

Diamonds and Roses

Last night was Kathrines's 6th Annual Recital (it was my second). I began the day going for one last run-through (for both of us as she accompanied me). Following my triumphant gig a little more than a month ago, I was challenged to get out of my Musical Theatre box and try something a little more artsy. "The Little Irish Girl" was a fun piece which not only allowed me the opportunity to attempt an Irish brogue but also a chance to portray the gentleman suitor and the titular figure of the piece along with the "pigs that number seven." Must have left them at the "cabin".

Following my rehearsal, I had time to come back home and relax for a few hours and bake the cookies I was taking (I think the Acus' will have more than a few cookies for a while). I was told that there was a great shortage for the reception 6 years ago. The young man who informed her of this had a plate containing 7 cookies! Good call that! So for each subsequent recital, more than enough parents or performers step up and provide.

Last year, the students were divided up into two separate shows to allow for the limited confines of the Little Theater. Carol and I were the final performance of the night and were sequestered in the green room so that M. And Mme. Thenardier could be revealed in magnificent fashion. Last night, I was the second student on stage following Davey Jones whom I thought had passed on a few months ago (but no, this was not the lead singer of the Monkees... I think I may have mentioned him in last year's wrap).

Because I selected the piece little more than a month ago, I was pleased with the result. Members of the audience must have thought so, too! After my performance, I sat with Tiff, Keith, and Trudles who all were complimentary. At intermission and at the reception, Mr. Ed (who delighted the

audience with a glorious performance of "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" on the church's piano) remarked how amazed he was with my voice. Other audience members remembered "Master of the House." Glad I am so memorable!

I was happy that I got to sit in the audience for the rest of the evening. This gave me the chance to see the other students and ensembles from young to more seasoned. There was a mix of genres from Christian to Country to Elvis to Lance's "Orphan's Tears" (a rap) and a little Broadway. Kathrine's little guy, Drew, gave his first performance on voice and guitar which was really cool! Over the last several weeks, I have heard Rob practicing "Burnin' Love" with Kathrine backing him on percussion (he is wrapping up as I arrive for my weekly lesson). The only thing missing was the high pitched female (or is it Elvis in falsetto) "AH, AH, AH" towards the end. I forgot to ask why they were missing. I also heard one of my favorite pieces of any genre that I must track down.... think I will save that for another time.

There were also door prizes. Inside two of the programs which I distributed, there was a rather huge drawing of a rose. Totally unmistakable. The two program holders each received a rose bush.

Not sure about the rest of the audience, but I thought the recital was lovely. Although sitting through 24 performances might otherwise seem dull, each student gave their best, entertained and flowed.

I saw someone standing up taking pictures throughout the evening so one or two may be coming.

Sharing the Stage with a Monkey

Tonight was my first recital EVER and the first time I have been on a stage since I graced the halls of Baskerville Hall WAAAAAAAAAY back in October. Last Thursday, K was not sure where in the program of 12 students she wanted to put CC and I. When I arrived at the Little Theatre, I found out that we would be last! "Who would want to follow you?" she asked. WOW!

I have always, ALWAYS, ALWAYS wanted to perform the showstopping "Master of the House" from *Les Miserables* and I am so glad that it was the piece I chose to do. Not to worry, plenty of other things I want to do, too. In the context of a recital, the song lends itself beautifully to a bit of audience participation. I needed two "Monsieurs" to come in at various times during the song. One was a fellow student (named Davy Jones) who was more than willing to fill the bill. The other was a little (or more so) hesitant about the bit since he had no advance knowledge. But happily, he played along. Thanks justj! I do think the guillotine in my old age would be the way to go.

If I had one critique, it is the size of the stage we performed on. The other 11 participants were all seated upstage and all the equipment limited the amount of movement I could do. I could always do more with the song no matter the size of the stage... so not really complaining!

The end result was **EXTRAORDINARY!** An audience member said that I was "the best Thenardier" she had ever seen. I'm not sure how the other 11 did but they sounded good. CC and I were in the green room until it was our turn. Kind of a grand introduction if you will. Either that or she did not want a slovenly innkeeper and his wife slopping up the stage the

entire time ☐

Thank you CC, justj, Monkeyman, and K for making my first recital super! And in all the excitement prior to heading for the theatre, I forgot to take my rat poison but did take it before typing the post.

This & That

It seems that the addition one of our newest [tangenteers](#) (I see a newer addition... but it has been years since I have taken a French class) I am quickly falling behind in my posts (although she does have a few hundred to catch me ☐).

Yesterday, I noticed real progress in the continuing dissolving of my blood clot. I still feel it... not really painful but it is still keeping me at a slow clip. Madame Peters was in tonight (haven't seen her since the day before I went to the doctor nearly two or THREE (?) months ago. I assured her that I am recovering nicely... however slowly. But I will be back to my 3-4 mile walks 3 times a week before long. Telling myself that I will be able to do the things I really enjoy doing in time helps with the psychological.

My recital with the rest of K's students is less than 4 weeks away. Memorizing my very wordy but very fun piece is challenging but I am really close. I have nailed down a fine female to do the bit with and once she completes her run in *The Wedding Singer*, we will get together and get 'r done.

Well... that is all... My food is probably over done and I have to watch *The Office* which I DVR'ed... Michael Scott's farewell is looming. I think next week is the extended special episode.

Is this the moment when the series will "Jump the Shark?" How will Will Ferrell fare in the new role? Time will tell.

Feeling Adventurous

I'm not sure if it was the 60^o+ weather of the past weekend (sure felt good) or just the idea of a little return to normalcy (whatever that is) but I have decided that this week I am going to set out on a few of the things I have been missing out on. Last Friday, I ventured out to get my first refill on my meds. A 90 day fill up... I guess I really am going to be on it for A LONG TIME, but it is for the best.

Later this afternoon, I am going to attend my first FCF board meeting since this all began (back in January... I refuse to miss more than 2). I am so excited to be able to get back and help get one of my favorite shows rolling along. I have finally come to the conclusion that thinking too much about auditioning for either [The Wizard of Oz](#) OR [Annie](#) (at another area theater) needs to take a backseat until I am 100% ready to go. Even then, I really want to focus on what lies ahead after I reach that goal. Still thinking about what that is going to be.

Thursday, I am going to my first voice lesson since January. K informed me that I picked the perfect time to do so. Her students are preparing for their annual recital and she was hoping that I would be back on my feet ready to go by then. I will pass along the details once I am confident that I will be strong enough to participate. God and everyone else knows I want to be but I am still being a bit realistic. It has nothing to do with my vocal ability; hopefully, my physical ability will be there as well.

AND FRIDAY... **MY FIRST GAME NIGHT SINCE JANUARY!** I cannot wait until I see some of my friends whom I have not seen since the start of 2011. Even those I have seen since. Hopefully, I

can convince a little buddy of mine that I do not live in the hospital. ☐

Goal setting and pushing forward just a bit surely will not impede my progress. After all... the doctor wanted me to go back to work the day after I was released from the hospital.

And in all this time, I forgot to wish my fellow Tangenteers a HAPPY THIRD BIRTHDAY! It has been a very fun and at times thought-provoking adventure and I truly enjoy continuing to get to know some of my best friends even better through their life experiences and thoughts! And WELCOME TO SPRING... it HAS been a long winter.