



Harmony Headlines

Harmony Theater Inc.

Volume 12, Issue 1

October, 2016

WELCOME TO HARMONY THEATER, Inc. for 2016-2017

On Saturday, September 10, smiling faces filled the auditorium of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah as directors, participants, volunteers, parents and caregivers greeted each other at the first session of the 2016-2017 season.

Jackie Mullock, the new Advisory Board Chair, welcomed everyone and announced that Messiah is now our full-time home for all rehearsals and performances. She also recognized the current 19 members of the Advisory Board.

Barry Dougherty, Artistic Director since 2001, gave a brief overview of the history of the program, as well as its mission and goals. He introduced his team of directors: Jen Basmajian, Company Manager; Emily Farrell, Choreographer; Ali

Hammarquist, Activities Director; Rob Hammarquist, Information Director; and Erin Monaghan, Volunteer Coordinator.

Jen reviewed the rules and stressed the importance of calling the Harmony cell phone number **215-285-7178** during practices/rehearsals to notify the directors of emergencies, unexpected absences and lateness.

Then Barry made the big announcement that all of the participants were waiting for – the concert and show themes. **This November's concert will be *What Makes Us Different Makes Us Beautiful*.**

The Spring show will be *Pridelands*.

NEW ACTORS JOINING THE HARMONY FAMILY

Barry introduced five new actors at Harmony's first session on September 10. They are: Maria Salamone, Phillip Tapper, Joseph Pallis, Rachel Smith, sister of Jen Smith, and Natalie Jedlinski. There will be more information about the new actors and photos in a future edition of *Harmony Headlines*.

We welcome all new and returning participants to the Harmony family!

Contact info for the Directors: harmonytheater@hotmail.com or on the Facebook page

Absences and emergencies: Call **215-285-7178**

Website: www.harmonytheaterinc.com

Harmony Theater's Performance of *Arabian Nights*, May 2016

Most of us have read or thought about the mystical tales of the Arabian Nights. The allure of a different era, a different culture and the thoughts of what actually happened during those "Arabian Nights" served as a prelude to Harmony Theater's portrayal of "Arabian Nights" in May of 2016.

The story of love unfolded with actors in costumes of the era, showing us and singing to us, unveiling the theme of what transpired during that time. In both acting and song in the performance we were able to see and understand both the atmosphere of the time portrayed in the presentation, and we were also able to feel what the people of that era would have felt. The music, the singing, the lighting, the acting and the costumes had us feeling that we were actually there at that time,

not part of an audience, but the background of people whose experiences we were viewing.

Harmony Theater has once more shown us that the more we expect from the performances of Harmony Theater the more we will get. Harmony, keep these performances coming, and we will keep on coming to enjoy them. If you missed the show, you missed a real treat. However, to get a taste of what you missed, see the photos from the performance in this newsletter. Also, make certain you are there for the next performance in May 2017.

(More photos on pages 8 & 9)



CYNTHIA L. LOUDEN SCHOLARSHIP



On the final day of the May, 2016 performance, Harmony Theater awarded its first Cynthia L. Loudon Scholarship. This scholarship is in honor of Cindy Loudon, our previous Advisory Board president and long time champion of theatre and the arts. She is a former North Penn teacher who directed shows at NP for years for both typical and Special Needs students. Cindy's contributions to Harmony Theater were significant during our time of transition from Gwynedd Mercy College to our own entity. She is now a member-at-large on our Board.

The scholarship is given to ANY Harmony actor based on a lottery. Once a winner is selected, they cannot win again until all members have had a chance. The scholarship is for \$100 deducted from the winner's tuition.

A drawing will be done each year at the spring performance for the following Harmony Theater season. This year's winning participant was Katie Kneeland. Congratulations Katie, and thank you Cindy for your many years of devoted service to Harmony Theater.



HARMONY MARKET PLACE

We launched a new fundraiser, the Harmony Theater Market Place, during our spring musical to raise funds for our Cynthia L. Loudon Scholarship. The Market Place sells original works of art and craft created and fully donated by our performers. It is an opportunity for the HT performers to contribute to Harmony Theater and to help their fellow thespians! The Market Place made \$200 last spring! Our audience members enjoyed seeing and buying the crafts, as well as reading the bios to learn about the artists!

