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**Schenectady Light Opera Company presents**

**Rodgers & Hammerstein’s**

***The Sound Of Music***

**Music by Richard Rodgers**

**Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II**

**Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse**

**Directed by Becky Straight**

**(SCHENECTADY, NY)  *The Sound of Music* is the fourth production of Schenectady Light Opera Company’s (SLOC) 2012-2013 season and will run from March 15-17th and 21-24th, 2013. The Capital Region community theatre in downtown Schenectady is celebrating its 86th season under the leadership of John Samatulski, Executive Director, and Robert Harrison, President.  Directed by Becky Straight, *The Sound of Music* press opening is Friday, March 15th at 8pm.**

The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein, ***The Sound of Music*** was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain, and they marry. Upon returning from their honeymoon they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the Captain's immediate service in their navy. The family's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre.

***The Sound of Music*** opened at Broadway's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on November 16, 1959, and Rodgers & Hammerstein’s last musical was a triumph. It ran for 1,443 performances and earned seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. In addition, the cast album earned a Gold Record and the Grammy Award. Florence Henderson starred in the first national tour, which played for over two years, and Jean Bayless created the role of Maria in the original London production, which ran for over six years — still the record-holder as the longest running American musical in London. In 1965 the motion picture version of ***The Sound of Music*** was released, and made Hollywood history. Directed by Robert Wise, with a score revised by Rodgers, and a screenplay by Ernest Lehman, ***The Sound of Music*** boasted a dream cast: Julie Andrews as Maria, Christopher Plummer as the Captain, Eleanor Parker as Elsa, Peggy Wood as the Mother Abbess and Charmian Carr as Liesl. Winner of five Academy Awards, including Best Picture, ***The Sound of Music*** has become the most popular movie musical ever made.

Schenectady Light Opera Company’s ***The Sound of Music*** cast will feature **Erin Waterhouse** asMaria Rainer, **John Sutliff** as Captain Georg von Trapp, **Janice Walz** as Mother Abbess, **Kelly Blitz** as Sister Berthe, **Patricia Leighton** as Sister Margaretta, **Katie Matthews** as Sister Sophia, **Peter Holmes** as Franz, **Margot Phillips** as Frau Schmidt, **Lydia Walrath** as Leisl, **Connor Olney** as Friedrich, **Gabrielle D. Straight** as Louisa, **Henry Sinnott** as Kurt, **Heather Pangburn** as Brigitta, **Gabriella Pizzolo** as Marta, **Sofia Trimarchi** as Gretl, **Keenon McCollum** as Rolf Gruber, **Laura Tortorici** as Elsa Schraeder, **Joe Phillips** as Max Detweiler, **David Alliger** as Herr Zeller, **Christopher Malatesta** as Baron Elberfeld, **David Bacheldor** as Admiral von Schrieber/Preist with Christina Benardo, Erin Brozek, Ruth Cox, Genevieve Hudson, Madison Pastoriza, Margot Phillips, Kathleen Piccirillo, Jackie Smith as the Nun Ensemble and David Alliger, David Bacheldor, Jeffrey Cox, Christopher Malatesta, Nathan Perry as the Men’s Ensemble

The Schenectady Light Opera production will also feature a production team that includes Assistant Director Jeffrey P. Hocking, Musical Director Brad Gregg, Choreographer Abby Todd, Set Designer Sev Moro, Lighting Designer Bob Healey, Costume Designer Sherry Recinella, Sound Designer Michael O’Keefe, Make-Up Designer Marcia Lenehan, Properties and Producers Joe and Mary Ann Concra with Production Stage Manager Kara A. DiCaterino.

***The Sound of Music* will be presented at Schenectady Light Opera House, 427 Franklin Street, Schenectady.  Performance dates and times: Thursday-Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. Tickets: $18-$28. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office at Schenectady Light Opera House, on the phone at 877-350-7378, or online at** [**www.sloctheater.org**](http://www.sloctheater.org)**.**

***About Schenectady Light Opera Company***

Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC) is a nonprofit community theater organization in Schenectady, New York, established in 1926. The current location of the theater is at the new performing art center at 427 Franklin Street, in downtown Schenectady. The 2012-2013 season includes *Next to Normal, Little Shop of Horrors, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Sound of Music, and Sweet Charity*. The company has presented over 500 shows at various locations for over 85 years. [www.sloctheatre.org](http://www.sloctheatre.org).