

Whitmore Lake Community Recreation
2019/2020 Summer Music Theater
~ Parent Welcome Packet ~

Dear Parent,

The WLCR Staff welcomes you and your children as participants in our Summer Music Theater program. In hopes that you better understand our program, policies and purpose, the following information has been prepared for you. Our objective is to make sure that every child, no matter the skill level, has a positive and fulfilling experience with all aspects of musical theater. This is a community theater opportunity for students ages 8 - 18. Due to this, we follow certain guidelines to ensure this philosophy is fostered:

- Students that register are guaranteed a place in the production
- Students that wish to be considered for spoken or singing solos have the opportunity to audition. Students that want to be involved, but are not interested in solos can either register for onstage and participate in the chorus or can register for backstage.
- Students will have opportunities to work with adults that have extensive theatrical knowledge in all areas of the theater and help out with additional projects that they are interested in.

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who are the directors?
 - a. Beth Wondolowski and Sarah Robson are co-directors for Summer Music Theater. Ms. Wondolowski directs and music directs while Ms. Robson directs and choreographs the production. Both of the directors have vast experience with musical theater! Ms. Wondolowski has multiple degrees in music and has been involved with theater since middle school. She has been the originating sponsor for both a Middle School Drama Club and for Summer Music Theater where she has directed 18 productions. In addition to youth theater, Ms. Wondolowski is also very involved in community theaters all over Southeast Michigan where she performs, runs backstage aspects, directs, music directs, and performs in various pit orchestras. Recently she was nominated for a Broadwayworld.com award for Best Music Direction for her work on Seussical, Jr. with Spotlight on Youth Theater in Canton. Ms. Robson has been involved with theater for over 20 years where she has performed, choreographed, and directed for a number of community theaters in the area. Ms. Robson has also trained extensively in Vocal Performance both privately and in college. Recently she received the Best Choreographer Award from the Dexter Community Players for her work on Snow White and the Seven Dancing Dwarfs.

2. When and where is the first session of Summer Music Theater?
 - a. For students that would like to audition for a lead role, auditions will be held on April 11, 2020 from 10 AM - 1 PM in the Whitmore Lake Multipurpose Room. If you would like to audition, but have a conflict with that day/time, please contact Ms. Wondolowski at beth.wondolowski@lpps.info to arrange a different audition.
 - b. For students that would like chorus only (onstage, but no solos) and backstage, the first rehearsal will be on April 18, 2020 in the Whitmore Lake Multipurpose Room.
3. When will I hear from the directors?
 - a. Directors will send out an email to all registered participants the week before the auditions (around April 6, 2020). If not registered by April 6, emails will be sent once registered.
4. What does the rehearsal schedule look like?
 - a. April 18-June 6
 - i. Saturdays from 10 AM - 1 PM.
 1. There is no rehearsal on May 23 due to Memorial Day weekend.
 - ii. June 13 from 10 AM - 4 PM is rehearsal/set build day for students and parents
 - iii. Starting Monday, June 15, 2020 we rehearse Monday - Friday from 10 AM - 3 PM for two weeks (June 15-19 & June 22-26).
5. Where are the rehearsals?
 - a. Most rehearsals will be held in the Theater on the stage. Sometimes we will be in either the Band Room or the Multipurpose Room depending on facility scheduling or what we are focusing on for that rehearsal.
6. When and where are the performances?
 - a. Performances are scheduled for Friday, June 26 at 7 PM, Saturday, June 27 at 7 PM, and Sunday, June 28 at 2 PM. Depending on the size of the cast and ticket sales, we may also add a matinee on Saturday, June 27 at 2 PM - we will know by April 18 if we plan to add that show.
7. What are the costume needs?
 - a. We make or borrow the majority of our costumes, so students don't have to worry about that. We may ask for specific color shoes (participants with dance shoes can wear them) for a unified look or ask to see if students have particular items before we purchase them. If there is ever an issue with acquiring any items that the directors ask for, please communicate with them so that a Plan B can be worked out!

- b. Backstage participants will need black clothing for performances. We have some in the costume area specifically for backstage students, so if you are having trouble finding black clothes, please let the directors know!
- 8. As a parent, how can I volunteer?
 - a. We always need help with a variety of things for the show. From building, to painting, to costumes, to helping kids with their make-up, to selling tickets, to putting up posters! On the email that is sent out in April to participants, there will be a spot for parent volunteers to let the directors know what works best for them. We try to only ask parents for their help in one of the sections in order to divide the burden and time commitment into reasonable sections, so if you're willing to help more than what we ask, please let us know - we are glad to add options, but don't want to make anyone feel like we're asking too much of them.
 - b. We will also need help on the set build day (June 13). All hands on deck will make everything run smoothly and efficiently! We will have projects for all ability levels, so everyone will be able to lend a hand!
- 9. Is there a limit to the number of students that can participate?
 - a. There is a cap of 75 participants for the onstage section, which has been filled in the past. Register early to ensure a spot! If the onstage section is filled, please register for the backstage section - if places become available in the onstage section, the students in backstage can be switched if preferred. Backstage is limited to 50 participants.
- 10. Will there be a cast party?
 - a. We typically try to hold the cast party the week after the July 4th holiday for all who can attend. At the cast party we watch the DVD of the show and gather for one last time to eat and hang out!
- 11. What is the refund policy?
 - a. WLCR will process full refunds for any programs cancelled by our department. All other cancellations must be made one week before the program begins (before auditions on April 11, 2020). A \$5 or 7% processing fee, whichever is greater, will be deducted from the refund amount. After a program begins, we will only consider a refund with a medical note. A \$40 fee will be assessed for checks returned for insufficient funds.
- 12. Is there a late registration fee?
 - a. There is a fee of \$20 for registrations received after April 11, 2020. Please also remember that registrations received after April 11 will be ineligible for auditioning for a solo spoken or singing role. Late registrations will only be allowed if space is available - 75 participant cap for the onstage section; 50 participant cap for the backstage section.

Dates to Remember:

SATURDAY REHEARSALS

- April 11: 10 AM - 1 PM AUDITIONS (only those wishing to be considered for a speaking/singing solo need to attend - backstage and chorus only do not need to come to auditions)
- April 18: 10 AM - 1 PM Rehearsal
- April 25: 10 AM - 1 PM Rehearsal
- May 2: 10 AM - 1 PM Rehearsal
- May 9: 10 AM - 1 PM Rehearsal
- May 16: 10 AM - 1 PM Rehearsal
- [NO REHEARSAL MAY 23 DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND]
- May 30: 10 AM - 1 PM Rehearsal
- June 6: 10 AM - 1 PM Rehearsal
- June 13: 10 AM - 4 PM REHEARSAL/SET BUILD! (Any and all parents are encouraged/welcome to help!!) *If the majority of the set is completed by the backstage crew before this day, we may change the ending time. We will know by June 6th where we are at with this.

CAMP REHEARSALS once school is out:

- Mon. – Fri., June 15 – 19: 10 AM – 3 PM
- Mon. – Thurs., June 22 – 25: 10 AM – 3 PM
- Friday, June 26: 10 AM - 1 PM

PERFORMANCES:

- Friday, June 26 at 7 PM (call time 5 PM)
- Saturday, June 27 at 7 PM (call time 5 PM) with potential to add show at 2 PM if there are over 60 participants
- Sunday, June 28 at 2 PM (call time 12 PM)

SET STRIKE:

- Sunday, June 28 after the show until completed
- This is **MANDATORY** for all cast/crew/parents

Cast Party/Video Viewing: TBD