



The History of Broadway Musicals: A Musical Timeline

Salem High School

May 23, 2019

1:15 pm

SEIFERT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Dear Patrons of the Arts,

Thank you so much for coming to this performance!

Our mission statement for the Performing Arts Department states that we believe in the transformative potential of the arts. We believe that the students on stage and behind the scenes represent the best of what our department has to offer, and we are exceptionally proud of them.

Tonight's performance is the culmination of many hours of work and rehearsal, and, under the direction of our outstanding staff, will be a transformative experience for the students, and hopefully for you as well!

Thank you for your support of live music and theatre.

We hope you enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

Lauren Peithmann

Director of K-12 Performing Arts

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603-893-7069 x.5601

The 1930s

Soloist Faith Carroll

Summertime.....George Gershwin

The Great Depression hit the U.S. hard, and audience numbers decreased drastically. When people could afford to see shows, they wanted to see and hear songs that took them away from the tragedies in their daily lives. They were looking for hope. The song “Summertime” is a mother singing to her child about the loveliness of summertime, which instills the hope that people searched for when they came to the theater.

The 1940s

Soloist CJ Trudel

Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin’.....Richard Rodgers

Broadway struggled in the 40s due to the war and the aftermath of the Great Depression. The work of Rodgers and Hammerstein stood out in this decade, and their shows became what many people consider the “typical” Broadway musical. “Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin’” comes from the hit show *Oklahoma!*, and the character Curly is exhilarated by the world around him and shows the audience his genuine love of life.

The 1950s

Soloists Katie Tetu, Donovan Homsey

Tonight.....Leonard Bernstein

West Side Story was a pivotal moment for musical theatre in that it was one of the first musicals to use dance as a way to move the plot. Thus, out of all the classics that were born in the 50s. *West Side Story* has the most relevance today. The song “Tonight” is sung by the lead characters Tony and Maria, and they sing about how their love makes all of their problems fade away.

The 1960s

Soloist Bethany Scuderi

Aquarius.....Galt MacDermot

Musicals in the 60s modeled the changes in society that happened during this decade. With the Vietnam War meeting such outspoken protest and the increase of drug use, this was a monumental change in normal American culture. The song “Aquarius” is about the coming of a new age and a new generation.

The 1970s

Soloists Kylie Marsh, Donovan Homsey, Olivia Perrault, Katie Tetu

You’re The One That I Want.....Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

There was a surge of rock musicals in the 1970s, and one of the most prevalent of that decade (and still today) is *Grease*. Its high-energy dancing and catchy songs have made *Grease* a fan favorite for years. “You’re The One That I Want” finally sets Sandy and Danny’s relationship in stone after a musical full of ups and downs.

The 1980s

At the End of the Day.....Claude-Michel Schönberg

The 1980s brought about many musicals with dark themes. Whether it was comedy or tragedy, there was always an element of darkness. Out of this darkness came *Les Misérables*, based on the novel of the same name by Victor Hugo. The song “At the End of the Day” displays the dissatisfaction the general public of France feels about their daily life.

The 1990s

Soloists Miguel Rosario, Lyla Ait Lahsen, Kylie Marsh

Seasons of Love.....Jonathan Larson

After a relatively unsuccessful decade of musical theatre in the 80s, it came back in the 90s as the most popular form of theatrical entertainment, proving that perseverance leads to great things. This mantra was emulated with the 1999 musical *Rent*. The composer of the show, Jonathan Larson, passed away the morning of *Rent*'s first preview. Nonetheless, the cast performed the show in his honor, and the show went on to have twelve years of success. "Seasons of Love" is a song celebrating a year of life and reminding audiences to focus on what is important.

The 2000s

Soloists Natalie Corryea, Isha Mistry, Faith Carroll, Bethany Scuderi

Honey, Honey.....Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus

The jukebox musical, which is a musical using previously written songs from one specific artist, gained popularity in the 2000s. *Mamma Mia!*, based on the music of ABBA, is about a soon-to-be-married girl named Sophie trying to find out who her father really is. In the song "Honey, Honey," she comes across her mother's journal and reads it with her friends with the hope of gaining more information about her father.

The 2010s

Soloists Chris Kennamer, Miguel Rosario, Mady Roebuck, Cam DeCoursey, Jon Fermin, AiLi Greenwood, CJ Trudel

Alexander Hamilton.....Lin-Manuel Miranda and Alex Lacamoire

Modern theatre often employs music that strays from the traditional style of Broadway

music, such as pop, rap, hip-hop, and even merengue. A musical that is currently defining the 2010s is *Hamilton*, written by Lin-Manuel Miranda. It is a biographical show about the life of U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, but it utilizes elements of hip-hop and rap to modernize the story. The song “Alexander Hamilton” is the opening number of the show and it explains Hamilton’s early life before the events of the musical take place.

Ensemble

Accompanied by Julia Horaj

Lyla Ait Lahsen
Katrina Cabral
Faith Carroll
Natalie Coryea
Cam DeCoursey
Jon Fermin
AiLi Greenwood
Donovan Homsey
Chris Kennamer

Kylie Marsh
Valerie McDonnell
Isha Mistry
Mady Roebuck
Miguel Rosario
Bethany Scuderi
Katie Tetu
CJ Trudel



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