

Hello Savoyards,

This year your Board of Directors decided to take a step back in order to move forward, and has begun dealing with some of the outstanding issues from previous years. The Board has also begun some long-term planning to help ensure Savoy's success for many years to come.

### **Transparency**

This year's Board has taken a more transparent approach to conducting the Society's business. To this end we have posted the minutes and information from this year's Board meetings on the Savoy Society of Ottawa website, along with a copy of the Savoy Society of Ottawa's most recent Bylaws which we use to govern our Society. See our website for more details:

<http://ottawasavoysociety.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>

### **Long-term Planning**

This year's Board felt that for the long term success of Savoy it was necessary to take a year off from production and reevaluate our planning cycle and budgeting practices. Taking into consideration the feedback we received from our Membership, the Board also took time to evaluate the proposals voted on by Members at the last year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in June, 2016 ( <http://ottawasavoysociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/AGM-Meeting-2016-06-27-formatted-final.pdf> ). After some time spent doing their due diligence, your Board developed a plan for 2017-2018 that will be presented to the Membership at our Annual General Meeting on July 24, 2017. Your Board believes that these plans reflect the wishes expressed by our membership at our last AGM, while attracting new audience members and new interest in the Society, and continuing the theatrical and musical tradition that Savoy is known for.

### **Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment Policy**

This year's board was unanimous in recognizing the need to speak with one voice and the need to develop better ways to collaborate. In pursuit of this goal we have developed and implemented the first phase of an Anti-Harassment/Anti-Bullying Policy as well as a Confidentiality Policy for Board Members in order to help ensure a continued safe and professional environment. These policies will continue to expand and evolve with the feedback of our membership as our Society grows. See our website for more information on these policies: <http://ottawasavoysociety.org/about-us/>

### **Job Descriptions**

This year's Board has also updated and developed Job Descriptions and Contracts for all the important functions that have to be carried out when it comes to producing a successful show season. With the goal of ensuring consistency and the smooth operation of the Society, and to help maintain a level of professionalism when it comes to producing our shows, each Job Description contains a list of responsibilities and expectations that are required of the position.

### **Permanent Storage**

This year's Board was able to amalgamate all of Savoy's archival material and corporate records that were being stored in the private residences of some of our members into a central storage unit where it can continue to be cataloged and organized for the benefit of our membership. Some of Savoy's archival materials include musical scores, show recordings from previous seasons, records of community involvement, and corporate records going back to Savoy's founding.

*The Board wishes to thank Gloria Young, Laurie MacEachern, Penny Mapelston, and Kitchissippi United Church for storing Savoy materials over the years.*

### **Digitization of old Savoy Society of Ottawa Performances**

This year's Board has started the process of updating the Society's website using archival material and video from our previous seasons with the goal of creating a permanent record of Savoy's accomplishments, community involvement, and contributions from its membership to Ottawa's theatre community that dates back to the 1970's. We have also begun digitizing the many decades of Archival video and sound recordings going back to the 1980's with the goal of adding it to our website. <http://ottawasavoyociety.org/previous-productions/>

We invite anyone in possession of material they believe would be suited for the Savoy Archives to contact us at [info@ottawasavoyociety.org](mailto:info@ottawasavoyociety.org)

### **Robert Van Dyne Award**

This year Savoy once again contributed to the Robert Van Dine Award for Musical Theatre in the annual Kiwanis music competition. Please visit the website to see thank you letters from this year's Award recipient and recipients from previous years:

<http://ottawasavoyociety.org/about-us/community-service/>

### **Moving Forward**

This year your Board of Directors has begun to work together in ways, and take Savoy in directions that have never happened previously. Moving forward I hope we can all continue to work together at building a solid foundation for future Society endeavours, as well as continue to expand and develop on the policies that were implemented this year to ensure a safe, secure, and productive future for our beloved Society.

Savoy's upcoming 2017-18 season promises to be one of Savoy's most interesting to date, and we can use your help in making sure that Savoy continues to grow and be a thriving member of Ottawa's theatre community. The Savoy society of Ottawa is composed of many different members of the theatre community and the community at large. Please consider adding your voice and expertise to our organization by joining our Board of Directors or contributing to one of our upcoming productions.

Please visit our website ( <http://ottawasavoyociety.org> ) to find out how you can become a member for the upcoming season. There will be many opportunities to get involved in our upcoming season's productions please join our Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/Savoylist/> ) or check back on our website in the Fall of 2017 to find out how you can get involved.

We hope you will join us and contribute to our success as we move towards our goal of a renewed and reinvigorated Savoy Society of Ottawa.

It has been my pleasure to serve the Society this year as President and I look forward to seeing many of you on our Board or involved in one of our upcoming shows in 2017-2018.

Sincerely,

Morris Rothman  
President Savoy Society of Ottawa  
2016-2017