



July 31st - August 2nd

Sorg Opera House
63 South Main Street - Middletown - Ohio 45044



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PO Box 1656
Middletown, OH 45042

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Sorg Opera House
63 S. Main Street
Middletown, OH 45044

Box Office

513-425-7140

Website

middletownlyric.org

Middletown Lyric Theatre
is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3)
organization



Welcome Back to Middletown Lyric Theatre!

After closing our doors at 1530 Central Avenue in 2024, we have certainly missed the people, the energy, and the shared experience that only live theatre can create. But time away gave us space to rest, reflect, and talk about the future. Those conversations led us here — to a new home, and a full season of theatre as **Lyric Theatre at the Sorg**.

This season is built around one idea: the search for connection — to each other, to our purpose, and to the stories that shape us. From the simple, everyday joys of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, to the courage and identity at the heart of *The Nance...* from the quest for meaning in *PIPPIN*, to the artistic discipline and vulnerability explored in *Master Class*, and finally to the timeless spirit of generosity in *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* — each production asks, in its own way, what it means to find your place in the world and to share it with others.

We would not be returning without the support of many people and organizations who believe in the value of theatre in Middletown. We are deeply grateful to the Sorg Revitalization Group, the Middletown Community Foundation, the Miriam G. Knoll Charitable Foundation, and Barney Riesbeck of State Farm Insurance for helping make this new chapter possible.



Middletown Lyric Theatre

Sponsored in part by:



present

PIPPIN

Book by

ROGER O. HIRSON

Music & Lyrics

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

With:

Emma Ashcraft, Brock Bornhorst, Trevor Downey, Chase Engel, Emmett Heinrich,
Erin Heinrich, Kyrsten Jankovich, Julie Joyce-Smith, Wyatt Manuel, Evan Rogers,
Sami Shaaban, Danielle Ulliman, Lori Wegman, Allen Young, Lily Young

Scenic & Costume Design

CHARLEY SHAFOR

Lighting Design

EDWIN TOY

Production Assistance:

Heather Adams, Mary Beth Benken-Riesenberg, Brock Bornhorst,
Chopper Wayne Chord, Beth Cook, Melodie LaNicca, Karah McCoy, Abbie Miller,
Danica Murphy, Christyn New, Karen Oheler, Gail Rudolph, Charley Shafor, Edwin Toy

Production Photography provided by

Tiffany Garfinkle - TAM Photos

Sound and Lighting Equipment provided by

Zeke Garfinkle - Hi-Tech Event Production

Backstage Manager

Heather Adams

Choreography

Trevor Downey

Stage & Vocal Direction

RYAN HEINRICH

Originally produced on the Broadway stage by Stewart Ostrow

Originally directed on the Broadway stage Bob Fosse

2013 Broadway revival directed by Diane Paulus

Theo Ending Originally Conceived In 1998 by Mitch Sebastian

PIPPIN is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

All authorized performance material are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.com

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Producers \$1,000+

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Actors \$250+

Jerry & Kitty Blattner
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Marilyn Easterly
Duane Gordon
John & Kim Minor
Jana Morse
Martha Oches
Barb Orth
Rich & Gail Rudolph

Thank You!

We are always grateful to our donors for their generous support, and we are equally grateful to everyone who purchases a season ticket package. Whether you choose to donate or become a season ticket holder, your commitment helps ensure we have the foundational financial support needed to produce an entire season of theatre.

Thank you to each and every one of you for believing in the work we do.

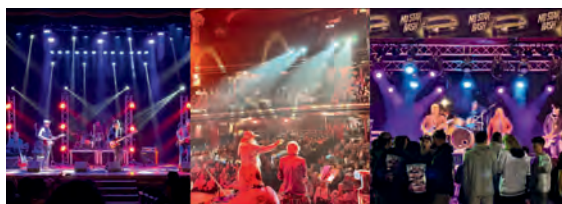
We do our best to recognize everyone accurately when printing names, but mistakes can happen. If you notice an error or have a question, please contact us at contact@middletownlyric.org.

