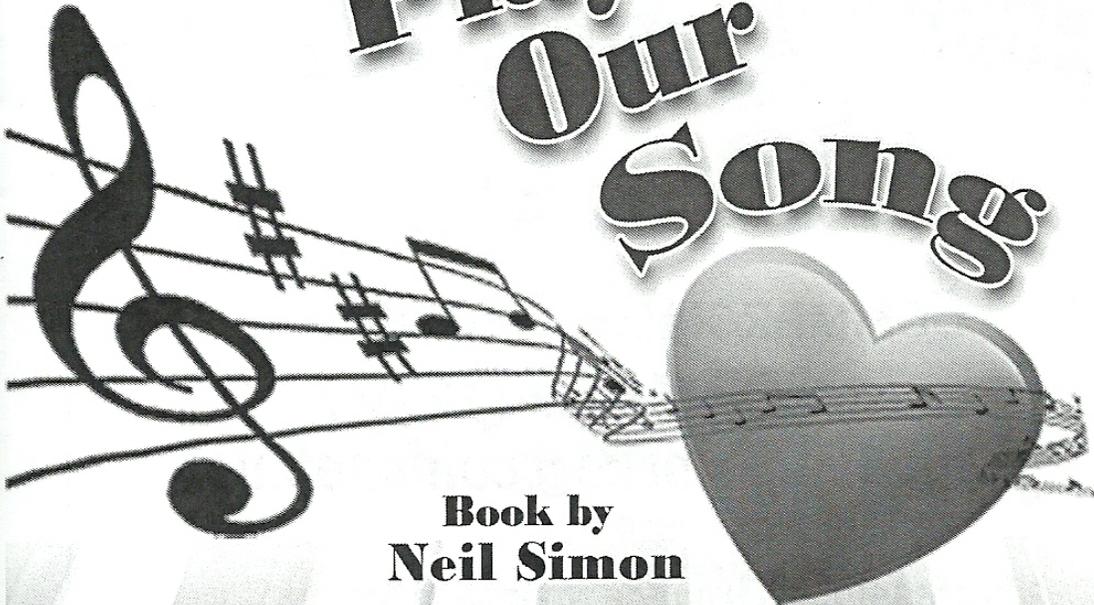


**The Community Players of Salisbury  
Presents**

# **They're Playing Our Songs**



**Book by  
Neil Simon**

**Music by  
Marvin Hamlisch**

**Lyrics by  
Carole Bayer Sager**

**Directed By  
Sherri Hynes**

**Musical Director  
Jeffrey Baer**

**Jan. 24 - 8pm / Jan. 25 - 2pm & 8pm**

**Jan. 31 - 8pm / Feb. 1 - 2pm**

**Wor-Wic Community College**

**Guerrieri Center Auditorium**

## The Community Players' President's Message

Welcome to Community Players and *They're Playing Our Song*. This is a fun and funny show — full of good humor, hilarious jokes, and witty, pointed characterizations. I know you will enjoy the show.

A lot has happened at Community Players in the past few months. After 40 years plus in our home on Glen Avenue we purchased a building on Nutters Cross Road that is three times the size of our previous buildings. After some major renovations we will be able to have auditions and rehearsals in our own space.

We are in the process of raising an additional \$75,000 to complete these renovations. If you have interest in helping us meet our goal you can send a tax-deductable donation to P. O. Box 2431, Salisbury, 21803 or contact me at 410-422-0635 or tomchicken@aol.com.

