

Burton and District Operatic Society

“The Musical Theatre Company”

Presents

CHESS

The Musical

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus

An amateur performance by arrangement with Samuel French

De Ferrers High School

Monday 25th October - Saturday 31st October

Back over the years

- 1952 The Gondoliers, The Mikado.
- 1953 Patience.
- 1954 H.M.S. Pinafore.
- 1955 Pirates of Penzance.
- 1956 Iolanthe.
- 1957 The Yeomen of the Guard.
- 1958 Princess Ida.
- 1959 The Vagabond King.
- 1960 Merrie England.
- 1961 The Gondoliers.
- 1962 The Rebel Maid.
- 1963 The Song of Norway.
- 1964 Pirates of Penzance.
- 1965 The Merry Widow.
- 1966 The Yeomen of the Guard.
- 1967 White Horse Inn.
- 1968 The Mikado.
- 1969 The New Moon.
- 1970 Orpheus in the Underworld.
- 1971 The Gipsy Baron.
- 1972 Princess Ida.
- 1973 Pink Champagne.
- 1974 The Land of Smiles.
- 1975 Iolanthe, La Belle Helene.
- 1976 Patience, Summer Song.
- 1977 The Merry Widow.
- 1978 Oklahoma.
- 1979 Kismet!
- 1980 H.M.S. Pinafore, Carousel.
- 1981 Ruddigore, Vagabond King.
- 1982 The Sorcerer, My Fair Lady.
- 1983 The Music Man.
- 1984 Trial by Jury & A Music Revue, Fiddler on the Roof.
- 1985 Utopia Ltd., South Pacific.
- 1986 A Celebration, White Horse Inn.
- 1987 The Mikado, The Pajama Game.
- 1988 The Pirates of Penzance, Calamity Jane.
- 1989 Iolanthe, Half a Sixpence.
- 1990 H.M.S. Pinafore, Oklahoma!
- 1991 The Gondoliers, Brigadoon.
- 1992 Showstoppers, The Yeomen of the Guard.
- 1993 Red Hot & Cole, Show Boat.
- 1994 Ruddigore, Carousel.
- 1995 Charlie Girl, The Merry Widow.
- 1996 And So To Bed, Guys and Dolls
- 1997 Mikado
- 1997 Cabaret
- 1998 Viva Mexico
- 1998 Me and My Girl
- 1999 Pirates of Penzance

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome once again to the Dove Campus at De Ferrers.

Continuing the Society's aim to give you, our audience, a wide range of shows, (some old but familiar, some more up to date) we present "Chess - The Musical".

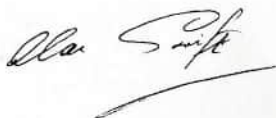
It is different! Its a rock opera where a known subject has been given an unusual presentation, the game itself being the vehicle for yet another East/West confrontation.

Rehearsals have certainly been different with the company having to get its head (and its tonsils) around music unlike anything which we have encountered before.

It is a show with a minimum of scenery, and it may appear to have given our stage crew an easy time. I would however, like to draw your attention to the biggest chess board I have ever seen, which is the result of some clever design work by the said stage crew.

Thanks are due to school staff for the way they have, as usual, helped with our timetable for this show. It didn't make life any easier for them being in the throes of a dreaded Ofsted inspection two weeks beforehand!

Thanks are also due to our Producer and Musical Director for driving us so hard in rehearsals. We hope that the company does justice to their efforts.



Alan Swift
Chairman

Burton and District Operatic Society
"The Musical Theatre Company"
Proudly Presents

CHESS

The Musical

Music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Based on an idea by Tim Rice

Samuel French - London

Directed by: Nigel Taylor

Musical Director: David Blackwell

Stage Director: J. P. Harrison

Scenic Design: Cheryl Sherratt

Lighting Design: Mike Thompson

Sound Design operated by: Andrew James

Costumes by: Carousel Costumes

Commencing Monday 25th October to Saturday 30th October 1999
Nightly at 7.30pm, Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm.

At the Dove Campus, De Ferrers High School,
Harehedge Lane, Horninglow, Burton upon Trent.



