



The Burton Musical Theatre Company

Membership

Booklet

(Revised November 2019)

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1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

The BMTC – The Burton Musical Theatre Company or, Burton Operatic Society, as previously known, is the oldest Musical Society in the area and has been established for over 60 years.

We are a group of like-minded people who want to sing, dance, act, build scenery, help with front of house or costumes and all of whom have a great commitment to musical theatre.

Over the years many of our members have gone on to perform with professional companies or have stayed with us, from a very young age and are now, not only performing on stage, but Directing, Producing and Choreographing.

Rehearsals are great fun, if sometimes a little fraught, and, as a hobby, I am not sure it can be bettered.

Having joined the Society over 25 years ago, when I moved to the area, and having been Chairman for the last six years, I can guarantee that as a member you will become part of a wonderful group of people who will become great friends. Our commitment to, and enjoyment of, what we do is obvious the moment you set foot in our rehearsal headquarters.

It is a fine line to try and decide what shows we put on stage and is dependent on being able to cast a particular show and the cost of the production including school hire, royalties, orchestra, set costs, costumes etc. which can be anything between £18,000 and £22,000 per production. It is also trying to decide what we, as a Company would like to perform and what our audience would like to see. Show choice is a challenging subject and we are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

As with all societies we are always looking for new members and any Committee member is happy to chat with you about any concerns you may have or information you may need.

2. THE COMMITTEE

What does the Committee do?

The Company is run by a Committee which is elected at our AGM. The Committee is a voluntary body who give their time freely. Please approach them with any issues, questions or advice. If you wish to help in the running of the Company you may stand for election at the AGM. Further details can be requested from the Chair.

Who are the Committee members?

Chair – Angela Wynne

Vice Chair– Karen Hambleton

Secretary – Annette Smith

Treasurer – Andy Hambleton

Stage Manager – Derval Lester

Front of House Manager – Anthony Dews

IT/Media Manager – Mark Hargreaves

Minute Secretary – Lee Smith

General Committee – James Ellington, Jonny Salt, Sarah Morgan, Sam Walker, Oly Wright and Lauren Brown

The Committee is also responsible for the safe storage of your personal data. In order to operate effectively and fulfil its legal obligations, Burton Musical Theatre Company needs to collect, maintain and use certain personal information and will not share your data with any third party. All such personal information, whether held on computer, paper or other media, will be obtained, handled, processed, transported and stored lawfully and correctly, in accordance with the safeguards contained under GDPR (2018)

DCO (Data Manager) – Karen Hambleton

Deputy DCO – Lee Smith

3. PERFORMANCE DATES AND VENUES

When does the Company perform?

The BMTC performs two shows a year, during the Staffordshire February and October half term and often a concert during the summer months.

Where?



The Company performs at the Dove Campus of de Ferrers Academy, Harehedge Lane, Horninglow in Burton upon Trent.

4. PERFORMING MEMBERSHIP

Do I have to audition to become a member?

We are a company performing musical theatre, which therefore involves singing, acting and movement/dance. Therefore you are expected to be able to do all three to a degree of competency.

Applications to become a member can be made via the committee or member and the application form is available via the website.

In most cases, the applicant will be required to carry out a closed audition in front of the Membership Panel and if successful shall be offered membership. The audition will include performing a song (accompanied by our rehearsal pianist) and learning a short piece of movement.

Once a member you will have access to our members Facebook page so that you can keep up to date with BMTC announcements and the rehearsal schedule. You also need to visit our website and register your membership online. You will receive a registration confirmation email. YOU MUST THEN go back onto the website and complete your personal information. There are 2 check boxes, one for photographs and one for Gift Aid. Please make sure that you tick these.

Invited Guests

There may be occasions when an individual is invited to perform, this is on a show by show basis and does not confer automatic membership.

When does the Company rehearse?

The Company rehearses at our headquarters in Ferry Street, Stapenhill. Main company rehearsals take place on a Wednesday from 7.30 pm until 10pm. Principals rehearse on a Monday evening, also 7.30 until 10 pm. Occasionally full company may be called for a Monday rehearsal and there are usually two or three Sunday rehearsals nearer to show week to put everything together. These are usually 2-5 pm. If you are unable to attend then it is good practice to inform the Director prior to the day. A rehearsal availability list is often completed to support the smooth running of rehearsals. A timely arrival to rehearsal is appreciated to utilise fully the rehearsal time.

