



By arrangement with Three Knights Limited, The Shubert  
Organisation Inc. and Robert Fox Limited

Geoids Musical Theatre presents

# CHESS

The Musical

**BENNY ANDERSSON**

**TIM RICE**

**BJORN ULVAEUS**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International  
(Europe) All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

## About The Show

Refining the vision for a 2020 audience, and inspired by the 1988 West End version, our show will extend and develop the story of FLORENCE; her love for chess and her relationship with Freddie. We hope to add depth that past presentations have lacked by making her the protagonist, building on the cold war subtext and focussing on the struggle of fame the two chess players FREDDIE and ANATOLY face throughout the chess world championship.

The versatile ensemble play an integral part throughout this story, used primarily as a 'Greek chorus' device. They will take on roles from Rodgers and Hammerstein Tyrollean citizens of Merano, East and West competition delegates, predatory press, and backing dancers for the Arbiter.

# Cast

The nature of this show requires a diverse cast of all ages who are strong singers and accomplished actors who possess good movement skills; we expect there to be a high level of dedication to the show and an ability to create and develop character (bring it to the room) is of particular importance.

The show will be supported by strong production values enforced by your commitment to the most professional possible result.

**FLORENCE VASSY:** (Belter to F) Our protagonist. Taken from Hungary when Russia invaded in retaliation to the nationwide revolution. Her Father taught her chess and ever since she has been holding on to it and involved with the game. Freddie's lover. Strong and Vulnerable. (Playing age 28-35)

**FREDERICK (FREDDIE) TRUMPER:** (Rock tenor low Bb to High C) American Grandmaster and World Champion (At the beginning). A rock star of the chess world. Antagonistic, egotistic, 80s playboy. He has a hard exterior to cover the damage inside. His one moment of vulnerability is 'Pity the Child'. (Playing age 25-45)

**ANATOLY SERGIEVSKY:** (Baritone to B4) Russian Grandmaster and World Champion by the end. The showpiece of the Soviet dream. Hard working, committed, oppressed, suppressed and controlled by the soviet government. Wins and defects to the east to release the grip of Soviet Control. Falls in love with Florence even though he's married. (25-45)

**WALTER DE COURCEY:** (Lyrical Baritone - Low G# to High G). head of the American delegation; links to the CIA, television producer. 25 - 60)

**ALEXANDER MOLOKOV** (Bass/Baritone - Low F2 to High G) Head of the Russian delegation and a KGB career man. Drives forward a lot of political angles and non-chess based strategies. In charge of the Anatoly's wellbeing and success. (playing age 25-60)

**ARBITER:** President of the chess world federation. Smooth with a quick temper. Sassy and forthright. (Playing age 25-40, dancer, M/F)

**SVETLANA SERGIEVSKAYA:** (Mezzo - Belt to F) Pinup of the Soviet Machine. She is the female face that all Soviet women aspire to be. Married to a successful man, popular children, when the reality of the situation is that she is a device used by the government. (Playing age 25-40)

**CITIZENS OF MERANO, REPORTERS, DELEGATES, CIVIL SERVANTS**  
and various other roles to be played by The Company.

The action takes place in and around the arenas of the World Chess Championships in Merano, Italy, and one year later in Bangkok, Thailand.

Time - Sometime in the mid-1980s.

# Workshop

We will be holding a pre-audition workshop on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 19:00-21:00 at Pollyanna Dance School, Wapping. This will be an opportunity to meet the team and hear more about the show and our concept for this production, as well as to learn some of the movement and music. Spaces are limited so please register your place at the workshop in advance by registering [here](#) or by emailing [info@geoidsmt.co.uk](mailto:info@geoidsmt.co.uk) - There is no charge for attending the workshop

# Auditions

Auditions will be held on:

- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January at The City Centre, 80 Basinghall St, London, EC2V 5AR
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at Pollyanna Dance School, The Children's Centre 15 Chandler Street, Wapping, London E1W 2QL

Recalls by invitation only will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> February at The City Centre

Auditions will be divided into the following slots:

- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>: 11:00-12:00, 12:00-13:00, 13:30-14:30, 14:30-15:30, 15:30-16:30
- Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>: 12:00-13:00, 13:00-14:00, 14:30-15:30, 15:30-16:30
- Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>: 19:00-20:00, 20:00-21:00

The audition will start with a 15 minute dance call so **please come early enough to be warmed up and ready to go.**

The following individual singing audition will be a closed audition in front of the audition panel. If you are auditioning for a specific part, please sing the song indicated below. If you are auditioning for Ensemble, please choose a suitable song from the list below, an accompanist will be provided and backing tracks will not be accepted and we may ask you to start from a different part of the song or stop early. Please do not let this affect how you feel about your audition.

We want to see how you act through the song, as Chess is sung through, we need to see your acting ability through the song you choose. Whilst you don't *need* to be off-book for your audition it will give you an advantage in being able to give the best example of you as a performer.

If you are only interested in a specific role, please be honest in noting so on your audition form provided when you register. It will not affect whether you are considered for that role, but it will help avoid other potential performers being disappointed if we cast you and you drop out.

