

Repertoire List:

Don't rain on my Parade (Glee Version) - Funny Girl - 1968

Composer: Jule Styne

She's a woman – Kiss of the spider woman – 1985

Composer: John Kander

Perfect illusion – Lady Gaga – 2016

What more can I say – Falsettos – 1992

Composer: William Finn

Not my father's son – Kinky Boots – 2012

Composer: Cyndi Lauper

The Wall in my Head - Everybody's talking about Jamie – 2021

Composer(s): Dan Gillespie Sells / Anne Dudley

Monster – Frozen – 2018

Composer(s): Kristen Anderson-Lopez / Robert Lopez

Creep – RadioHead – 1993

Hold me in your heart – Kinky Boots – 2012

Composer: Cyndi Lauper

## Programme notes

Don't rain on my Parade:

The song don't rain on my parade is originally from the musical Funny Girl, with music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Bob Meri's and book by Isobel Lennart. Funny girl was first produced in 1964 and is set in 1910/1920s New York, lower east side. A brief synopsis of the musical entails Fanny Brice climbs her way through the burlesque and vaudeville scene in New York with dreams of being on the "big" stage even though she is constantly told that she is not good enough or isn't pretty enough for the stage. Later on in the musical she then has to choose between an adored husband who resents her successes or a show business career she so desperately dreams of. "A triumphant story of starry success and a bittersweet story of love," "Don't Rain on My Parade" proved to be one of the most popular songs of its era, covered by everyone from Frank Sinatra to Bobby Darin" (Allmusic)

Composer: Jule Styne who composed Funny girl was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1905 in London, England. He was most famously known for Funny Girl (1964), Die Hard (1988) and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953), another notable mention he collaborated on was the Gypsy screenplay. He developed his love for popular music working with jazz bands in the 1920s and as a vocal coach for 1930s Hollywood stars such as Shirley Temple and Alice Faye. Jule Styne was elected into the song writers hall of fame in 1972 and also go inducted into the theatre hall of fame in 1981.

Don't Rain on my parade was also adapted on the hit to show Glee which ran from 2009 to 2015. The song was sung on the show by Lea Michelle, with the same character and analogy behind the song. I chose to use this version of the song because it felt as though this version had a bit more flair and resilience and modernised it a small bit. Other notable performances of this song include celebrities like Barbara Streisand and this became one of the pivotal versions that came from the musical and to this day is still very popular compared to other cast recordings of the song.

She's A Woman:

The song she's a woman is from the 1992 musical Kiss of the Spider Woman, with music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb and book by Terrence McNally.. The character that sings this song is Luis Alberto Molina. He is a gay 'window dresser' and in the musical is currently in jail serving his third year in a eight year sentence for corrupting a minor. One of the biggest things about Molina is that he lives in a constant state of fantasy in order to try and forget about his sentence an in turn fantasies over a screen actor Aurora. Just before this song a new man has been thrown into the cell with Molina and he is trying to escape the reality of the situation.

The relationship between Molina and the new man (Valentin) is a very rocky one as they do not seem to be getting on. Valentin finds that Molina's fantasies are deluded and that he needs space and draws a line on the floor so that Molina doesn't come near him. Molina later finds out that his mother has fallen ill and is allowed to see her on the one condition that he can tell the guards who Valentin's girlfriend is and so the two begin to bond over their loves, Molina's being a waiter that doesn't reciprocate the feeling and Valentin's girlfriend who he is in love with.

Composer: John Harold Kander, born on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1927, is an American composer who is very well known in the musical theatre industry. He comprises half of the song writing duo that is famously known as Kander and Ebb. Some of the most famous mentions from this duo is cabaret and Chicago which are still some of the best selling shows on the west end and Broadway even though they are pre-contemporary shows. Kander and Ebb came to fruition in the mid 1960's to the early 2000's with Kander composing the music and lyrics by Ebb.

One of the most notable performances as Molina is William Hurt who played this role in the film adaptation. Some of his other contemporary work includes the Incredible Hulk (2008) Avengers Infinity war (2018) and Avengers: End Game in 2019.

#### Perfect Illusion:

Perfect Illusion is a pop song written, produced and recorded by Lady Gaga in 2016. This song explored Lady Gaga's "highest of highs and lowest of lows" in a relationship, which in turn is a commentary of how relationships are perceived on social media. This one was released in her album titled Joanne, this album was her first album away from her previous management and she wanted to express how if she could not be free in her career then she could be free in her heart and expression with music.

This album was one of the pivotal moments for Lady Gaga in her career as previous to the 'Joanne' album she was a very prominent figure in the disco/pop scene in the early 2000's however when 'Joanne' was released it was a massive turning point in her music career and how she was perceived. The album has a very stripped down feel in relation to her older music and has an old school nineties soft rock vibe, with modern messages scattered throughout the album such as perfect illusion with the social media message.

#### What More Can I Say?:

The song What More Can I Say? Is from the 1992 musical Falsettos set in 1979, with music, lyrics and book by William Finn. The context behind this song is Marvin, who sings this song, is currently in bed with Whizzer and he is asleep. He is in disbelief that they are both together again. This song explores Marvin's expressions on how

this relationship has changed him for the better. After this song Marvin finds out that Whizzer his lover has contracted AIDS and has fallen ill with it and Shirley after unfortunately passes.

Throughout the musical you go on the journey of Marvin, a gay man who has realised his love for another man. Instead of perusing the relationship in a traditional sense, he wants to keep up the image of a tight knit family and so in turn makes Whizzer move into the house with Marvin, his wife and his son. Things don't seem to work in this context as Marvin is trying to show his dominance and masculinity over Whizzer and forces him into a housewife position of the house rather than showing these qualities in a lover sense. This ends up with his wife Trina going out and sleeping with Marvin's 'shrink' and ultimately Marvin blowing up at Trina for this but Whizzer stands up for Trina and admits he does not love Marvin.

Composer: William Finn is an American composer and lyricist born on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1952. His most notable musicals are Falsettos as he won the 1992 Tony awards for best original score and best book of a musical, a new brain and The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.

The most notable performance of Marvin in Falsettos is Christian Borle. He has starred in many famous productions such as Legally Blonde, The Sound of Music and Something Rotten. He is a two time Tony award winning performer for his roles as Stache in Peter and the Starcatcher and as William Shakespeare in Something Rotten.

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