

Original Musical Set to be Performed at Kennedy High

Grandma's Top Forty by Adla Shaker Hannon

Former Prospect resident and author Adla Shaker Hannon hasn't slowed down one bit. Her original musical, "Grandma's Top Forty" will be performed for a second time on November 4 at 7 p.m. at Kennedy High School in Waterbury.

This unique musical had its premiere recently at Our Lady of Lebanon Church Hall as a fundraiser. The play's basic concept is that for her seventy-fifth birthday, members of her family get together to make CD's of all the music their grandmother had written. In addition to the gifted cantors and children of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, some of the best artists from Waterbury and surrounding towns, delighted the audience with their exceptional talent.

Many of the singers such as Cleveland Williams and Faith Genoa have also performed in many concerts in the area. Robert Repco, from Cheshire, is also known for his singing and guitar. For "Grandma's Top Forty," he performed country and folk songs with Deanna Rozak and Susan Clark, while Aaron Silver joined in as bass guitarist. Other performers who made the evening most memorable included Isabel Kearns, a Prospect resident, who performs for senior citizen groups; Alexa Barchini, a teenager, who wowed the audience with her renditions of moderate rock and show tunes; John Atallah, Crosby's football captain performed a folk and show tune and played Lebanese drums. His nine-year-old sister surprised the audience with her strong, lovely voice also singing a folk song.

Danielle Mullen not only served as a choreographer, but also was our featured ballet dancer. Christine Evans, an award-winning baton twirler, had the audience fascinated with her skill and also played the role of granddaughter. The children from the parish, Christine Atallah, Paula Atallah, Michelle Atallah, Clara Atallah, Gabriel Hamawi, and Rafael Hamawi, joined in to perform two songs.

Other Lebanese songs performed by Our Lady of Lebanon Church cantor were sung by Nehme Atallah, accompanied by Camille Atallah, on the Lebanese flute and on the Lebanese drums was John Atallah. Lebanese dancers included Clara, Christine, Michelle and Paula Atallah.

The principal speaking characters include Miriam (Grandmother), played by Adla Shaker Hannon; Martha (Miriam's daughter), played by Hiam Atallah; Joey (Martha's son), played by Jean Paul Atallah; and Betsy (Martha's daughter), played by Christine Evans.

Musicians included Will Bartlett on flute and Joel Lee Pietrorazio on bass guitar, both well known by musicians in the area. Music Director and piano accompanist was Sarah Pelton.

It was felt that since the musical brought so much joy to the audience at its premiere, it would be even more effective on a large stage. Tickets are \$12 for adults, and \$6 for children and will be available the middle of this month by calling Our Lady of Lebanon Church at 753-6633.



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