcome Nichols first timers Billy Dawson and Samantha Behen! All four bring their own special talents (and wonderful voices) to this beloved material. And it’s great to be back in the trenches with music director Linda Madonia, who has worked with me putting together so many of these concerts. As always, her contributions have been invaluable.

Since 2012, when our company first started presenting performances at Nichols Concert Hall, I’ve directed and staged all of them, except for one (minor knee surgery). I have enjoyed them all, and I sincerely hope you enjoy this one. Thank you for coming!

Rudy Hogenmiller
Artistic Director

PRODUCTION STAFF

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PART ONE

“Brigadoon”
“Waitin’ for My Dearie”
“I’ll Go Home with Bonnie Jean”
“My Mother’s Wedding Day”
“The Heather on the Hill”
“Come to Me, Bend to Me”
“From This Day On”
“The Love of My Life”
“Almost Like Being in Love”................................................................. from BRIGADOON (1947)

“I’m On My Way”
“I Talk to the Trees”
“They Call the Wind Maria”
“I Still See Elisa”
“Another Autumn”
“How Can I Wait?”
“Wand’rin’ Star”.................................................................................. from PAINT YOUR WAGON (1951)

Fifteen-minute intermission

PART TWO

“Wouldn’t It Be Loverly”
“With a Little Bit of Luck”
“I Could Have Danced All Night”
“On the Street Where You Live”
“I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face”
“Get Me to the Church on Time”.......................................................... from MY FAIR LADY (1956)

“Gigi”
“I Remember It Well”
“The Night They Invented Champagne”
“I’m Glad I’m Not Young Anymore”
“Paris is Paris Again”
“Thank Heaven for Little Girls”............................................................ from GI GI (1958)

“C’est Moi”
“The Simple Joys of Maidenhood”
“How to Handle a Woman”
“The Lusty Month of May”
“If Ever I Would Leave You”
“Before I Gaze at You Again”
“What Do the Simple Folk Do?”
“Camelot” Finale Ultimo........................................................................ from CAMELOT (1960)
BIOGRAPHIES

SAMANTHA BEHEN returns to Music Theater Works where she appeared in HOW TO SUCCEED and THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME. Recent credits include Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park’s YOU NEVER CAN TELL (Gloria), Theatre Three’s LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES (Cécile) and SHE KILLS MONSTERS, Dallas Shakespeare’s QUIXOTE, Metropolis Performing Arts Center’s A CHRISTMAS CAROL, Casa Mañana’s JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT and Lyric Stage’s THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME. This December, she will be the Narrator in Music Theater Works’ JOSEPH. Sam is a graduate of Oklahoma City University and is represented by BMG Talent. Samantha-Behen.com

ALICIA BERNECHE has starred in ten productions with Music Theater Works over the past nineteen years, citing Sarah/Sari in BITTER SWEET, Agnes Gooch in MAME, and Marian in THE MUSIC MAN as her favorites. She has appeared on opera stages around the globe with performances at Lyric Opera of Chicago as Daisy Buchanan in THE GREAT GATSBY, and at the Goodman Theatre, London’s Barbican Centre, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music in the world premiere of Philip Glass’ and Mary Zimmerman’s GALILEO GALILEI. She has originated leading roles in more than 20 world premiere operas and orchestral pieces, and has sung COSÍ FAN TUTTE with Yannick Nezet-Sequin, CARMINA BURANA under Osmo Vänskä and LE NOZZE DI FIGARO with Zubin Mehta.

BILLY DAWSON returns to Music Theatre Works where he was recently seen as Quasimodo in THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME. Other company credits include HOW TO SUCCEED, CANDIDE, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, THE MERRY WIDOW, and DAMN YANKEES. Chicago credits include 110 IN THE SHADE (BoHo Theatre), NEW FACES: 1964 (Porchlight Music Theatre), WOZZECK and TOSCA (Lyric Opera of Chicago). Regional credits include JEKYLL & HYDE, THE LAST FIVE YEARS, CABARET, THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA, THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, and A NEW BRAIN. Billy will soon be in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST at Paramount Theatre in Aurora. Billy is represented by Big Mouth Talent. @dawsonbilly

MARTIN L. WOODS returns to Music Theater Works, having appeared in DUKE ELLINGTON’S GREATEST HITS and GERSHWIN’S GREATEST HITS. Concert work includes the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras across the United States, Europe, and Bermuda. He appeared with Lyric Opera of Chicago in PORGY AND BESS, and was Papageno in THE MAGIC FLUTE and Belcore in THE ELIXIR OF LOVE for Lyric’s Opera in the Neighborhoods program. He has lent background vocals and arrangements to such artists as Michael McDonald, Kim Burrell, Smokie Norful and Heather Headley, and performed studio background vocals for the Paramount film THE FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS with Beyoncé Knowles. He recently completed a young artist residency with Chicago Opera Theater in conjunction with the Chicago
College of Performing Arts’ diploma program. Mr. Woods holds a B.A. in Music from Morehouse College in Atlanta and a M.M. from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

RUDY HOGENMILLER (Director), artistic director of Music Theater Works, has directed or directed and choreographed many productions for the company including THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, HOW TO SUCCEED, INTO THE WOODS, ANYTHING GOES, THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, PETER PAN, DUKE ELLINGTON’S GREATEST HITS, GYPSY and CANDIDE. Hogenmiller was seen on the Music Theater Works stage in 2014 as Mr. Applegate in DAMN YANKEES and as the Emcee in CABARET in 2013. He has directed and choreographed for many other companies, including Northlight Theatre, Chamber Opera Chicago, Pegasus Players, Theatre at the Center and Marriott Theatre. He has been recognized with six Joseph Jefferson Awards and 17 nominations for best direction and choreography in Chicago, and has been a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers for more than 35 years. Rudy will retire from Music Theater Works this New Year’s Eve.