*Tom Robinson*

## Community Players Officers

President.....	Tom Robinson
Vice-President.....	Rusty Mumford
Corresponding Secretary.....	Ken Johnson
Recording Secretary.....	Kel Nagel
Treasurer.....	Charles Linton
Immediate Past President .....	Sharon Benchoff

## Board of Directors

David Allen	Jeff Baer	Joseph Benamati	
Robin Finley	Sherri Trader Hynes	Ernie Matthews	Mary Veise

# Synopsis

The action takes place around 1979 in New York and California

## Act I

### Scene 1

Vernon's apartment in Manhattan - Early May

### Scene 2

Vernon's apartment - The following week

### Scene 3

La Club Disco - That night

### Scene 4

Sonia's Apartment - Later the same night

### Scene 5

On the road, in the car - Later the same night

### Scene 6

Somewhere on Long Island - Even later

### Scene 7

Beach House in Quogue - Next day

## 15 minute Intermission

Refreshments are available for purchase in the lobby

## Act II

### Scene 1

Vernon's apartment - A couple weeks later

### Scene 2

Vernon's apartment - Six months later, December

### Scene 3

Recording studio in New York City - Next morning

### Scene 4

Mt. Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles - One year later

### Scene 5

Sonia's apartment - Two weeks later

# Musical Numbers

## Act I

<i>Fallin'</i> .....	Vernon
<i>Fallin'</i> reprise .....	Sonia
<i>Workin' It Out</i> .....	Vernon, Sonia, Voices
<i>If He Really Knew Me</i> .....	Sonia
<i>If She Really Knew Me</i> .....	Vernon
<i>They're Playing My Song</i> .....	Vernon, Sonia
<i>If He/She Really Knew Me</i> reprise .....	Vernon, Sonia
<i>Right</i> .....	Sonia, Voices
<i>Right</i> reprise .....	Sonia, Vernon
<i>Right</i> reprise .....	Vernon, Voices
<i>Just For Tonight</i> .....	Sonia

## Act II

<i>When You're In My Arms</i> .....	Vernon, Sonia, Voices
<i>I Still Believe in Love</i> .....	Sonia
<i>Fill in the Words</i> .....	Vernon, Voices

## Cast (in order of appearance)

Vernon Gersch ..... Ted Demetrious  
Sonia Walsk ..... Stephanie Davis

The Voices — Girls (other sides of Sonia's personality)  
"Teenage" Sonia ..... Sarah Benamati  
"Yuppie" Sonia ..... Katie Simms Parsons  
"Pop Rock" Sonia ..... Alexis Bireley  
"Mature" Sonia ..... Bobbie Calloway

The Voices — Boys (other sides of Vernon's personality)  
"Teenage" Vernon ..... Dylan Gregg  
"Yuppie" Vernon ..... Pete Cuesta  
"Pop Rock" Vernon ..... Robert Forester  
"Mature" Vernon ..... Rusty Mumford

Waiter/Phil (Sound Engineer) ..... Steve Culver

## Orchestra

Jeff Baer, Conductor

### Keyboard

Jeff Baer  
Susan Robinson

### Bass

Michael Bireley

### Percussion

Tom Clark

Please do not take photographs  
or video during our performance.

Please turn all cell phones off or to vibrate.

Please do not text during our performance.

## Production Staff

Director..... Sherri Trader Hynes  
Musical Director..... Jeffrey Baer  
Stage Manager..... Megan Davis  
Set Design/Construction..... Ken Johnson  
Costumes..... Lynne Bratten  
Set/Props Construction..... Ken Johnson, Sherri Hynes,  
Bobbie Calloway, Pete Cuesta Steve Culver,  
Lester Huss, Nadine Jackson, Jean King,  
Jim King, Bette Messick, James Mumford,  
Jake Parsons, Janet Pfeiffer, Jordan Smith,  
Noah Smith, Brandon Taylor, Mary Veise  
Scenic Artist..... Judy Hearne  
Stage Crew..... Jordan Smith, Noah Smith, Cast Members  
Lighting Design..... Joe Benamati  
Sound/Sound Effects..... David Allen and Bill Gore  
Props..... Joanne Little, Sherri Hynes  
Hair/Make-up..... Rusty Mumford  
House Manager..... Mary Veise  
Publicity..... Sherri Hynes, Kel Nagel, Kathy Panchyk  
Program Cover/Poster Design..... Kathy Panchyk  
Program..... David and Pat Oberholtzer, Tom Robinson

