

# *Love Takes Time*

## *The Music of Cole Porter and Stephen Sondheim*

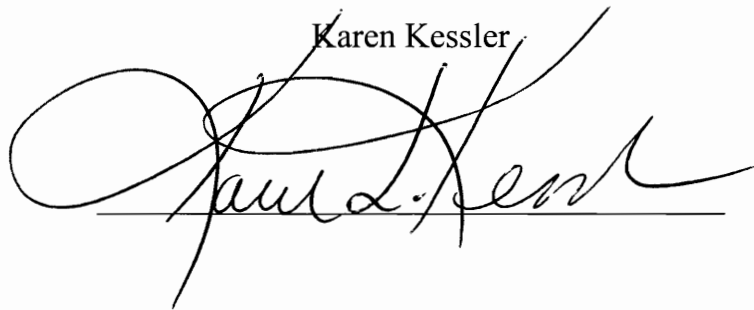
An Honors Thesis (HONRS499)

By

Ted Bourke

Thesis Advisor

Karen Kessler

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kessler", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K' and 'S'.

Ball State University

Muncie, Indiana

December 2009

Expected Graduation Date: May 2010

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## Abstract

“As the title indicates, love does take time. Whether in friendship or romance, love does not always happen overnight. It goes through cycles and changes. This production shows such a cycle – the naivety of young love, the heartache of a breakup, the thrill of new love, the prospect of a budding friendship. Using the music of Cole Porter and Stephen Sondheim, we are given a glimpse into the lives of six individuals and how they fit into the ups and downs of this thing we call love.”

-Taken from “A Note from the Director” from the program

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people:

**Alex Kocoshis**, who not only served as the musical director for this cabaret but also provided hours of support and guidance throughout this entire project.

**Karen Kessler**, for advising me both throughout this project and during my time at Ball State.

The entire cast, which consisted of: **Jonathan Jensen, Maren Ritter, Amy Harpenau, Chelsey Everhart, Eric Byrer, and Andy Pickerill**, all of whom were willing to help me out.

The production team of **Corrina Morris, Max Gosman, Cody Nicoletti, and Chris Bott**, for helping out in so many ways throughout the entire process.

\*The program provides a more extensive list of all the people who made some sort of contribution to the show.

## **Binder Contents**

1. Abstract and Acknowledgements
2. Artist's Statement
3. Song list (by composer)
4. The program
5. DVD copy of the December 11<sup>th</sup> show

## Artist's Statement

I am a senior theatre directing major. For the past four and a half years, I have been very involved with the Ball State Department of Theatre and Dance. As directing majors, we are encouraged to participate in as many productions as we can. Since coming to Ball State, I have been able to add ten more shows to my resume, as a stage manager, assistant director, and director. With each show, I was able to add to my knowledge and experience in the area of theatrical directing.

As directing majors, we have two major projects to complete before graduation. One is directing a show in our student-produced theatre called the Cave. I did that two years ago with a show entitled *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. With this show, I learned what it was like to be a director, working with actors on a full-length show, and getting everything together – programs, posters, set, props, and costumes. It was quite an experience, from casting the show myself to running an entire technical weekend rehearsal on my own.

Our other major project is the senior capstone. For this particular project, we have to direct a self-produced theatrical work. Of the few stipulations placed upon us, the most significant one is that our performance space must be a “found space” – meaning we are to find some other venue either on or off campus that is not directly connected with the department of theatre and dance. Other than being given a faculty supervisor, we are entirely on our own for the project – this means we must raise our own funds to pay for the rights to shows, the rehearsal and performance space, and any other expenses we may incur during this theatrical endeavor.

Since musical theatre is one of my passions, I chose to direct an original cabaret featuring the works of Cole Porter and Stephen Sondheim. I chose both Porter and Sondheim because they tell stories through their songs. Both have written extensively on the subject of love, so that

is what I chose to make the focus of the show. I worked in conjunction with Alex Kocoshis, an assistant professor of musical theatre, who is the music director for the show. I cast six musical theatre students in the show. I also chose a few other theatre students to work on the production side of the cabaret. Together, we presented some of Porter and Sondheim's most classic and well-known songs in a cabaret format.

The process began back in the spring when Alex and I first decided to work together on my final show at Ball State. I asked six of my friends who are musical theatre majors to be a part of the process. I chose these particular six people because I have either worked with them before or I knew that they were hard working and dedicated workers, which is something that I needed, particularly in a project like this. Alex and I met again over the summer to discuss the music we would use and then solidified the numbers in the fall.

The show went through a few revisions. After an initial run, we realized that some of the songs we had chosen did not fit the world of the show that was being created. So some songs were cut, a few more added, and the show took on a whole new shape. Throughout the entire process, the actors and production team remained very flexible as we all worked together to work out the kinks. By the time we went on Thanksgiving break, we had a solid show that reflected the ups and downs of love and represented through some very well-known musical theatre numbers.

