



Photo Provided

The Lyric Theatre Singers from Montreal are performing at Plattsburgh High School this evening.

Hot time on a cold winter's night

Lyric Theatre Singers bring high-energy show to Plattsburgh

By ROBIN CAUDELL
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The Rotunda Series is picking up and transporting its energy to the Plattsburgh High School Auditorium tonight.

The Lyric Theatre Singers, under the musical direction of Bob Bachelor, will perform at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 for the general public, \$8 for Council on the Arts for Clinton County members and \$6 for seniors and students.

"We're taking the Rotunda Series on the road," said Lola Johnson, COACC executive director. "We have to do that

when the Rotunda cannot accommodate the program. The Rotunda doesn't have risers, and Plattsburgh High School does."

This is the third time the Lyric Theatre Singers have performed in Plattsburgh. Based in Montreal, the singers are an award-winning 35-member choral group, that performs a full repertoire of Broadway medley and songs including old favorites to modern classics — Cole Porter to Andrew Lloyd Webber.

"We have a mixture of traditional and sacred carols as well as old, popular Christmas music," said Bob Bachelor, the group's director.

"We're a choral group that sings Broadway musicals most of the year. At Christmastime, our repertoire is very different with music that many may not have heard. I try to look for music that is well arranged and has a different twist, that's accessible and people can really enjoy listening to."

The Lyric Theatre Singers consist of professional, classically trained and gifted-natural singers who appear in professional and amateur musical productions.

"We do 20 concerts a year, and we do many benefit shows, such as at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal,"

said John Stuart, singer/booking agent. "The singers' season starts in August and ends in June. You have to audition to join — it is competitive. And once you are a member, you have to re-audition."

The vocal group originated in 1989, growing out of The Lyric Theatre, a company that has been producing full-scale Broadway productions since 1965. This year's production was "Hello Dolly!"

"They have a lot of gusto," Johnson said. "You want to sing along with them. This is toe-tapping music. They just love what they're doing, they're full of joy for the art of singing."

'Ashcan' artists offered poignant portrait

By CARL HARTMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — They're labeled the "Ashcan School" — six painters who nearly a century ago celebrated the wretched refuse of Europe, as the Statue of Liberty called the immigrants who steamed past it into New York harbor.

The poem by Emma Lazarus at the base of the statue describes the immigrants as "the wretched refuse of your teeming shore." The artists saw them differently — the American melting pot in action.

A show at the National Museum of American Art brings together 85 of their paintings, etchings and watercolors. It adds a generous background of books, photographs, newspaper pages and even sheet music from the end of the 19th century to World War I.

George Luks drew a cartoon

with Hogan's Irish saloon and Katzenjammer's German sausage store in the same block. An American flag hangs from another saloon between them. Luks later became one of the early comic strip artists.

Luks did vivid, serious paintings of Allen Street, then an Italian district, and nearby Hester Street, a center for Jews from eastern Europe. New Yorkers of the day caught the allusions at once, but the pictures dealt with vivid color and form much more than with ethnic issues.

"About 1,250,000 immigrants will land in the United States during the current fiscal year," the popular magazine Harper's Weekly worried in 1906. "Great alarm has been expressed by thoroughly sincere and intelligent people at this so-called alien invasion."

Robert Henri, the leader of the

group, had no immediate European background though some people thought him French. Born Robert Henry Cozad in Cincinnati, he pronounced the adopted name American style as "hen-rye."

Henri did study in France, like nearly all the others, and became skilled at doing "pochades," quick street sketches in oils as the basis of a bigger painting later. But he and most of the others got their major experience of rapid sketches by working against deadline as newspaper artists in Philadelphia.

The Ashcan artists became adept at recording a scene on a scrap of paper or a shirt cuff, so they could be as inconspicuous as possible to police or a crowd that might turn hostile.

Everett Shinn's "Night Life-Accident" of 1908 — a watercolor now in a private collection —

would make a perfect subject for a tabloid TV news show.

Some did not bother to sketch at all.

William Glackens, who liked exciting scenes crowded with figures, claimed that after one look at a scene he could go back to the office and do an accurate illustration. Luks went to Cuba for the Spanish-American War and became known for his ability to furnish "sketches from the front," done largely in Havana saloons.

John Sloan was slower at the news work, but he depicted lightly clad — or overdressed — women who may or may not have been prostitutes. Other women, apparently more respectable, he pictured as tasting liberation and Italian restaurant food without male escorts — almost as shocking.

Sloan dealt with both women's new freedom and left-wing issues

in "The Return from Toil." It was the cover of the Socialist magazine The Masses for July 1913. It shows six cheerful young working women in feathered hats, skirts daringly above their ankles, arm in arm and obviously on their way to a night on the town.

Sloan, who dabbled in politics as a Socialist candidate, eventually quit his job as art editor because he found the captions that were put on some of his pictures too political.

"Metropolitan Lives — The Ashcan Artists and Their New York" is at the National Museum of American Art through March 17. It is not scheduled to travel.

Call 523-2062 for more information.

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COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR CLINTON COUNTY
THE LYRIC THEATRE SINGERS
8 pm, Thursday, December 14th: Plattsburgh High School
The Lyric Theatre Singers from Montreal perform a cornucopia of holiday melodies.
Tickets available either at the Council on the Arts or at the door.
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ARTS BRIEFS

Christmas concert
CUMBERLAND HEAD — The Cumberland Head Elementary School is hosting a Christmas concert this evening, at 7 p.m.

'The Fourth Wise Man'
ESSEX — The Essex Community Church is showing the film "The Fourth Wise Man" Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.

UVM holiday concert
BURLINGTON, Vt. — The University of Vermont music department and the Vermont Mozart Festival present a holiday concert at the First Congregational Church, 38 S. Winoski Ave. Friday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. The special holiday program features Bach's "Mass in B minor," with the Oriana Singers and the Vermont Mozart Festival orchestra conducted by William Metcalf. Tickets are \$17 (\$9 for students). Call the Vermont Mozart Festival at 802-862-7352 for more information.

Trip to NYC
SARANAC LAKE — North Country Community College Center for Lifelong Learning offers a trip to New York City March 1-3 with Sue Smith of Pegasus Tours.

The trip costs \$225 per person. The cost includes a snack on the bus, twin accommodations in the theater district, admission to Empire State Building, Ellis Island Museum and the Natural History Museum. At an additional cost of \$80, a seat may be reserved at one of the following Broadway shows: "Phantom of the Opera," "Les Miserables," "Sunset Boulevard" or "Show Boat."

Chazy concert
CHAZY — The Music Department at the Chazy Central Rural School presents its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. in the school auditorium. Featured on the program are the elementary, junior high, and senior high choruses as well as the concert band and the wind ensemble.

Community members and alumni are invited to join in by singing or playing the Hallelujah Chorus. A rehearsal for Hallelujah Chorus is Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Eyres in concert
LAKE PLACID — Peggy Eyres, a singer and teller of Adirondack tales, is performing a concert at the Adirondack Cradts Center, 93 Saranac Ave., Saturday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Yeres, formerly of Paul Smith's, is performing holiday songs, her own works and selections from an as-yet unreleased album.

Poetry contest
SISTERVILLE, W.Va. — Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum is offering a Grand Prize of \$500 in its new "Distinguished Poets Awards" poetry contest. Thirty-four other cash awards are also offered.

Poets may enter one poem only of 20 lines or less on any subject in any style. The contest closes Jan. 31, 1996.

Send entries to: Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Inc., Dept. NT, 203 Diamond St., Sistersville, W.Va. 26175.

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