



Another opening,
another splendid show

Description

Journey to Broadway a fitting tribute to Lyric Theatre Singers' 28th year

By **Byron Toben**

Included in the printed program for the **Lyric Theatre Singers annual Broadway show** at Concordia's DB Clarke auditorium this past three days is a photo of five members who have been with it from its very beginning in 1990.

They are **Bob Bachelor**, founding member and musical and stage director, **Louise Dorais**, President, and singers **Helene Charbonneau**, **Marlene Schwartz** and **Gloria Aronoff**.



This year's show, as usual, had **Cathy Burns** as co stage director. Both she and Mr Bachelor also enlisted **Jonathan Patterson**

as guest choreographer on three bravura routines.

Chris Barillaro, co musical director, conducted the onstage orchestra of five.



Anastasia Tsai

The dedicated 38 singer/dancers were comprised of 12 sopranos, 8 tenors, 11 altos, 3 baritones and 4 bass.

Act One led off with Cole Porter's appropriate 1948 *Op'nin', Another Show* from *Kiss Me Kate*. Later, Porter's 1934 hit, *You're The Top* was also included.

In between, 7 other fine selections were featured until the rousing ending, with selections from Stephen Sondheim's 1970 *Company*, the exuberant choreography on which reached Busby Berkeley proportions.

Act Two opened with the apt *It's A Grand Night For Singing* from the Rodgers and Hammerstein 1933 classic.

A special treat was the nine-song medley from 1997's *Titanic*, complete with special visual effects.



Danielle Hoyt

French content was added with *Comme un homme* from 1987's *Les Misérables*.

Those trapped in *Cell Block Tango* from Kander and Ebb's 1975 *Chicago* might have used *A Handful of Keys* from Fats Waller's 1978 *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

Most members of the chorus had a chance to highlight their individual talents in various scenarios. Some were further featured with solo bits. They were **Bethany Mount, Anastasia Tsai, Danielle Hoyt, Ben Corkett, Ian Burke, Will Fech** and **Laurie-Anne Jean-Baptiste**.

After a rousing finale, what a pleasure to see, as an encore, a hit song from Jim Jacob's 1971 *Grease* (in the creation of which I was indirectly involved in a very minor way).

The orchestra, by the way, was comprised of **Parker Bert**, drums and percussion; **Paul Carter**, woodwinds; **Mike De Masi**, bass; **Benjamin Kwong**, piano; and **Chad Linsley** on synth and keyboard.



Journey to Broadway ended on June 16.

The **Lyric Theatre Singers** return for their annual **Candlelight Christmas** at Loyola Chapel in December.

For tickets, info or past CDs/DVDs, visit lyrictheatrecompany.com

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Feature image: singer Will Fech

All images: courtesy Lyric Theatre Singers

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Byron Toben is the immediate past-president of the Montreal Press Club.

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