

THE CIVIC
Senior Class
READER'S THEATRE
BIGGER. **BOLDER.**

AUDITIONS



Oct. 13 – Oct. 15

THE CIVIC AUDITORIUM • MUSICAL REVUE
SENIOR CLASS READER'S THEATRE

It was an age of conflict. It was an age of love. Join us for a trip back in time as our seniors celebrate the 1960's in a new original music revue. This decade was a tumultuous time for our country. Women, African Americans, Native Americans and other marginalized communities continued their fight for equality, and many Americans joined the protest against the ongoing war in Vietnam. During this decade of extremes, Americans were wearing GoGo Boots and hot pants, discovering Andy Warhol and Pop Art, traveling to Woodstock, and gathering around the TV on Saturday night to watch 'Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In' and 'I Spy.' And the music! "I Heard it Through the Grapevine," "Mr. Tambourine Man," and "Walk on By" played from stereo systems around the world. This tune filled musical revue is sure to take you back to that time in your life and maybe even introduce a new generation to the Age of Aquarius!

To register or for more information visit

KazooCivic.com

or email **Volunteer@KazooCivic.com**

or call the Director of Volunteers at

269-343-2280 x1013

**ADVANCE
REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED**

AUDITION DATES

TUESDAY, August 22nd at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY, August 23rd at 7:00pm

LOCATION

The Civic Auditorium - The Green Room - 329 S Park St.

(Those auditioning are encouraged to arrive thirty minutes prior to audition time.)

CASTING

Seeking a highly diverse cast of 20 actors ages 50+.

REQUIREMENTS

Those auditioning will be asked to prepare 16 bars of a popular song from the 60's. Please bring sheet music, an accompanist will be provided. Audition song examples include songs from groups like the Beatles, Peter Paul and Mary, The Beach Boys, the Mamas and the Papas, the Monkees, or early Motown. Your audition selection does not need to be memorized. If you are unable to prepare an audition song, selections will be available and taught at auditions.

CREW

Production Crew positions are available for Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Light Board Operator, Sound Board Operator.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals will be held Monday through Friday from 5:30pm – 7:00pm beginning

September 11th – October 12th

PERFORMANCES

October 13th at 7:30pm

October 14th at 7:30pm

October 15th at 2:00pm

October 25th at 7:15pm

AUDITION PREP

FREE Inside the Civic Audition Workshops

Saturday, August 12th, 2017

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

DIRECTOR

Hal Hobson-Morse

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our Senior Class Reader's Theatre program was established eleven years ago as a way of providing more performance opportunities for our veteran actors. Needless to say, this reader's theatre program has proven to be very popular with volunteers and patrons alike. It is designed to meet the needs of actors 50 and older. All productions are "reader's theatre" in nature, lines and lyrics are learned but not memorized.

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WE ASKED THE DIRECTOR

HAL HOBSON-MORSE

Director of

Sounds of the 60's

BIOGRAPHY



HAL HOBSON-MORSE
Director

A graduate of the WMU Theatre department, Hal has performed with the Civic for over 20 years. He has appeared in such shows as *Rags*, *Mame*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Ragtime*, *the Musical*, *Nun-crackers*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *My Fair Lady* and *Sylvia*.

He created and directed five of our Senior Reader's Theatre musicals: *Red, White and Blue*, *Vintage Vegas*, *Songs of the Silver Screen*, *Grand Ole Music* and *Great American*

Songbook. Hal performs at the New Vic Theatre, Farmers Alley Theatre, and has served as music director for the last three productions at Hackett Catholic Prep School.

He works as a Music Specialist at the Montessori School of Kalamazoo, introducing music to elementary and pre-school children. He also directs a Kalamazoo-based adult pop vocal ensemble, *Blendings*, and composes and coordinates music for All Ears Theatre, Kalamazoo's own vintage radio theatre company.

1. The 'Sounds of the 60's' is presented as part of our Senior Class Reader's Theatre program. What is unique about this program and why is it important?

"The Senior Class Reader's Theatre is designed to make performing in the theatre more accessible to actors over 50. This is accomplished in several ways: the rehearsals are earlier in the evening (5:30pm-7:00pm) and it is a shorter rehearsal period than usual. The songs we perform are learned and staged, but do not need to be memorized. Although the staging involves movement and creating stage pictures with the actors, dance choreography is kept to a minimum and within the abilities of the cast members.