Commitment requirements

When embarking on either a show or concert it is expected that you can commit to the majority of rehearsals and all performances. It is also an expectation that you make every effort to support the crew by helping to transfer the set from Ferry St to de Ferrers Academy on the Friday early evening before show week. In addition, that you help take down the set on the Sunday morning after show week from 9am. The more people that help the better!

Can I audition for a principal role?

As an acting member you are encouraged to audition for principal roles if you so desire. Auditions are usually held at Ferry Street a week or two before rehearsals begin. It is the responsibility of the Director and Musical Director to ensure acting members have full details of the audition requirements. However, if you have not been involved in the previous show please ensure that you contact the secretary to find out when auditions are.

What should I expect at a principal audition?

Auditions are 'open' which means you will perform in front of all other acting members who are auditioning. The audition usually comprises of part or full musical numbers and libretto. Occasionally a dance audition may be required. The auditioning panel usually consists of the Musical Director, Director and/or producer, choreographer (if required) and a member of the Committee as an observer. Auditions are excellent experience and good fun...even if everyone is a little nervous!

Costumes

Certain costumes will be provided to you for a show, however, we also do what we can to source costumes ourselves, so you may be asked to find a number of items. Charity shops are always good for this! We do advise that all members purchase an appropriate pair of stage shoes and make up. Our Wardrobe Mistress takes the relevant measurements and works hard to ensure costumes are well fitting by the time they make it on to the stage! If you are not sure, please ask a current member.

5. STAGE CREW MEMBERSHIP

I am not an actor but I have other skills!

The Stage Crew are a hardworking and dedicated section of the Company and without them, there would be no show! They meet and build at Ferry Street during Tuesday evening from 7.15 pm. They are also fully involved in the set-up, before, during and after the show. Support and help from friends and family members of acting members is also appreciated.

6. FRONT OF HOUSE MEMBERSHIP

My time is more limited but I still want to support the Company....

The Company has always prided ourselves on the way we look after our audience. We have a very supportive team of volunteers who manage our front of house activities the weekend before show week and during the show. They sell tickets, programmes, refreshments and, most importantly, make it a thoroughly enjoyable experience for our audience. Our Front of House Team is always looking for new members and further details are available via our Front of House Manager.

7. STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

I am under 18, can I become a member?

If you are 16 or over you may join the Company as a student member. If you are under 16 you may be invited to take part on a show by show basis. There are certain shows that require specific children and on these occasions, a separate children's audition. The committee is responsible for the safeguarding and safety of its members. The Company has a child protection policy and Health and Safety Policy which is made available to all members via the website. Chaperones are used to ensure the well being of minors during show week.

8. THE TECHNICAL TEAM

Who else is involved in putting on a show?

There is a highly skilled team working tirelessly behind the scenes. Included in this extensive list are the lighting crew, sound technician, props team and wardrobe mistress and team. Some shows also require a choreographer who may be a member of the Company or an outsider invited to choreograph. If you are interested in knowing more about any section of this Team please contact the Chair.

We are a Musical Theatre Company...what about the music?

The BMTC is privileged to have a highly skilled Musical Director and musicians. The Musical Director is responsible for teaching and rehearsing all the musical numbers for both company and principals with the support of our very able accompanist. During show week the vocal performance is boosted greatly by the orchestra, a group of both semi-professional and professional musicians. The standard is very high!

9. TICKET PURCHASE

How do I purchase tickets?

We aim to sell out each show!! We have an advertising team who promote the show within local newspapers, community magazines, facebook and the local radio as well as at the Brewhouse Arts Centre and in other Company programmes. Members play a vital role in selling tickets. An electronic email is generated to pass around friends, family and colleagues and early promotion is strongly encouraged. Facebook and other social websites are also a great way to promote each show. There is nothing better than performing to a full audience! Tickets are available at Wednesday rehearsals, by email, website or phone.

10. SHOW WEEK

So, I have made it to show week....now what?!

Show week is the reason we all do this hobby....so now it is time to enjoy the fruits of your labour!