SPECIAL THANKS

SORG OPERA HOUSE

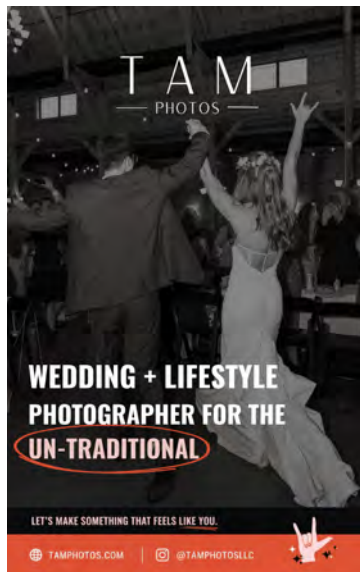
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WHO'S WHO



Emma Ashcraft (A Player)

Emma is very excited to take the stage in her theatrical debut as a player in *Pippin*. She wants to thank her girlfriend, MJ, for motivating her to reignite her passion for performing and encouraging her to get back on stage. She hopes you enjoy the show and are inspired to do some magic of your own.



Brock Bornhorst (A Player)

Brock is excited to be back on the MLT stage. He was last seen as Ned in MLT's production of *The Nance*.



Trevor Downey (Choreographer / A Player)

Trevor is excited to be back on stage and choreographing again. *Pippin* holds a special place in his heart as he did this show with his late husband, Victor back in 2019. He thanks Ryan for giving him this opportunity, his family, friends, recovery team, and Chipotle fam for their love and support. This one's for you Victor!



Chase Engel (Lewis)

Chase is excited to return to the MLT, and to perform in such a unique and historic venue! He has been seen in a prior MLT production of *Sunday in the Park with George*, and has been a common performer among several Butler County community theatres. He'd like to thank Ryan and the rest of the production team for the opportunity to tell stories with some of his best friends and finest artists in the area. He continues to learn and grow from an institution such as MLT! Lastly, he'd like to thank his wife, Abby, and his son, Emmett, who remind him every day the value of playing make-believe, one Sesame Street song at a time.

WHO'S WHO



Emmett Heinrich (Theo)

Emmett technically made his theatrical debut with MLT almost fourteen years ago, but he doesn't remember any of it. He will be starting 8th grade at Lakota's Liberty Junior School this fall. He has previously performed in *The Lightning Thief* and *Seussical* with Acting Up. Outside of musical theatre, he enjoys playing golf and building LEGO. He'd like to thank his family of fans for all of their

support.



Erin Heinrich (A Player)

Erin is happy to return to the MLT stage for the first time since her appearance in *Closer Than Ever* in 2012. She was joined in that production by her husband Ryan and her son Emmett (in utero) and feels fortunate to now share this experience with them and the rest of the lovely humans in this cast. Some of her favorite roles include Beth in *Little Women*, Soupy Sue in *Urinetown* (Greater Hamilton Civic Theatre), Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Dead Mum in *Billy Elliot* (Fairfield Summer Theatre), Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (OxACT).



Kyrsten Jankovich (A Player)

"Mj" (She/Her) is excited to be in another production with MLT and work with some familiar faces! She's most recently been seen in *Annie* as the Star-to-Be and *Guys and Dolls* as Mimi with GHCT. Her next adventure is *SpongeBob the Musical* as Pearl with CMT. She'd like to thank her mom for supporting her theatre career and her girlfriend Emma for stepping out of her comfort zone and reigniting her passion for the arts, but also you for supporting local theatre! Thank you :)



Julie Joyce-Smith (Berthe)

Julie is pleased to be back on stage with MLT reprising the role of Pippin's feisty grandma. She was last seen by MLT audiences in 2015 in *Forbidden Broadway*. Julie's 33-year involvement with MLT has included numerous productions as a performer. Her favorite roles for MLT include Sr. Robert Anne in *Nunsense* and *Nuncrackers*; multi-roles in *Festival*, *Quilters* and *School House Rock, Live*. Julie is semi-retired and works for the fine citizens of Ross Township as their elected Fiscal Officer. She sends love to her favorite boys: Brian, Ian and Zane.