Role	Song
Florence/ Ensemble Belter	Nobody's Side
Anatoly/ Ensemble Baritone	Anthem
Freddie/ Ensemble Tenor	Pity the Child
Arbiter	The Arbiter
Molokov/ Ensemble Bass	Soviet Machine
Walter	The Arbiter
Svetlana/ Ensemble Sop/Alto	Someone Else's Story

Please sign up for your audition slot [here](#). If you experience any issues or have any questions please email [info@geoidsmt.co.uk](mailto:info@geoidsmt.co.uk)

## Key Dates and Venues

**Performances** will take place on the evenings of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (with a 14:30 Matinee on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May) at Bridewell Theatre, 14 Bride Lane, Blackfriars, [London, EC4Y 8EQ](#). Call time on dress and performance dates will be 18:00 (12:30 for Matinee).

**Rehearsals** will take place starting for Principals on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb and for all cast from 1<sup>st</sup> March on Tuesdays (19:00-22:00) and Sundays (12:00-17:00) at Pollyanna Dance School, The Children's Centre 15 Chandler Street, Wapping, London, E1W 2QL.

**All cast must be able to attend on the key dates below:**

Dress Rehearsal – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May (evening)

Technical Rehearsal – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May (all day)

Final Run – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May (all day)

Principals will also have some additional Saturday rehearsals in line with availability. These will only take place on selected dates from Mid-March onwards and will be held during the afternoon at The City Centre, 80 Basinghall St, London, EC2V 5AR.

Availability for rehearsals is a key factor that will be considered by the audition panel and you will be required to notify us of any unavailability for rehearsals on your audition form.

Unfortunately, you have a number of absences that cannot be reconciled against the proposed rehearsal schedule, we may not be able to cast you. We understand that people's busy lives may result in certain unavailability developing after we start work on the show; in such a case you are required to promptly notify the production team of any changes in your availability. In the event of major changes in availability from what was notified on your audition form, your participation in the show may be revisited.

# Show Fees

**Participation Fee:** £90 This covers some of the fixed costs associated with producing a show (e.g. audition, rehearsal, and performance venue hire; lighting and sound).

**Geoids Membership Fee:** £15. All performers must be a member of Geoids Musical Theatre, either on existing membership, or through commencement of a new annual membership taking effect from the date of payment.

Show fees (and membership, if not already a paid-up member) are due within 4 weeks of first rehearsal. If you have any concerns about the required fees please contact us by email, and in confidence, to discuss potential options for payment.

# About Geoids

Geoids Musical Theatre are a central London-based amateur theatre company founded in 1930 by Gilbert and Sullivan-loving students of the Geology and Geography departments at King's College London. Having lost our connections with Kings College over the years but gaining charitable status and affiliation with NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association), we strive to produce quality productions with the highest performance and production values. We recognise the importance of all people who come together on stage and backstage, to create entertaining and engaging theatre and we seek to establish a supportive environment where members can enjoy, learn, and develop their skills through this process.

You can also find us in the following places:

Website: [www.geoidsmt.co.uk](http://www.geoidsmt.co.uk)

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @GeoidsMusicalT

# Creative Team



**James-Lee Campbell (CO-DIRECTOR)** is a graduate from the London College of Music has been in the musical theatre industry since the dainty age of 12, attaining his first professional role as Gavroche in *Les Miserables*. However even when performing professionally, he has been very active in amateur dramatics from being in shows to directing and choreographing.

Performance credits include: Herod, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (National Tour), C.S.Lewis, *Unfolding Tales* (Workshop), Mr Toad, *The Wind in the Willows* (UK Tour), Ensemble, *Chess* (Royal Albert Hall) Marco, *The Gondoliers* (Buxton Opera Festival), Florian, *Princess Ida* (Buxton Opera Festival)

Directing/Choreo Credits: *The Merry Widow* with Peterborough Opera. 'Tolkein: A New Musical (Arts theatre).

## **Barry Lattimore-Quinn (CO-DIRECTOR)**

Training: Theatre Performance Bull Alley Theatre Training Company; Dublin Trinity Guildhall; London Teaching Licentiate.

Barry has worked with various societies around the Dublin area. Choreography and directing credits include *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Showstoppers: (A Musical Theatre Revue)*, *Cinderella, a pantomime*.

He was a founding member of staff for a youth theatre programme in County Wicklow, Ireland, working with performers of all ages in multiple disciplines.

In and around performing on the busy London AmDram circuit, including *Hair* with Geoids Musical Theatre, Barry served as Artistic and Creative Director (including concept/content development) for *Christmas Cake: a festive cabaret*, for Centre Stage, London.



**Eva Mc Nally (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)** is a BMus Music Graduate from CIT Cork School of Music in Ireland. Since, she has pursued a career in Marketing, while still devoting much of her free time to musical theatre.

Eva studied Voice and Conducting as part of her performance degree and has performed in many shows over the last 10 years. She found a flare for conducting during her third year and took on her first role as musical director for a concert production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Soon thereafter, she musically directed *Children of Eden* and *Les Miserables* with a Musical Theatre Youth Group in Ireland. She was the Musical Director for three years consecutively with the Source Arts Theatre Panto Society with credits including; *Aladdin*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Hansel and Gretel*. She was Assistant MD for Wimbledon Light Opera Society's recent production of *The Wizard of Oz*, her debut adventure musical directing on the London scene.