In past productions, some of our cast members have been seasoned veterans who have appeared in many plays before and have acted throughout their lives. Others used to do theatre but got away from it for one reason or another, and this is an avenue to jump back onto "the boards" again! Still others have never stepped on stage before, and have finally mustered their courage to try something new. It is a learning process for all involved, and a supportive, positive community to expand your skills, experiment with choices, and make new friends in a safe environment."

2. What is your concept for 'Sounds of the 60's'?

"There is so much great music from that era, that the challenge here is to narrow the choices! The overall feel of the production will be that of a party or celebration, with lots of color, sound and action.

Although there will be lots of tie-dye shirts, bell bottoms, head bands, and peace signs, we want to go beyond just the look and styles, and portray the feelings and emotions of the period. I want the show to be an honest remembrance of our country's response to the Vietnam War and the building tensions of race relations.

The show will begin with some teeny-bopper hits, coming out of the naive 1950's, (Leslie Gore, Beach Boys, Four Seasons) and move through the early Motown influence (Chiffons, Marvin Gaye, Four Tops) into the British Invasion (Beatles, Monkees, Kingsmen) and then the songs of peace (Peter, Paul and Mary; Bob Dylan, 5th Dimension).

These are all familiar songs to anyone over 50. Our goal is to present them in a way that is meaningful and striking, experiencing the lyrics and melodies of these gems in new and deeper ways."

3. How is this era of music exciting and suitable for our Senior Class Reader's Theatre program?

"We have been hoping for a revue of 1960's songs for many years now. This is really the music of our generation. We were there to sing it when it first came out and it strikes a special chord in our hearts. Its music that makes you want to dance when you hear it and it brings back so many great memories. Also, many of the songs of this era have beautiful vocal harmonies, which make them very accessible for ensemble singing. The solos provide great opportunities for acting through the songs – discovering the character of the singer/songwriter and putting across the meaning of the lyrics in clear, expressive ways. The subjects of the songs are passionate, whether joy, heartbreak or challenge."

4. What is the cast size for the production?

"We are looking for a cast of 20 singers, men and women. Songs will be learned and staged but do not need to be memorized. As part of this program, we are ready and willing to make accommodations for persons with disabilities or movement limitations."

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5. What are you looking for at auditions?

"Please prepare 16 bars of a song from the 1960's. We will be looking at 4 categories of songs: Early 60's (coming out of 50's rock and roll), early Motown influence, the British invasion/Mersey sound, and war protest songs. Some groups include: Peter, Paul and Mary; the Beatles, Beach Boys, Jackson 5, Four Seasons, Aretha Franklin, Mamas and Papas, The Temptations, The Monkees, 5th Dimension, and Simon and Garfunkel.

In your audition, the music does not need to be memorized. You may use your sheet music, as you would in performance. But we will be looking for singers who have prepared; learned the words, know the song well, and know how to put across the text and emotions involved. Show us how you can bring the listeners into your song, and make them feel what it's about.

Also, if you happen to play folk guitar, feel free to bring that along."

6. What music inspires you the most from the 1960's and why?

"The 60's were such a turbulent time and a significant turning point for America. We moved from blindly trusting the government and those in authority, to the realization that leadership needs to be questioned and held accountable. Race relations came into conflict, sexual expression exploded, and gender inequality was challenged. The music represents this hodge-podge, with a blend of quiet, polite songs, and angry shouts for change. Although the USA made some great progress through that decade, all of those battles are still being fought today. There's not one song that doesn't still resonate with today's headlines. Bob Dylan: "Blowin in the Wind". Pete Seeger: "Where Have All the Flowers Gone". Marvin Gaye: "Dancing in the Streets". Beatles: "Hey Jude"."

7. What are some of the potential crew opportunities available in this production?

"The production offers a chance for volunteers to learn how to run a light board and one person to run sound board. For those looking for an even greater challenge, the production will also need a Stage Manager and an Assistant Stage Manager to help run rehearsals, create props tracking lists and take down blocking."

8. What will volunteers learn from participating in 'Sounds of the 60's'?

"This program is designed to accommodate both experienced actors and newcomers to the stage. It is a chance to be directed as an actor and vocally coached in your songs by experienced professionals and to put your work on stage in performance. You will receive training and practice in vocal production and harmonization. All cast members will sing several group numbers and then there will be ensemble pieces like duets, trios, and numbers for just the men and just the women. Some actors will be assigned solos. You will learn about staging a number, balancing the stage and making interesting pictures as a cast. We will learn more about the background of these songs from research and from one another's personal life experiences. As we explore the creative process together, a community of friends is formed."