THE CAST

(In Alphabetical Order)

Emma Ashcraft	A Player
Brock Bornhorst	A Player
Trevor Downey	A Player
Chase Engel	Lewis
Emmett Heinrich	Theo
Erin Heinrich	A Player
Kyrsten Jankovich	A Player
Julie Joyce-Smith	Berthe
Wyatt Manuel	A Player
Evan Rogers	Pippin
Sami Shaaban	The Leading Player
Danielle Ullman	Catherine
Lori Wegman	Fastrada
Allen Young	Charlemagne
Lily Young	A Player

Please turn off your cell phone, beeper, watch alarm or anything else that might make a noise during the performance. Unwrap any candies, cough drops, or mints before the performance begins to avoid disturbing your fellow audience members or the actors on stage.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the Author(s)'s rights and actionable under the United States Copyright Law.

SCENES

ACT I

Scene One - The Opening

Magic To Do	The Company
Corner of the Sky	Pippin

Scene Two - Home

Scene Three - Glory

War is a Science	Charlemagne
Glory	Leading Player & Players

Scene Four - Simple Joys

Simple Joys	Leading Player & Players
No Time At All	Berthe & Players
With You	Pippin

Scene Five - Revolution

Spread A Little Sunshine	Fastrada
Morning Glow	The Company

INTERMISSION - 15 Minuets

ACT II

Scene One - Politics

ACT II Opening	The Company
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Scene Two - Encouragement

The Right Track	Leading Player & Pippin
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Scene Three - Ordinary Life

Kind of Woman	Catherine
Extraordinary	Pippin
Prayer for a Duck	Theo & Pippin
Love Song	Catherine & Pippin
I Guess I'll Miss The Man	Catherine

Scene Four - The Finale

Finale	The Company
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WHO'S WHO



Wyatt Manuel (A Player)

Wyatt is excited to be returning to MLT as audiences previously saw him as Wickersham Brother #3 in *Seussical: The Musical*. Other credits include *Dance '26: SHIFT* at Northern Kentucky University. Wyatt is currently studying at NKU and hopes to become a choreographer after graduation. He would like to thank his family, friends, and everyone at MLT for their continued support. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Evan Rogers (Pippin)

Evan is so excited to return to MLT and bring a dream role like Pippin to life! He previously appeared as Franz in MLT's 2023 production of *Sunday in the Park with George*, as well as credits including Jeff in *[title of show]*, Barry Mann in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, and Jerry Lee Lewis in *Million Dollar Quartet*. Evan would like to thank his friends, family, and partner for pushing him to be the best version of himself he can be. Enjoy the show!



Sami Shaaban (The Leading Player)

Sami is so excited to make his MLT debut in *Pippin*! Sami is reprising his role as the Leading Player nearly 10 years later! Previously, Sami could also be seen as Rooster in *Annie!*, Benny Southstreet in *Guys & Dolls*, Dr. Einstein in *Arsenic & Old Lace*, the Doctor & the Painter in *Amour*, Martini in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Giuseppe Zangara in *Assassins*, Clopin in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Sami dedicates this performance to his Uncle Kenny.



Danielle Ullman (Catherine)

Danielle is thrilled to be back on the MLT stage! Some of her favorite shows she has been in are *Guys and Dolls*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *SpongeBob the Musical*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. She wants to thank her family, friends, and her boyfriend, David, for always supporting her. Enjoy the show!

WHO'S WHO



Lori Wegman (Fastrada)

Lori is ecstatic to help create magic with this cast and crew! This marks her second MLT production (previously seen as the Witch, *Into The Woods*). She has also appeared in other local companies such as Fairfield Footlighters (*Harvey*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Broadway Nights*, *Godspell*, *Amateurs*, and *Little Women*), The Angelico Project (*Irena's Vow*), Greater Hamilton Civic Theater (*Winter Wonderettes*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hello Dolly*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Curious Savage*, *Pride and Prejudice*), Encore Community Theater (*Once Upon a Mattress*), as well as companies in Tennessee, Georgia, and Minnesota. Lori adores the local theater family, is grateful for the opportunity to participate, and appreciates all the encouragement and support from friends, family, and audience members. She especially loves her hubby who never complains about how much time her little hobby takes up. Soli Deo Gloria!