The Society is affiliated to the Burton Arts Council and the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

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• CHESS - THE STORY •

The Prologue

CHESS opens with an orchestral and vocal prologue during which the seven Principals outline the origins and development of the game itself. While this prologue is not directly related to the events of the musical, it serves to explain how Chess, the game, evolved from a political event and that life and chess are the same, being dependent on the moves and strategies we employ.

Act One

Merano, a small spa town in northern Italy, is playing host to the World Chess Championship and the local community awaits the arrival of the American Champion, Freddie Trumper and his American delegation, among whom is Florence Vassy his chess second and also his lover. At a Press Conference immediately following his arrival, Freddie reveals himself as abusive and temperamental, and expresses a dislike of the Soviet Union and his opponent, which is irrational and borders on an obsession.

Watching a live broadcast of this Press Conference is his opponent, Anatoly Sergievsky, and his second, Alexander Molokov. Their views of the American differ, and it becomes obvious that Anatoly is far from the type of Russian the communist state would have him be. It also begins to emerge that what is at stake is political credibility of nations and not chess. Alone, Anatoly reflects upon his dreams and ambitions, and we realise that although he is driven by the same ambition to win as Freddie, he is temperamentally his opposite.

Formal preparations for the game commence, and the politics surrounding the game become more apparent. During these preparations, the Merchandisers enter the scene, demonstrating that chess is not the exclusive domain of the politicians, but equally subject to commercial pressures.

Finally the game commences only to end in chaos as Freddie walks out. Anxious for the game to recommence, Florence and Molokov arrange a secret meeting between the two champions.

Florence informs Freddie of the proposed meeting, but he is hostile and they quarrel. Freddie accuses Florence of being fooled by the Russians. Florence suggests that this is not the right time or place to air his obsessive aggression toward the Russians. He defends his position, reminding her (as he frequently does), that it was the Russians during the 1956 uprising in Budapest, who had imprisoned her father or maybe even killed him forcing her into exile as a young child. Left alone, Florence reflects on their relationship and how she feels her love diminishing.

Florence meets Anatoly and they fall in love. Freddie arrives and announces that he has made a deal with Walter DeCourcey, the American TV executive, who will pay higher fees for both himself and Anatoly and therefore the game can recommence. Freddie accuses Florence of collaboration with the Russians, and of changing sides.

The game recommences: Freddie, aware that he is losing both the game and Florence, accuses her of engineering his defeat. She walks out, just as everyone in Freddie's life has done. Freddie quits the game. Anatoly is declared the new World Champion and immediately defects to the West, joining Florence. Asked by the Press about his defection, Anatoly makes clear that he defects from communism but he still remains Russian.

Act Two

A year later, Bangkok plays host to the World Championship between Anatoly and the new Russian champion, Vigand. Freddie, the former world champion, has abandoned his chess career and has been engaged by Walter to cover the game for American television.

Anatoly expresses to Florence his anxiety at Freddie's presence. Whilst this situation places pressure on their relationship, they state their determination that their love will survive.

The Russians determined to succeed in their struggle for world chess supremacy, initiate a scheme to subject Anatoly to immense emotional strain in the hope that it will affect his play and facilitate a win for their man, Vigand. Their first move is to bring Anatoly's wife, Svetlana, from Russia to Bangkok. Their second move is to offer Walter the return of various Americans, held by the Soviets, as well as Florence's father. In return, Walter is to arrange for Florence to persuade Anatoly to lose the championship. Just in case this should fail, Walter joins in the plan to destroy Anatoly emotionally and instructs Freddie to conduct an extremely hostile TV interview. Freddie, anxious to win Florence back, is happy to agree. The efforts of the politicians behind the scenes reach a climax in an overt statement of aims. However when Anatoly refuses to lose, there is a stalemate. Florence and Svetlana realise that Anatoly remains resolutely independent.

Freddie, unable to win Florence back, makes an unexpected move. Ultimately his regard for Chess rises above politics and love, and, at a secret meeting, he explains to Anatoly the strategy he needs to adopt to defeat Vigand and retain his title. In the chess arena, Anatoly explains to Florence that he has to win to be free. However Florence faces the reality that Anatoly has never been free of his past, and that he has never been hers. In knowing him, she has come to realise that the gap between them is too wide and he needs more than she can give. He must go back to Russia.

