



BLOCNotes

March 2016

Editor: Dennis Elslander

The BLOCNotes Archive is also on-line, see

<http://www.bloc-brussels.com>

BLOC cannot accept responsibility for non-receipt of BLOCNotes by e-mail due to technical problems

A word from our Chairman, Diana Morton-Hooper

Dear Blocnotes Reader,

Post The Wizard of Oz (WoZ). Wow! What a show. Colourful, imaginative, a show to warm your heart and put a smile on your face. Thank you to Bridget&Viv and their cast of many colours and talents. But in particular thank you to all those who helped to put the show on - the costume makers, props sourcers/makers/operators, make-up artists, hairstyle creators, lighting plotters and operators, the sound man up in the gods and the blokes backstage who fitted screens so that the orchestra & cast could see the show live from offstage, fitted the mikes to ensure you were all amplified. Thank you to the Get In and Out teams & stage crew who worked so hard particularly getting it all back to where it came from, driving all over Brussels and beyond in estate cars and hire vans the day after the show ended. If we missed anybody out at the party and someone missed out on their souvenir mug, please do get in touch with Meera or me. We asked the team leaders to ensure that thanks went to all those who should be thanked.....but there's always somebody who works his/her socks off and misses the present. Thanks is heartfelt to all of you.



The hard work for WoZ was rewarded by a vicious bug - so many caught it and were laid low for days after the production but most of the coughing and spluttering is now subsiding. Poor Dorothy's fractured arm is mending too. There are a few BLOC people battling poor health right now too and our thoughts are with them as they tread the long hard path to recovery - Marianne, Avril to name but two.

The BLOCBusters auditions went OK - a lot of people have felt they need a break after the delayed WoZ and some were surprised we carried on with a May show so there are some missing faces. But it just means a fuller BLOC programme for 2016. There were a lot of opportunities for new soloists, for cameo roles. The three new directors chose from our 'Yes' List so again, thanks Annina & team for all that work last year. It's paid off. Emanuelle is taking over where Annina left off, to keep the lists 'alive'.

Sadly for me, there was virtually no interest in a snippet from Yeomen so the May show will be in three parts. That has given the committee some decision-making on what we should do in November: what is going to bring in audiences in a big theatre and bring interest to auditions. For this reason we plan to make a final decision on the November show on 7th April 2016. So further on in these BLOCNotes you can read about our request for potential directors to make a pitch for the November & May shows by that date.

We have also been working on the BLOC statutes which will be circulated to paid up members so that they can be discussed and approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at De Bosuil. More info further on in these Blocnotes too.

Can we nearly be at Easter? OK, it's early this year but still.....time flies. Looking forward to seeing many of you at Cabaret, Urinetown or Into the Woods rehearsals. We are starting to build the production team now so let me know if you can help by emailing me at blocbusters2016@gmail.com.

Wishing all the best to our friends (many BLOC friends are included) in Peter Pan which arrives in Woluwe later this month.

In the meantime, see you at De Kam!

**DEADLINE NEXT BLOCNotes:
5th April 2016**

BLOC DIARY			Updated 09-03-2016
Dates	Time	Event	Location
07-04-2016	20:00	Committee Meeting: Presentation show offers & Decision on next BLOC shows	De Kam
13-04-2016	20:00	Extraordinary General Meeting	De Bosuil,
26/29-05-2016	20:00 & 14:30	BLOCBusters Performances	De Bosuil
June-2016	TBC	Auditions Autumn show 2016	De Kam
11-09-2016	12:30	BLOC BBQ	De Kam
24/27-11-2016	20:00 & 14:30	Autumn show 2016	Auderghem

BLOC Committee Meeting Main points from Thursday 4th February 2016

- **Statutes review:** date EGM fixed on Wednesday 13-04-2016 at 20:00 in De Bosuil (De Kam not free). Secretary to send out invitations to the members.
- **The Wizard of Oz:** performances were great artistic success and well attended; Financial result not known yet as not all invoices have been received by the treasurer;
- **BLOCBusters:** the auditions were held immediately after Wizard. In general there was a lower number of auditionees than expected, particularly for Yeomen; It was thus decided to drop the Yeomen extract. More men are needed; Thomas Landsbert-Noon made first version of poster;
- Artistic Committee to look at **next shows for BLOC:** call to members for suggestions published below.
- **Annual BBQ:** Sunday 11-09-2016 at 12:30 in De Kam: more details to follow.

Make your pitch for a BLOC show Do you have an idea for a show?

The dates of performance are 24 – 27 November 2016 and the venue is the Auderghem Cultural Centre (seats @660 seats).

The spring 2017 show will be end-May 2017 at De Bosuil (seats @250 seats)

BLOC is looking for shows which accommodate a range of ages and nationalities, with good chorus opportunities. The November show invariably has a large cast and should be suitable for family pre-Christmas entertainment, with auditions held in June. The May show can be more edgy, innovative or just more suitable for a smaller audience, with auditions in January.