Allen Young (Charlemagne)

Allen is happy to return to the stage for his second turn as Charles in *Pippin*. He is the theater director at Mason High School, where he has taught for 25 years, and previously taught theater at Princeton High School. As a director and producer, Allen has brought roughly 100 productions to life. Favorite onstage roles include Patsy in *Spamalot*, Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, The Mikado in *The Mikado*, Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*.



Lily Young (A Player)

Lily is very excited to be in the ensemble of *Pippin* for the first time. She is also very excited to be able to perform with her dad, Allen. Past shows include: *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Matilda*.

WHO'S WHO

Ryan Heinrich (Stage & Vocal Director)

This is Ryan's third time directing for MLT, where he has previously directed *Forbidden Broadway* and *Sunday In the Park With George*. Elsewhere, he has directed over twenty other productions in the area. Ryan has served as Music Director for Kings Island, La Comedia, Miami University, Wright State, Cincinnati Landmark Productions and others. He has a BFA in Musical Theatre (directing) from The Boston Conservatory. He dedicates this performance to his biggest supporter, his mom, who never missed a production.

Roger O. Hirson (Book)

Writer. Father of David Hirson Awards and nominations: 1973 Tony Award® Best Book of a Musical *Pippin* [nominee] 1967 Tony Award® Best Musical *Walking Happy* [nominee] Productions: PIPPIN Book [Original, Musical, Comedy] (Oct 23, 1972 - Jun 12, 1977). WALKING HAPPY Book [Original, Musical] (Nov 26, 1966 - Apr 22, 1967)

Steven Schwartz (Music & Lyrics)

Stephen wrote the music and lyrics for *WICKED*. In addition, Stephen Schwartz's scores for musical theatre include *GODSPELL*, *PIPPIN*, *THE BAKER'S WIFE*, and *CHILDREN OF EDEN*. For film, he wrote the songs for *THE PRINCE OF EGYPT* and collaborated with composer Alan Menken on the songs for Disney's *POCAHONTAS*, *THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME* and *ENCHANTED*. In the classical field, he wrote lyrics in collaboration with Leonard Bernstein for Bernstein's *MASS*. Awards include three Academy Awards, four Grammy Awards, and the Isabelle Stevenson Tony Award. In the United States, Mr. Schwartz has been inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame and has been given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. For further information, he invites interested members of the audience to visit his website at stephenschwartz.com

WHO'S WHO

Charley Shafor (Scenic & Costume Design)

Charley has been fortunate to spend his entire adult life in the arts. He began as a performer but soon discovered that his strengths and passions were best used behind the scenes. Starting his career as a scenic artist and designer, his work has appeared on stages across Ohio with companies including Middletown Summer Youth Theatre, LaComedia Dinner Theatre, The MUSE Machine, The Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and Weathervane Playhouse. He also served twice as a guest artist for the University of Iowa's Summer Playwrights Festival and contributed to several productions at the Fireside Playhouse in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

His career expanded to Regional LORT theatres such as George Street Playhouse, Crossroads Theatre, and the McCarter Theatre Center in New Jersey; Circle Repertory, Playwrights Horizons, and Manhattan Theatre Club in New York City; Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine; and The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut. At Goodspeed, he worked on the original *Annie*, later re-titled *Annie Warbucks*, with Composer Charles Strouse and Director Martin Charnin. He also built specialty costumes for the 90's revival of *Pal Joey*, featuring Peter Reardon and Florence Lacey. His work traveled to London's West End with *The Fields of Ambrosia* by Martin Silvestri and Joel Higgins, starring Broadway veteran Christine Andreas.