**Don't miss Community Players' 2014 shows!**

***The Foreigner*** — April 3-5, 10-12  
at Wor-Wic Community College

***Brighton Beach Memoirs*** — June 13-15  
at Parkside High School Auditorium

Tickets are available by calling 410-546-0099 or  
on the web at [www.communityplayersofsalisbury.org](http://www.communityplayersofsalisbury.org)

## Director's Message

Greetings and welcome to our production of the musical comedy, *They're Playing our Song*. Although it is not a widely known musical, it is one of my personal favorites having first seen it in New York with Robert Klein and Lucy Arnaz. How could you not love it – the play is written by the king of comedy, America's premier funny man, Neil Simon, with music written by Marvin Hamlisch (who wrote the music for *A Chorus Line* as well), and lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager. In 1979 it was nominated for 2 Tony awards and 3 Drama Desk awards. It is a funny, romantic story about an established composer and his relationship with an aspiring lyricist. Professionally, their relationship works beautifully, but ultimately leads to conflict on the home front. In addition to the characters of Vernon and Sonia, we also are introduced to the "other sides of their personalities" – aka the "girls" and the "boys". In my vision, I decided that each of us has a youthful teenage side, a more professional "yuppie" side, a wild and crazy "rock and roll pop culture" side and lastly, a mature, older side – each one bringing their own character and an extra level of fun to the mix. Together they transport you back in time to 1979 – a year that brought us movies such as *Alien* and *Superman the Movie*, TV shows *Dallas* and *Charlie's Angels*, and albums from *The Bee Gees*, *Donna Summer*, and *Michael Jackson*. If that doesn't bring back memories, maybe paying only \$.86 per gallon for gas will. I believe the phrase "Those were the days" rings true.

As every director will tell you, this is a group effort. It may take a village to raise a child; it takes an entire community to produce a show. I owe a huge thank you to Ken Johnson for taking my scribbles on a piece of paper and turning it into a great set design and building a set to accommodate so many set/locations; Judy Hearn for painting the magnificent mural of the beach; Joe Benamati for making the special lighting nuances; Joanne Little for assembling the large number of props; Lynne Bratten for her wisdom and costume finesse; David Allen for his sound effects; and lastly for my "pit band" under the direction of Jeffrey Baer for making the music. Then there are all the people you don't see – the painters, the set movers, the ones who put together the program, the ones who work on advertising, and so forth. Everyone you see on stage and those you don't see behind the scenes have worked very hard for the past couple months, and we could not bring you our shows without their help. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

So, sit back, get comfortable, forget about the cold and let us take you back in time and make you smile.

*Sherri Trader Hynes*

## Who's Who in the Cast

**Sarah Benamati (Teenage Sonia)** – Sarah has been performing on stage for twelve years. She got her start with Community Players in *Wizard of Oz* as a Munchkin. Since then she has been in *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Tootie), *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Hollow* (Doris) and *Oliver!* (Artful Dodger). She has also performed in musicals at The Salisbury School including *Beauty and the Beast* (Chip), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mama Peterson), *Willy Wonka* (Charlie Bucket), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Chava). In March she will be performing in *The King and I* as Anna. She is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and has performed with the Young Americans.

**Alexis Bireley (Pop Rock Sonia)** – Alexis is very excited to be in this musical because she has not been in one for far too long. Though this is her first performance with the Community Players she has been performing since she was five. Growing up, she was in the Laurel High School chorus for 10 years and had such roles as Jan in *Grease*, Eulalie Meckecknie Shinn in *The Music Man*, and Gabriella Montez in *High School Musical*. Today Alexis is happily married to Michael Bireley who is playing bass in the pit, and she also takes lyrical dance classes with her mother-in-law, Laurie Bireley. Alexis would not have ever been able to discover her love for theatre without all the support from her parents and grandparents Debora, Kevin, Janet, and Thomas Musser. She hopes to inspire people, and to let God's love shine through her, for all to see.