Before making a pitch, you must have a team in place (stage director, stage manager, producer, musical director and rehearsal pianist) and know that the rights (if any) are available. Teams on stage and off are volunteers (BLOC only pays its musical director & rehearsal accompanist plus some orchestra players).

So far there is one offer for November and one for May but we want to have choices! Anybody interested should get in touch with Emanuelle Vergier (elvergier@gmail.com) and be ready to make their pitch to the Committee on 7th April.

BLOC-Busters

A springtime extravaganza of musical theatre

Featuring excerpts from

CABARET

Directed by
Dennis Elssander



Into the Woods

Directed by
Marie Rousseaux



URINETOWN



Directed by
Emanuelle Vergier

Music Director
Steven De Mesmaeker

26th-29th May 2016

De Bosuil Cultural Centre

Witherendreef 1, 3090 Overijse

Book your tickets at

www.bloc-brussels.com



Thank you BLOC for the wonderful show

Love from Oska

Oska, the guide dog in training

During the dress rehearsal BLOC had a very special visitor: Oska. He has been made very welcome in restaurants, shops, the cinema and theatres

He amazed me recently when he attended the dress rehearsal of **BLOC's musical "The Wizard of Oz"** at the Centre Culturel d'Auderghem. He was very calm throughout the show, interested by the kites moving over his head, yet not at all disturbed by the different and loud sounds of the orchestra nor the singers in fancy and colourful costumes laughing, shouting, humming, singing and dancing in the aisle just a metre away from him. He continued to sleep soundly when the singing and screaming Wicked Witch sat down right next to me!

It was a very positive experience for him – and for me as I saw the performance through his eyes and heard it through his ears.

Susan Schiporst, Oska's puppy walker and BLOC supporter

BachWerk

Sunday 13 March 2016, 18:30
Chapelle de la Résurrection, Brussels

Laudate Dominum Dona nobis pacem

Vasks Bach Mozart

BachWerk choir & quartet
Conducted by Steven de Mesmaeker

Bach's Motet: Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden
Dona nobis pacem, Vasks
Mozart's Flute Quartet in C Major
Folk songs of Europe

Tickets €15 adults / €7 children
www.bachwerk.be

Starring BLOC members: Emanuelle Vergier, Alice Pappas, Alice Dielens, Wim Lefebure, Matthieu Overtus, Martin O'Brien, Jenny Neilz, Gilda Amorosi.

NIGHT at the MUSICALS

TOB # 10
OPAC SOIRÉE COMÉDIE MUSICALE

12 MARS 2016 @ 20H
SALLE DELVAUX (BAT F1) - ULB
SOLBOSCH
AVENUE P. HÉGER
1050 IXELLES

GRATUIT



In her new programme **Jazz- and soul vocalist Sofie** combines well known songs of, amongst others, Ella Fitzgerald and Burt Bacharach. She has a warm hearted programme with songs like *Lullaby of Birdland*, *Walk on by*, *Say a little prayer*, *I never fall in love again ...* Producer and music director Hervé Martens gave these songs a contemporary arrangement which Sofie performs with her charisma and her unique voice. She includes at the same time up-tempo songs and intimate ballads.

The supporting act is performed by the **Mixolydian Jazz Ensemble**

(guitar, tenor sax, bass and percussion). This is a Belgian-British music group from Brussels, specialised in bebop, latin and mainstream jazz. One of the musicians is well known to BLOC: Tobias Falk.

Organised by **De Kam and the KamKlub**

Friday 22-04-2016 at 20:00 in De Kam

Tickets: at the door: € 16.00, pre-sale: € 14.00, subscription: € 12.00



Green Parrot Productions
proudly presents

PETER PAN

THE MUSICAL

MERS CHATER ROBINSON ADAPTED
FROM THE PLAY BY J. M. BARRIE

W:Hall
Avenue Charles Thielemans 93, 1150
Woluwe-Saint-Pierre

17-20 March 2016

Directed and Choreographed by
Kathy Lemerie and Jenny Clarkson

Music Director: David Miller
Producer: Mary Helgeson

www.greenparrot.eu

This Amateur Production of Peter Pan is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

 de kam
een vooruitgangsorientering voor de culturele sector

NEWSLETTER: UITGEKAMD

De Kam has a monthly newsletter: Uitgekamd. So far it was published in Dutch only but it now also available in English, French and German. If you're interested in receiving newsletter electronically, you have to register via de kam's website. Here is the link:
<http://dekam.be/en/newsletter>

A Midsummer Night's Dream
2016 Opera Summer School
for actors, singers, instrumentalists, dancers and
those interested in technical support

Spend a week rehearsing a musical version of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, either as an actor, singer, instrumentalist, dancer or technician. The highlight of the course will be a final performance at Jack Windmill, in front of an audience. This is a unique and original concert length production incorporating the RSC's 30 minute edit and music specifically composed for the course by Marisa Cornford. Participants can choose which areas they would like to be involved in and they can be in more than one!