The stage and technical team, plus front of house members are the first in, spending most of Saturday constructing the set, organising the auditorium and ensuring technical requirements are underway. Cast and orchestra generally start on the Sunday (usually 2 pm to around 10 pm). During this time there will be a band call and technical rehearsal. This is a long but exciting day! We do try to break for tea where family members are invited to join you with their sandwiches, MacDonald's etc! We usually aim to start the dress rehearsal anytime between 7 pm and 7.30 pm. We then have our dress rehearsal on the Monday night. Come Tuesday, we are up and running! The show starts at 7.30 pm and 2.30 pm (Saturday matinee).

Our performances can only be staged with the help of everyone in the Company and you will be expected to help with loading scenery or setting up the school just for an hour or two on the Friday prior to the show and the Sunday morning after the show.

de Ferrers Academy website also has a useful community area with a direct link to the BMTC website. First Aiders and Fire Evacuation Co-ordinator are always available throughout for the safety of its members and the audience.

Are there any do's and don'ts?

- You are expected to be at school and signed in on the Health and Safety register by 7 pm or 2 pm on the matinee

- Costumes may be left in the changing rooms overnight
- You may bring soft drinks and snacks in to the changing room to keep yourself lubricated and energized!
- All cast are required to wear make-up. There are some items available in the male changing room but ladies you may prefer to provide your own
- Please be aware of all back stage movement and noise
- Please join the Company for an after show drink (The Plough, Horninglow Road North), Chinese, curry night and after show party!!
- de Ferrers is a strictly 'no smoking' campus which must be adhered to.
- The process of rehearsing and performing a show is a very sociable past time. Behaviour in and out of rehearsals must be, at all times, appropriate, including the use of Social Media. Please refer to our Child Protection Policy.

11. CONCERT DETAILS

I enjoy a good old sing song!

The Company often produces an annual concert which is usually performed late June/early July, running for a potential 3 nights. The concert is a great money spinner and is well received by its audiences. Rehearsals are on a Wednesday and some Mondays (mainly for soloists, duets, ensemble work) and comprise of learning the music and lyrics and setting simple movement or stage craft. The concerts may require simple costumes, much of which cast members will be required to provide themselves. There is usually limited set and props, however lighting and microphones are used to enhance the performance.

12. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

This is my hobby, therefore what will it cost?

Adult Membership	£26 per annum (1 November – 31 October)
Adult show fee	£52 per show

Student show fee (no membership cost)	£25 per show
Non acting membership	£26 per annum
Front of House contribution	£5 per annum
Under 16s	Free
Adult concert fee	£25
Student concert fee	£15

Membership fees are due to be paid at the beginning of the period. It is the treasurer's preference that show/concert/membership fees are paid by monthly standing order. For any other information please speak to the Treasurer. Letters outlining fees are issued by the Treasurer during show week.

Account name: Burton Musical Theatre Company

Sort code: 30-91-47

Account number: 02684594

Please put your name as reference.

If you no longer wish to be part of the Company notification is required and needs to be given directly to the Membership Secretary or committee member by the 31st October. Failure to do so results in automatic renewal of your membership for the following year and therefore a membership fee will need to be paid.

13. FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION ENTRIES

Is there any other way of showcasing talent or gaining valuable experience?

Any member of the Company wishing to enter any musical or theatrical festival, competition or other similar event under the Company's name should approach the Committee with their proposal. The Committee will consider each proposal and grant approval to any entry deemed appropriate

to carry the name of BMTC. Individuals, under their own name, may equally wish to enter such events and we wish them every success!

14. SOCIAL EVENTS

Is the Company a social group?

Yes!! We very much enjoy each other's company and there is great camaraderie and fun to be had by all! On rehearsal nights, performing members regularly pop along to the local pub for an 'after-rehearsal relax'. During show week, 'The Plough' benefits from all the Company members' custom. In addition to that, during show week you may wish to take part in Chinese night, curry night and the after show 'party' (once the curtain is down!)

The Company also enjoys other events which are arranged by our Social Secretary.

15. FUND RAISING

The company runs a 'Bonus Ball' on a weekly basis for just £1. This is a helpful way of making a little extra for the company while being a potential winner! Please contact Louise Evanson if you wish to join in.

16. USEFUL CONTACTS

www.burtonmusicaltheatre.co.uk

www.facebook.com/TheBMTC

Twitter: @TheBurtonMTC

Chair	Angela Wynne
Email:	acwynne1959@aol.com
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Vice Chair	Karen Hambleton
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Tel:	07866 777753

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Stage Director
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Members' Secretary
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