**Bobbie Calloway (Mature Sonia)** – Bobbie has been a part of Community Players for many years. She was a “voice” when we did *They're Playing Our Song* at Holly Center. She loves being on stage as well as backstage and painting. This is a fun show and she is proud to be a part of it.

**Pete Cuesta (Yuppie Vernon)** – Pete is very happy to make his second appearance on stage ten weeks after being in Community Players production of *Les Misérables*. He has enjoyed the stage for most of his life but has spent recent years behind the scenes in the Theater Program at The Salisbury School. Peter spends his days as a Surgical Podiatrist with Eastern Shore Podiatry. He would like to thank his wonderful wife and daughters for their support and want them to know that his favorite role is “Dad”.

**Steve Culver (Waiter/Phil, Sound Engineer)** – Steve is happy to return to the stage. He has appeared in Players' productions of *The Odd Couple* (Vinnie), *Oliver!* (twice – the first time in 1979 as the Artful Dodger and again in 2012 as Fagin), *On Golden Pond* (Charlie), *The Wizard of Oz* (Professor Marvel/Wizard), and was last seen in *Les Misérables* (Ensemble).

## Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

**Stephanie Davis (Sonia Walsk)** – This is Stephanie's fifth production with Community Players. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to play Sonia Walsk! Previous productions include *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Odd Couple* and *Les Misérables*. Just like her character, she is always late, including this bio, which is why it's so short! She says that there is nothing more fun than doing theater with great group of actors and friends who make her look good!

**Ted Demetriou (Vernon Gersch)** – Ted is thrilled to be returning to Players for his second on-stage performance. You may remember him as the evil Bill Sykes in last year's production of *Oliver!* He also helped backstage flying the characters around in *Wizard of Oz*. He is a twenty year veteran of community theatre having played such roles as Capt. Von Trapp (*Sound of Music*), Prof. Henry Higgins (*My Fair Lady*), Prof. Harold Hill (*Music Man*) and many others. His favorite is Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, where he met his wife Maria. By day Ted is an insurance executive with over 30 years experience. Lastly he would like to thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed and for the love given to him by Maria, his four wonderful children, and his beautiful granddaughter.

## Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

**Robert Forester (Pop Rock Vernon)** – Robert is a veteran of over 100 productions in summer stock, dinner theatre, college, and community theatre along with credits in both television commercials and radio plays for National Public Radio. Some of the shows he has appeared in are: *The Laramie Project*, *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Into The Woods*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Bell Book and Candle*, *Anything Goes*, *Man of LaMancha*, *The Fantasticks*, *Sugar Babies*, *Don't Drink the Water*, *Equus*, *Oklahoma!*, *Sound of Music*, *Music Man*, *Grease*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Nerd*, and *Oliver* to name a few.

**Dylan Gregg (Teenage Vernon)** – Dylan is making his Players debut. He is in the 11th grade at Parkside High School, 2013-2014 Maryland All-State choir member, performed in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, he is a vocal student at SU and is in the VPA program under the direction of Dr. Baer.

**Rusty Mumford (Mature Vernon)** – Rusty has been a member of Community Players for more than 25 years. During that time, he has held every office in the organization (except treasurer) and has taken part in almost every show either on stage or backstage, working on most aspects of show production. He has directed numerous productions for Players, the most recent being *On Golden Pond*. On stage, Rusty has appeared in many productions, including *Rumors* (Ken), *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd), *Social Security* (David Kahn), *Christmas Carol* (Scrooge/Dickens), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Schroeder), *Godspell* (Company), *Annie* (Drake), *The Sunshine Boys* (Ben), *You Can't Take It With You* (Paul), *My Three Angels* (Joseph), *The Wizard of Oz* (Uncle Henry), *Footloose* (Uncle Wes), and *Jekyll & Hyde* (Lord Reginald Kensington). Most recently, he was seen as a member of the ensemble in *Les Misérables*.

