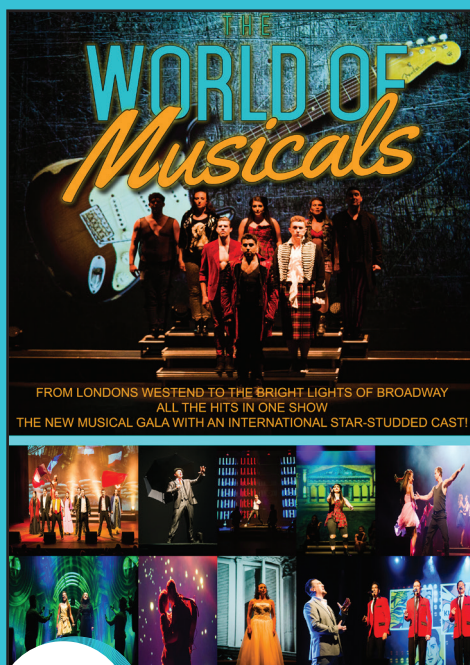


Appalachian State University's Office of Arts and Cultural Programs  
presents

# APPlause!

K-12 Performing Arts Series

Friday, April 5, 2019  
THE WORLD OF MUSICALS



FROM LONDON'S WESTEND TO THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF BROADWAY  
ALL THE HITS IN ONE SHOW  
THE NEW MUSICAL GALA WITH AN INTERNATIONAL STAR-STUDED CAST



As an integral part of the Performing Arts Series, APPlause! matinees offer a variety of performances at venues across the Appalachian State University campus that feature university-based artists as well as local, regional and world-renowned professional artists. These affordable performances offer access to a wide variety of art disciplines for K-12 students. The series also offers the opportunity for students from the Reich College of Education to view a field trip in action without having to leave campus. Among the 2017-2018 series performers, you will find those who will also be featured in the Performing Arts Series along with professional artists chosen specifically for our student audience as well as performances by campus groups.

## Before the performance...

**Familiarize your students with what it means to be a great audience member by introducing these theatre etiquette basics:**

- Arrive early enough to find your seats and settle in before the show begins (20-30 minutes).
- Remember to turn your electronic devices OFF so they do not disturb the performers or other audience members.
- Remember to sit appropriately and to stay quiet so that the audience members around you can enjoy the show too.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS SCHEDULED TO LAST APPROX 60 MINUTES**

- Audience members arriving by car should plan to park in the Rivers Street Parking Deck. There is a small charge for parking.
- Buses should plan to park along Rivers Street – Please indicate to the Parking and Traffic Officer when you plan to move your bus (i.e. right after the show, or after lunch) so that they can help keep everyone safe.
- Adults meeting a school group at the show will be asked to sign in at the lobby and wait to be escorted to their group by a security guard.

## About The World of Musicals

The World of Musicals brings the very best of musical theatre to life. This captivating production is an emotional journey through the great world of musicals that will leave young audiences spell-bound and singing along with their favorite show tunes from the movies and musicals they love.

With beautiful and emotional ballads from *Evita*, *Les Miserables* and *Phantom of the Opera* along with great up-beat favourites from *Dirty Dancing*, *Rock of Ages* and *Mamma Mia*, there is something in this show for everyone. Highlights from the newest musicals such as *Sister Act II* will also be featured along with the classics from the Golden Age of American Musical Theatre by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Gilbert and Sullivan, George Gershwin and Stephen Sondheim.



## Musical Theater

Ah, the theater. Even in the world of cinematic blockbusters and on-demand television, the theater has maintained a tight hold on American cultural imagination. Actually, theater is still popular around the world, but when we talk about this concept in the United States, we're almost always referring to musical theater. Musical theater is a form of dramatic production combining acting, singing, and dancing to tell a story. We tend to call these productions musicals, or sometimes Broadway musicals based on their preeminent venue. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll cheer, you'll sing; it's an artistic experience unlike any other.

## Defining the Musical

Before we get into the history of musical theater, we need to define this concept a little more clearly. In Western theatrical traditions, there are three main kinds of dramatic performance involving music. Ballets communicate their story almost entirely through dance, with little to no dialogue. Few people confuse musicals and ballets. Where this gets trickier is with operas. Operas are dramatic productions in which the dialogue is nearly entirely sung by the performers. In an opera, even simple lines like "hello" and "hurry up" are sung as parts of the symphonic score. In musicals, the actors will often sing, but most of the mundane dialogue and much of the plot is spoken and acted. That's one of the defining differences between musicals and operas.

## History of the Musical

Now that we're clearly established that musicals and operas are different, let's look back at the origins of the musical: the opera. Yes, I know it's confusing. In the 18th century, operas were one of the most important forms of theater in Europe, but there were many kinds. We're familiar with the serious and complex operas of the educated and wealthy, but there were also comical operas of both high-brow and low-brow varieties.