As Florence watches the departure of Anatoly, she learns that her father is probably not even alive: the promise of a man's freedom was just a ploy to secure cooperation. Politicians, playing games using peoples lives for nothing!

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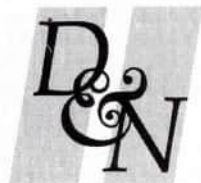
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CHESS

The Musical



Nigel Taylor

Director



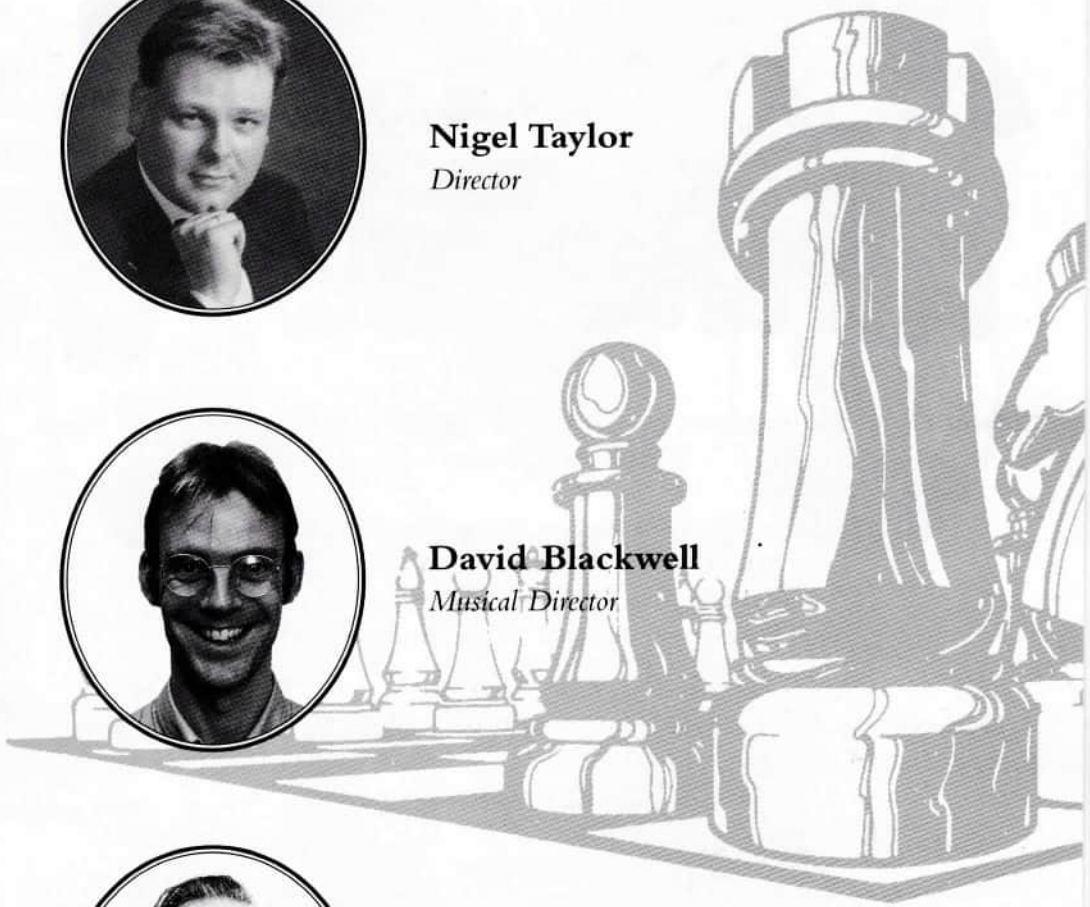
David Blackwell

Musical Director



Vic Benson

Accompanist



• CAST •



*Citizens Of Merano, Reporters, Delegates, Civil Servants and various other roles played
by The Company*

Madeline Ashdown, Lucy Bickley, Helen Blackham, Sandie Brown,
Beth Clarke, Mary Collingwood, Louise Evanson, Stella Hambleton,
Ann Holmes, Lisa Holmes, Sue May, Laura Smith,
Sarah Stephenson, Melanie Stevenson, Angela Wynne.