LINDA MADONIA (Music Director and Conductor) returns to Music Theater Works, where she conducted THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU: JULY STYNE’S GREATEST HITS and HOLLYWOOD’S GREATEST SONG HITS. She has served as assistant music director and pianist on many other Music Theater Works productions. As a music director and conductor in the Chicago area for the past 30 years, she has collaborated with many companies, including Chamber Opera Chicago, Porchlight Music Theater (where she also serves as an artistic associate), Mercury Theater, Theatre at the Center, Drury Lane Oakbrook and the Broadway Playhouse, to name a few. For the past fifteen years, she has been the music director for Chicago’s Equity Joseph Jefferson Awards. She is the voice coach for the master’s degree Music Theatre program at Carthage College and owns American Eagle Productions, a touring theater company that has been taking shows and workshops directly into schools for twenty-seven years, currently presenting 150 performances each year.

NINA SAITO (Violin) is the co-concertmaster of Music Theater Works. She is a freelancer in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. Groups with whom she performs include the Milwaukee Ballet orchestra, Midwest Mozart Festival, Chicago Sinfonietta, Illinois Philharmonic, and Elgin Symphony. Nina previously toured throughout the country as a member of the New York City Opera National Company. She has recently played with the Who and was concertmaster for shows with Weird Al Yankovic.

JOSEPH KRZYSIAK (Bass) has performed for more than 80 main and small stage productions at Music Theater Works during the past 25 years. He received his musical education at Southern Illinois University where he earned a bachelor of music degree in performance (double bass) and a master of music degree in music composition. He was a member of the Mississippi Symphony (Jackson) where he served as assistant principal bassist for five seasons in addition to teaching strings in the Jackson public schools. Since 1980 he has been an active freelance musician in the Chicago area, playing in numerous community orchestras and churches. He currently holds the position of assistant principal bass with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and is a member of the Highland Park Strings. In addition to his musical work, Krzysiak works for Thresholds helping people in their recovery from mental illness.
JOEY ZYMONAS (Drums) was behind the kit for previous Music Theater Works fall concerts LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU: JULE STYNE’S GREATEST HITS and HOLLYWOOD’S GREATEST SONG HITS, as well as music directing from the piano for DUKE ELLINGTON’S GREATEST HITS. He played drums for GYPSY and ANYTHING GOES, as well as serving as the guitarist for HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING this past June. He is a house pianist for the 1920s-style Speakeasy at the Maxwell Mansion in Lake Geneva, and most recently music directed YOU MADE ME LOVE YOU: THE MUSIC OF JUDY GARLAND in Illinois and Wisconsin.

JIM DAVIS (Production Manager) joined the staff at Music Theater Works in October of 2018 after spending seven years as Lab Theatre Production Manager at Northwestern University’s Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts and Producing Director for Imagine U Family Theater Series. Recent credits include INTO THE WOODS, HOW TO SUCCEED and THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, WELCOME YULE 2007-2009 (Chicago Symphony Orchestra), seven seasons at Next Theatre Company and more than 100 productions on a freelance basis here in Chicago, New York City, across America in national tours and in his former home of St. Louis.

KYLE A. DOUGAN (Producing Artistic Director Designate) has been working in various capacities with Music Theater Works for close to a decade. He has spent his career producing, casting, directing, fundraising, and teaching. Prior to moving to Chicago, Kyle produced and directed a workshop of new musicals at University of London and stage-managed a series of new musicals with Perfect Pitch: New Musicals at Trafalgar Studios. In the Chicago area he has directed, associate-directed and assistant-directed shows for Chamber Opera Chicago, Theatre at the Center, Big Noise Theater and The Music Theatre Company. He also served as artistic producer of a series of new musicals with Midwest New Musicals, as executive director of FWD Theatre Project and as co-owner of Style Theatrical Casting, a professional casting company in Chicago. He has also served as a member of the Board of the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce and the Membership Committee for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

BRIDGET McDONOUGH (General Manager) has been employed in arts management since graduating from Northwestern University in 1978. In 1980, she co-founded Music Theater Works with Philip Kraus and others. She holds membership in Arts Alliance Illinois, is past president of the Rotary Club of Evanston, and served on the boards of the Evanston Convention and Visitors’ Bureau, Evanston Chamber of Commerce, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre, Around the Coyote, as well as the School of Communication Alumni Board at Northwestern University and the tourism committee of Chicago’s North Shore Convention and Visitors’ Bureau. She is currently on the board of the North Shore International Network, and was treasurer of the Musicians Club of Women. She served as an international judge at the Second Vladimir Kurochkin International Competition of Young Artists of Operetta and Musicals in Yekaterinburg, Russia, and VIBE (Vienna International Ballet Experience) in Missoula, Montana. She was honored by the Evanston Chamber of Commerce with their 2009 Public Service / Nonprofit Person of the Year Award, and was featured in the cover story of the August 2019 issue of Evanston Woman Magazine. Bridget will retire from Music Theater Works this New Year’s Eve.
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