**Katie Parsons (Yuppie Sonia)** – Katie has performed with Players since 2000 and had leading roles in *Annie*, *Charley's Aunt*, and *All Shook Up* to name a few. She is a member of the Celebration Choir at Christ United Methodist Church and teaches music and theater at The Salisbury School. She would like to thank her friends and family, especially newly-wed husband Jake for his love and support.

## Who's Who behind the scenes

**Sherri Trader Hynes (Director)** – Sherri was practically raised at Community Players, having been involved with the organization for over 45 years in virtually every capacity. Her most recent achievements include directing her favorite show, *Jekyll & Hyde* in 2010 and *Oliver* in 2012. Sherri was last seen in *The Mousetrap*, *Rumors*, and had many leading roles including Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Nancy in *Oliver!* (1995), *The King and I*, *Blithe Spirit*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *You Can't Take it With You* for Community Players. In addition, she had leading roles as Bloody Mary in *South Pacific* and Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Her directing credits include *Oklahoma*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Charley's Aunt*, and *Godspell* for the Community Players. She would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of her parents, Leon and Anna Lee Trader, and her dear friend Edward Atkinson.

**Jeffrey Baer (Music Director)** – Jeff is no stranger to the stage, having had the lead role of Dr. Jekyll in *Jekyll & Hyde*, and leading roles in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), and *Godspell* (Jesus) for the Community Players. His first production with Players was as the Music Director for our production of *Oliver!* in 1995. Since then his credits include Musical Director for *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Meet Me in St Louis*, and *How to Succeed in Business*. He played keyboards in the orchestra for *Hello Dolly*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, and *Les Misérables*. In addition he had leading roles with the Easton Choral Arts Society in *Carmen*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Elijah*, and performed in *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* at Bethesda Church. Dr. Baer received his Masters degree in music from Florida State University and his Doctorate from Walden University.

**David Allen (Sound/ Sound Effects)** – This is the beginning of David's twenty-first year with Players. Yes, he still loves it! He enjoys working behind the scenes doing set construction, lights, sound and more. If you see him on the stage there's most likely a problem!

**Joe Benamati (Lighting)** – Joe began acting with Community Players in *Oliver!* as Mr. Bumble eighteen years ago. Since that time he's been seen on stage in roles such as The Cowardly Lion (*The Wizard of Oz*) and Moonface Martin (*Anything Goes*). This is not the first time he has been behind the scenes; he has been a director (*A Christmas Carol*), a lighting designer, and a stage manager. He also works with The Salisbury School where he will be directing *The King and I* in March. He loves doing theatre with his daughter, Sarah (Sonia's teenage voice).

## Who's Who behind the scenes (continued)

**Lynne Bratten (Costumer)** – Lynne has done costumes for players since 1984. Her most recent productions included *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe*, and *The Hollow*. She has also done costumes for JMB "Rock and Roll Revival", Wor-Wic Community College and local high school drama productions. She is a retired educator who now owns and manages rental properties.

**Megan Davis (Stage Manager)** – Megan is happy to be a part of another Players production. Previously she was stage manager for *Chicago*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Her stage credits include, *The Mouse that Roared*, *The Compleat Wks of Wllm Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. She is so proud of the cast and crew for creating such a wonderful environment to work in and such a beautiful production to see.

**Judy Hearne (Scenic Artist)** – Judy has been with Players as an actor and scenic designer since 2010. She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honorary. Credits include; *The Wizard of Oz*, *On Golden Pond*, *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, *The Odd Couple*, *Oliver!*, *Ramona Quimby*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Hollow*, *Tartuffe*, and *Tom Dick and Harry*. Favorite quote: "Art is not what you see, it is what you make others see." Edgar Degas.

**Ken Johnson (Set Design)** – Ken began acting with players in high school and is active both on and off stage. His favorite shows include *Wizard of Oz*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *All Shook up*, and *How to Succeed*. He directed *Snoopy* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Ken was last seen in *Chicago* as Amos Hart. He would like to thank God and his wonderful wife Brenna.