The rehearsal process began on November 2 and continued until the show's opening on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The cabaret ran for two days at Cornerstone Center for the Arts in downtown Muncie. Every student, faculty, and staff member in the department was encouraged to attend the show, as well as any other member of the Ball State and Muncie community. In addition, it was expected that we would have a large turnout from our own family and friends from home.

Actually, the attendance at the cabaret exceeded our expectations. We were fortunate enough to have over one hundred people attend the cabaret over the course of the two evenings.

This show presented its own set of unique challenges. Since it was a cabaret, there was no actual plotline to follow. Rather, it was a series of songs strung together to form an evening of musical entertainment. As one of my theatre professors tells us, each song is a pearl; it is our job to find the string that connects them. The challenge I issued to myself, the cast and other members of the production team was to find that string that connected each song to each other. Given that there is no script to follow, we had the creative license to form our own story with the songs we had chosen.

Given the nature of this show, I was really challenged and grew as both an artist and a person. I believe that working on this project has helped me find a lot of growth in my journey to becoming a professional theatrical director. Once I graduate from Ball State and make my way to Chicago or another large city, I know that I will have to direct many shows much like this self-produced project, where I have to find the show, cast the actors, and provide all of the necessary materials and funds entirely on my own. This project gave me the opportunity to experience the steps necessary to complete a successful production.

## Song List

These are the songs that will be performed in the cabaret, listed in alphabetical order by composer and with pertinent details.

### Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

*Anything Goes* from *Anything Goes*  
*Begin the Beguine* from *Jubilee*  
*Brush Up Your Shakespeare* from *Kiss Me, Kate*  
*Don't Fence Me In* from *Adios, Argentina*  
*Ev'rytime We Say Goodbye* from *Seven Lively Arts*  
*In the Still of the Night* from *Rosalie*  
*It's Delovely* from *Red, Hot, and Blue*  
*The Laziest Gal in Town* from *Stage Fright* (film)  
*Love for Sale* from *The New Yorkers*  
*Miss Otis Regrets*  
*Night and Day* from *Gay Divorce*  
*Too Darn Hot* from *Kiss Me, Kate*

### Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

*Being Alive* from *Company*  
*Everybody Ought to Have a Maid* from *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*  
*Everyday A Little Death* from *A Little Night Music*  
*Love Takes Time* from *A Little Night Music* (film version)  
*No One is Alone* from *Into the Woods*  
*Not While I'm Around* from *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*  
*The Ladies Who Lunch* from *Company*  
*There Won't Be Trumpets* from *Anyone Can Whistle*  
*We Do Not Belong Together* from *Sunday in the Park with George*

## A Note from The Director

As the title indicates, love does take time. Whether in friendship or romance, love does not always happen overnight. It goes through cycles and changes. This production shows such a cycle – the naivety of young love, the heartache of a breakup, the thrill of new love, the prospect of a budding friendship. Using the music of Cole Porter and Stephen Sondheim, we are given a glimpse into the lives of six individuals and how they fit into the ups and downs of this thing we call love. Throughout this show, I have had the joy of experiencing one of the best kinds of love – that of family and friends. In my case, I have been blessed with many family and friends who have contributed in many different ways to the show. Many thanks to a fantastic cast and production team who have been willing to take this journey with me, crazy as it has been at times. Special thanks to Alex Kocoshis, who has been a support and a tremendous help throughout the entire process. Thanks to all the family and friends who have supported this production in many different ways. Finally, this production is dedicated to my grandpa who loved his family and friends more than anything.

## Production Sponsors

Carolyn J. Bourke

Kevin, Janet, Philip, and Eli Bourke

Bob and Joyce Colgrove

The Morris Family

Fred and Nancy Raub and Family

Dan and Susan Shullenberger

## Special Thanks

The Cornerstone Center for the Arts

JK Blair      Joe Bright

Alpha Psi Omega      Andrea Sadler

Dr. Harold Mortimer      Melissa Tinsley

Duncan McIntyre      Jaclyn Hennell

Greg Josken      Kate Moore

Larry Cistrelli      Cameron Berne

Allison Sims      Ryan Prendergast

Jessica Corns      Dr. Michael O'Hara

Erin Oechsel      Jennifer Blackmer

Ball State University Presents:

# Love Takes Time

Cornerstone Center for the Arts



This is where the DVD copy will go.

Copies are being made over Christmas break.

# *Love Takes Time*

## *The Music of Cole Porter and Stephen Sondheim*

An original cabaret directed by Ted Bourke

December 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The Theatre Room

Cornerstone Center for the Arts

Muncie, Indiana