Laurie Charles, Ken Clifton, John Collingwood, Richard Dean, James Ellington,
Robert Hughes, Mike Mear, Tony Mulcahy, Gary Prince, Mervyn Shore, Kevin Storr,
Alan Swift, Robert Walker

Booth Singers

Andrea Franke, Rebecca Mallinson, Sally McInnes, Anne Peace, Sally Prince,
Sonia Storr.

*The action takes place in and around the arenas of the World Chess Championships in
Merano, Italy, and one year later, in Bangkok, Thailand.*

Time-The Cold War Era of the early 1980s.



Andrew Last
Anatoly Sergievskaya



Karen Heather
Florence Vassy



Chris Banks
Frederick Triumper



Mark Jones
Alexander Molokov



Steve Foster
Arbiter



Mike Storr
Walter De Courcy



Samantha Hartwright
Svetlana Sergievskaya

Holly Foster - Mariya Sergievskaya

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Keyboards:	Derek Hunter Steve Levitt Vic Benson	Bass:	Jeff Widdowson
Trumpet:	Kevin Due Martin Cresswell	Trombone:	Stephen Eley John Smith
Flute:	Jo Conquest	Percussion:	Bryan Clarke
Horn:	Marianne Keithley	Drums:	David Shipley
Clarinet & Saxophone:	Diane Grebby	Clarinet:	Nick Stacy
		Guitar:	Nick Sharp

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New Opera Company. Telephone: (01332) 255800
- 13th November 1999 *American Festival, Bernstein and Gershwin* at Derby Cathedral
Derby Choral Unit. Telephone: (01332) 344842
- 16-20th November 1999 *Will Rogers Follies* at Derby Playhouse
The Good Companions. Telephone: (01332) 767803
- 27th November 1999 *Quatuor Parisii, Debussy, Fauré and Ravel* at Ecclesbourne School, Duffield
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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prologue: The Story of Chess

Act One

Scene 1	A station in Merano, Italy	Merano
Scene 2	Frederick & Florence's suite	Commie Newspapers Press Conference
Scene 3	Molokov's suite	Anatoly & Molokov Where I Want To Be
Scene 4	The Arbiter's Chambers	Diplomats The Arbiter Hymn The Merchandisers
Scene 5	The arena	Chess - The First Game The Arbiter (reprise) A Model of Decorum Florence & Molokov
Scene 6	A television studio & control room	1956-Budapest is Rising Nobody's Side
Scene 7	The Merano Mountain Inn	Mountain Duet
Scene 8	The Arena	Chess-The Match Continues
Scene 9	Frederick & Florence's suite	Florence Quits Pity the Child
Scene 10	A consulate in Merano	Embassy Lament Heaven Help My Heart
Scene 11	A station in Merano, Italy	Anatoly & The Press Anthem



During the 20 minute interval - why don't you try a glass of wine, fruit juice, mineral water or a cup of coffee and perhaps be tempted at our Chocolate Bar!



Act Two

Scene 1	The Streets of Bangkok	Golden Bangkok One Night in Bangkok
Scene 2	Anatoly & Florence's suite	One More Opponent You and I
Scene 3	Molokov's suite	The Soviet Machine
Scene 4	A television studio	Interview
Scene 5	The foyer of the Oriental Hotel	The Deal I Know Him So Well
Scene 6	A Buddhist Temple	Talking Chess
Scene 7	The arena	Endgame
Scene 8	The arena/airport	You and I (reprise) Walter & Florence

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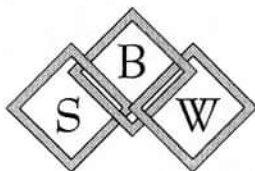
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F.B. Booth & Co, Solicitors • Burton Chess Club • The Brewhouse Arts Centre
and to anyone else who helped to make "Chess" a success - Thank you.

We extend our sincere thanks to you, our audience, for your continued support of our productions. The audience is respectfully requested not to smoke in the building, and not to use flash photography in the auditorium during the performance.

ALL MOBILE PHONES MUST BE SWITCHED OFF.

The Society cannot accept responsibility for any articles left in the cloak room.

The Society would like to thank all Patrons for their continued support.