Actors: Casting for the roles will be made during the first few days. Could you be a Puck, Titania, Oberon, Hermia, Lysander, a member of the mechanicals etc? Work with the Drama Tutor: Tony Lewis for a week of rehearsals, workshops and fun!

Singers: We need solo singers and also chorus members. All voices types required: sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Dutch mezzo-soprano, Jacobine van Laar will coach the solo singers on a one-to-one basis, and the chorus members will be under the guidance of repetiteur, Marisa Cornford.

Orchestra: Live music throughout the play will be provided by a small chamber orchestra, consisting of strings, wind, brass and percussion. Minimum standard is grade 5; parts can be adapted to suit the players' ability. There will be some improvisational opportunities. Tool professional viola-player, Dan Cornford, will direct the proceedings.

Dancers: Members of the whole cast are invited to participate in the dance element of the course. Specialist dance roles can be combined with acting and singing. Dance coach: Candy Barker will be giving her expertise.

Technical support: Help us to design and build the set, work on the lighting and the props. There will be opportunities to provide media support, including photography, daily blogs and facebook updates etc. Dr Gill Bates will coach the participants.

This is going to be an exciting week, especially as we are in the 400th year of Shakespeare's death. The setting at Jack Windmill will be inspirational tool if you're interested and would like to know more, please visit our website for further information and registration: www.operasummerschool.co.uk

Be part of:
Opera & Orchestra Summer School
A Midsummer Night's Dream

20-26 August 2016
Jack Windmill, Clayton, nr Brighton UK

More information and registration on
www.operasummerschool.co.uk



BLOC has many members who like to walk so let's support our friends from De Kam and join them for a lovely spring time walk and a drink in De Kam

Dinner before Death
Dinner for One
written by Laurie Wyllie
The Real Inspector Hound
written by Tom Stoppard
Warehouse Studio Theatre
8-12 March 2016
20:00

Tickets 15 euro. Go to www.thelittlebunchofus.com/ECC
This production of "The Real Inspector Hound" is presented by special arrangement with MAEILI PRODUCTIONS LTD.

Dido & Aeneas 2016 Opera Summer School Program for Singers & String Orchestra

Spend a week rehearsing Henry Purcell's opera *Dido & Aeneas* either as a solo singer, chorus member or an orchestral player culminating in a public performance on the final day.

Our aim is to make opera and orchestral music accessible to people of different ages, skills and backgrounds. Lead roles would be suitable for music college students and semi-professionals whilst the smaller roles, choir and orchestra would suit most intermediate and advanced amateur singers and instrumentalists. The highlight of each course will be a final performance for a live audience in a unique setting.

This project for both singers and instrumentalists runs twice. The first course runs from 23-30 July and will take place at the Dutch Music Barn in Markelo, The Netherlands and the second course runs from 6-13 August at Lagrange, in Touffailles, France.



Tutors: Dan Cornford, Marisa Cornford and Jacobine van Loar

Singers

The solo singers will be coached by Dutch mezzo-soprano and vocal coach, Jacobine van Loar. Chorus members will be under the accomplished tutelage of répétiteur, Marisa Cornford. Singers will be on stage throughout the entire performance, representing both sailors, courtiers and witches. In France all singers will receive acting lessons from a specialist English drama teacher.

Orchestra

Do you play a string instrument? Would you like to experience rehearsing and performing an opera from scratch? Having the luxury of spending a week on the orchestral music for this opera, you will develop skills and techniques which will give you a taste of what it's like to be at the heart of a real opera production. The orchestra will be directed by professional viola player and conductor, Dan Cornford. We are looking for string players to form the basis of the orchestra: violins, viola, cello and double bass.

Interested? Please visit our website for more information and registration: www.operasummerschool.co.uk



Opera & String Orchestra
Summer School
produced
Dido & Aeneas



23-30 July 2016
Netherlands, Markelo

06-13 August 2016
France, Touffailles

More Information and Registration on
www.operasummerschool.co.uk

Feats BRUSSELS 2016

Thursday, 5 May - Sunday, 8 May



KAM KLUB

with (to be advised)

Friday 23rd April 2016 at 20:00

at De Kam

172 Beekstraat, Wezembeek-Oppem

Check our website at www.kamklub.info

Contact KAMKLUB at info@kamklub.info as soon as possible if you would like to perform

The Brussels Bookswappers Club

Wednesday 23rd March 2016 From 19:30 till 21:30

Le Chapelier Fou

190, chaussée de La Hulpe, 1170 Watermael-Boitsfort

What? Books (fiction, non-fiction, children's books, comic strips, ...),
DVDs & CDs ... in all languages welcome

STIB –MIVB: Bus 17 and Tram 94

Info: brusselsbookswappersclub@gmail.com



SO LOWE STUDIO

Need to record an audition piece or just want to sing a favourite track?

Tony Lowe has a home-based soloist vocal studio in which he writes, records and produces music.

He's now offering his skills as a recording engineer/producer to help you record that song you need.

Bring along your backing track, or request it before your session, and record your vocal to produce a professional result. Leave with your finished CD/Mp3.

For more details contact Tony on:
0477 981 258