## History of the Musical (continued)

These operettas were very popular amongst many social classes, were much less serious, and told simpler stories often through popular songs. One of the most notable examples is *The Beggar's Opera*, a 1728 satire about thieves and prostitutes told through both popular bar songs and famous operatic melodies.

This popular, comedic opera grew in Europe, but to see it turn into musical theater we have to travel across the Atlantic to the United States. Americans, who did not strictly adhere to European concepts of class privilege, favored forms of entertainment that were more accessible to all. These took off in the 19th century in the form of minstrel shows. These basic theatrical productions generally included a small cast of satirical characters, defined by larger-than-life personalities and stereotypes. These productions generally occurred in three acts. The first included the entire company (cast) on stage where they told stories through songs. The second act, called the olio, was more like a variety show featuring dances, songs, and comedy routines. The third act was a short play that generally poked fun at various members of society in what we would now find often racist and prejudicial ways.

Throughout the 19th century, minstrel shows grew in size and popularity but were also refined into other art forms, such as vaudeville and burlesque theater. Each of these included a combination of acting, singing, and dancing. They were performed by traveling theater troupes, who organized into established tour routes and companies by the 1880s. The more popular these became, the more American theater was refined.



## Why Should You Consider Doing a Musical Revue with your students?

by Ginger Morris

Texas Arts Project Camp Director

Freelance Director/Choreographer/Educator/Manager

A revue is a type of multi-act theatrical entertainment that uses any combination of music, dance and sketches. When I create a revue, it is typically songs and dances from musicals strung together by a theme.

Are you struggling to produce a big musical every year or is there pressure to start doing musicals at your school? Here are a few reasons to consider producing a musical revue.

### 1. Role Distribution

In a musical, you have to cast people based not only on talent, but on “fitting a role.” You have to have the right people placed in the right places and often you sacrifice the talents of certain students for the personality or physicality of another. When you do a revue, you can cast as many people as can fit on your stage and it doesn’t matter if they fit a role. You can create a show around the students you have and you can showcase their individual talents.

### 2. Cost Effective

You don’t need a set or intense costumes. You can ask the students to wear something that ties them all together and looks uniform in nature but you don’t need to go through the trouble of renting, begging, borrowing or making costumes. As far as a set goes, you don’t need any scenery. If you want to get fancy, you can use a slideshow or just a backdrop, but if you have a cyclorama, just throw up a new color for each number and you are good to go!



### 3. Great training for future musicals (chorus and principals)

In a musical, often the same kids get the leads each year and the same kids stay in the chorus. There are probably some diamonds in the rough hanging out in the chorus who just need a little encouragement and need a little moment to shine before they are ready for a big role. So many times, I've given a short solo or duet to someone in a revue (who was not ready to play a leading role), and after having that experience, were ready to play a lead the following year. Also, you are training your chorus to be a better chorus and training your musical leads to be better chorus members. The more song and dance numbers you put in your show, the better your students will be in future musicals.

### 4. Team building

Unlike a full musical, there are no leads in a revue. It is up to you to distribute the solos however you like, so you may allow for more equal distribution and your students can feel like they are contributing to the final product as a team and not as leads and a chorus. If you already do a musical each year, this is a great way to get everyone on the same footing and working as a team before you work on the musical and things feel more divided.

5. Simple Scheduling You can divide the students in so many ways based on dance ability, or vocal ability or age and you can schedule rehearsals in a way that is simple, only rehearsing one number at a time. You can wait until the week of the show to put all the separate groups together.

### 6. Introduce various styles and eras

When you choose a musical, you are choosing one style to introduce the students to. If you do Oklahoma!, you are learning the music of Rogers and Hammerstein and the dance style of classic American theatre. In a musical revue, you can do songs from a variety of shows. You can introduce songs from musicals that you couldn't actually do at your school. You can do songs from Cole Porter's Anything Goes and songs from In The Heights all in the same hour-long revue.

I have been organizing and directing musical revues for the last 15 years. It is a wonderful way to introduce a variety of songs and dances to a large group of kids in a fun ensemble style environment. Check back in a few weeks and I will give examples of revues I have produced with some pointers on producing your own.



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## K-12 Performing Arts Series

The performances are part of the APPlause! Series, presented by Appalachian State University's Office of Arts and Cultural Programs. Featuring local, regional and world-renowned professional artists, the mission of the program is to share university arts resources with the public, private and home school network across our region. Study guide materials connect every performance to the classroom curriculum. With the help of the university's College Access Partnership, school groups can enjoy lunch in an on-campus dining facility, take a campus tour, or observe a demonstration by an Appalachian State professor.

For more information, contact:

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