We will have the Market Place table set up during the upcoming fall concert.

Welcome Emily Szal: Harmony Theater's New Music Director



Harmony Theater is pleased to announce the selection of its new Music Director, Emily Szal, who succeeds Harmony's longtime Music Director, Jason Basmajian.

Emily comes to Harmony Theater by way of West Chester University in PA where she received her Bachelor of Music and Music Education in May of 2014. Her major instrument is the violin. She has worked as choir director in the Haverford Middle School, as well as Music Director for the Upper Merion Area Middle School for the production of both *Guys and Dolls* and Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. She has also worked as music director in the Musical Theater Camp in Collegeville, PA. She is a private violin and clarinet instructor as well as a freelance musician.

Emily herself has performance experience with the Philly Pops Festival Choir as well as with the West Chester University Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Marching Band and the University's Cantari Donne choir. She has also directed a children's choir.

With all that experience we can feel very blessed to welcome Emily to our Harmony Theater family. Thanks for joining us Emily. We look forward to working with you.

Harmony Family FUN Fest

Saturday, November 5, 2016

5:00PM - 8:00PM (dinner served 5:00 - 7:00)

Episcopal Church of the Messiah

1001 DeKalb Pike, Lower Gwynedd

Dinner, games, crafts, music, dancing and prizes

Basket Raffles, Six-Pack Stack Raffle, Eagles Ticket Raffle

Tickets: Adults \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door

Children (10 and under) and Harmony actors : \$7 in advance / \$10 at the door



October 2, 2016

This was a fun, easy fundraiser
AND we made over \$500.00!!



WHAT'S NEW OUTSIDE OF HARMONY

Harmony Actress Wins Gold at the Bucks County Special Olympics Bocce Tournament

It was cool and damp on the field on Saturday morning, September 24, 2016 at the Bensalem Bocce Court at the Bensalem Complex. Special Olympic bocce players from all over Bucks County convened to see who would claim a gold medal on that day. One of those players was Harmony actress Kirsten Pfeiffer. Although it was warm later in the day, the competitors did not let that stop them. Kirsten and her partner Eric worked hard to place their ball closest to the pallino several times to score their points and win a gold medal.

Kirsten has been playing bocce for several years now. Her home field is Central Park in Doylestown. Kirsten says that she has her coaches to thank for all the help they have given her and for their love of the game which she now says is hers as well. Coaches are Cindy Walther, Dave Berry and her dad, Ron.



Kristin also participates in Special Olympics Bowling.

Evan Mautz is Best Man

On August 6, Evan Mautz was the Best Man at his twin sister Mal-lory's wedding. The wedding took place in Reading, PA.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE HARMONY ACTORS

SEPTEMBER:

- 5 - Kara Devlin
- 20 - Janet Flores
- 21 - David Trott
- 29 - Leigh Brown

OCTOBER:

- 6 - Katie Bass
- 8 - Kristin Wilson

NOVEMBER:

- 1 - Brianne Peluso
- 3 - Riley Lepard
- 5 - Melissa Beigel
- 27 - Jennifer DeBuys



**** NON-HARMONY EVENTS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN****

FUND RAISER:
Benefits Special Olympics Montgomery County
“SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN PARTY”

Saturday, October 29th from 7:00 - 11:00 pm

Where: North Wales Fire Hall
North Wales Fire Co. - 141 South Main Street, North Wales
(2nd floor - no elevator in bldg - steps involved)

Prizes for best costume
(costumes optional)

Food, DJ, raffle baskets, auction, cash bar

\$20 in advance / \$25 at the door

Cash or check payable to SOMC.
You can give to Susan Ibach or Diane Spencer
Tickets also on Eventbrite with a credit card.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/pa--north-wales/special-olympics/>

This is a family event for anyone over 21.
Participants must come with a responsible adult.
There will be many people at this event and alcohol is
on the premises.

Questions - call Diane Spencer 215-661-0968

Arabian Nights