Beyond theatre, Charley has created art installations for NCR Corporation, The Reynolds & Reynolds Company, and Johnson & Johnson World Headquarters. Before returning to Ohio, he spent seven years on the faculty of Tower Hill School, a private Pre-K through 12 college preparatory school in Wilmington, Delaware. There he developed curriculum, taught American Musical Theatre and technical theatre, and collaborated across departments to produce multimedia arts events.

He credits his career and good fortune to the unwavering support of his family and his husband, Edwin Toy. Charley is also grateful to his entire family for the support they have shown throughout his career

Edwin Toy (Lighting Design)

Over the past 18 years, Edwin has designed over 100 productions for MLT. Locally, his design work has also been seen at Lebanon Theatre Company. Prior design experiences have taken him up and down the east coast where he spent eight years as resident lighting designer for The Pierre S. du Pont Arts Center in Wilmington, DE. He has also worked with St. Michael's Playhouse (Winooski, VT), Ogunquit Playhouse (Ogunquit, ME), Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts (Wilmington, NC), and Skyward Productions (Washington, DC).

COMING UP NEXT

MASTER



By Terrence McNally

OCTOBER 2ND - 4TH

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All of our concerts are free and open to the public. We are handicapped accessible with easy and convenient parking.

To see our full schedule, visit our website:
www.myfumc.net

The Middletown Community Foundation, the Miriam Knoll Foundation, the Barnitz Fund, and the congregation of the First United Methodist church have all been instrumental in the success of this concert series, now in its 20th year of bringing music to our community!



AUGUST 7 NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE

Discover the tranquil beauty of the Native American flute as Janice T. (Sunflower) plays, displays, and tells the histories of her collection of Plains-style Native Flutes. The acoustics of our sanctuary are the perfect venue for experiencing these unique and wonderful instruments.



SEPTEMBER Nbtuf s Dbrtt cz

If you like "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Hello Dolly", or "St. Louis Blues", then you'll love this concert by Dean Alan Simms, one of the best known Louis Armstrong tribute artists in the Midwest and beyond. Dean is joined by his friend and trombonist Rich Begel who has been a multi-time performer at First Friday! Prepare to be transported to a "Wonderful World"!

Les & Cheryl Landen Scholarship



Les and Cheryl Landen were lifelong Middletown residents, Middletown High School graduates, and devoted members of Middletown Lyric Theatre from its earliest days. Both believed deeply in the power of the arts and in the importance of education. Les was most often found onstage or designing and directing productions, while Cheryl worked behind the scenes; constructing, designing, helping with the box office and any other area that needed attention.

Their dedication extended far beyond the theatre. Les and Cheryl gave countless hours as volunteers for MidFest, the Ohio Hot Air Balloon Challenge, and numerous fundraising events. Their longest and most beloved service was to Light Up Middletown, where Les portrayed Santa Claus for many years and Cheryl served as Secretary, planner, and advertising coordinator.

Cheryl, a graduate of Transylvania University, taught in Middletown City Schools before opening her own business. After the birth of their sons, Scott and Alex, she became a full-time mother and continued her pattern of service-volunteering for the school system, Holy Family Parish, and several other community organizations. She also was on staff for the Middletown Art Center for many years.

Les taught at Middletown High School before earning his law degree from the University of Dayton. He went on to serve the City of Middletown for nearly three decades as Law Director while also teaching Business Law at Miami University Middletown and Hamilton campuses. An avid golfer and a man of many talents, he poured his energy into every corner of the community he loved.

Together, Les and Cheryl championed education through the arts, believing that creativity strengthens both individuals and communities. In their honor, the Les & Cheryl Landen Scholarship provides an annual one-time award to a Middletown High School graduate pursuing education, with preference given to students entering the arts—music, drama, or visual art.

If you would like to support the arts, education, and the legacy of service embodied by Les and Cheryl, you may use QR code provided to make a donation to this or any of the valuable scholarships offered through the Middletown Community Foundation.