## Special Acknowledgements

Christ United Methodist Church, Clear Channel Broadcasting,  
Great Scott Broadcasting, Jones and Dryden Truck Rental,  
Dr. Kel Nagel, Peninsula Regional Medical Center,  
The Daily Times, WBOC-TV

We wish to thank those individuals who also contributed to this production, but we have inadvertently omitted listing them in the program.

## Community Players Committees

Box Office .....	Charles Linton
Concessions .....	Brenda Allen
Facilities Management.....	Megan Davis
Historical .....	Bonnie Bosies
House.....	Carol Alex and Mary Veise
Membership .....	Becky Mumford
Nominations .....	Sharon Benchoff
Patrons.....	Ernest Matthews
Production.....	Rusty Mumford
Program .....	David and Pat Oberholtzer, Tom Robinson
Program Advertising .....	Tom Robinson
Publicity .....	Kristi Toadvine VanMeter, Kathy Panchyk
Scholarship .....	Sherri Hynes
Season Tickets .....	Ernest Matthews

## Our Patrons 2013-2014

### *Guardian*

Tom & Susan Robinson

Tom & Lydia Welsh

### *Benefactor*

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Oldham

Lloyd & Alice Foard

Kel & Debby Nagel

### *Angel*

Dr. Tim & Sue Benning

Mrs. Mildred B. Palmer

### *Donor*

In Memory of Anna C. Allen  
Linda & Chris Hurley  
Rod & Pat Layton  
Roland & Miriam Scheck

Barbara S. Hanson - Dance Unlimited  
Brian & Tammy Kilgore  
Ed & Donna Prager  
Lillian & Lester Simpson

### *Sponsor*

Fred & Nancy Althaus  
Andy & Marilyn Booth  
Lynne Pollitt Bratten  
Michael & Annette Conger  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Ferraro  
Edwin & Norma Fleischer  
Joanne F. Hearne  
Adrienne & Lewis Kadushin  
Camille & Amy Khawand  
Jean & Ralph Lopez  
Jack Lynch  
Mary Frances Macon  
Robin Mandelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Matey  
Dick & Margy Meeks  
Barbara & Frank Morgan  
Bill & Jan Owens  
Harvey & Sheila Roth  
Dr. Barbara JoAnn Seabrook  
Edward L. & Barbara T. Stephens  
Shirley Thomas Taylor  
Clifford & Linda Topham  
Richard & Karyl Tyler  
Chuck & Terry Woodward

Ron & Jackie Ayers  
The Bounds Family  
Jane S. Buckley  
John & Carol DeBerardinis  
Bob & Kathy Fisher  
Mary Sue & Gordan Gladden  
Cvieta Jovanovich  
Jim & Donna Kaylor  
Chuck & Sheila Lemark  
Karen & Chuck Lutz  
Ken & Liz MacFarlane  
Brenda & Gary Maczis  
Jane & Curt Massey  
Ernie & Elizabeth Matthews  
Carroll Banks Mitchell  
Bill & Faye Morin  
Marian L. Patterson  
Frank & Gerry Schmidlin  
Bill & Marie Seward  
David & Ginny Studley  
Mary & Stephanie Taylor  
Alice M. Tweedy  
Stephanie T. Willey  
Nancy & Rich Wright

Kate & Dan Zimmerman

### *Friend*

Barbara Benton  
Jim & Coleen Mister  
Susanne Morris  
Jeanne Stitt

Alfred Huffer  
Carol & Jim Morris  
Veronica Nagel  
Beverley A. Thompson

Elizabeth Wootten

### *Supporter*

Marie Calafiura  
Fred & Shirley Herrmann  
C. Benton Reavis  
Mr. & Mrs. Miles Riggan  
William & Mary Slot

Mrs. Sue Frisch  
Eleanor Plachta  
Richard & Marimargaret Reichert  
Haroldine Shaner  
Mary Ann Welsh