

# BC is alive with 'Sound of Music'

**Bethlehem's Stage 700 set to perform the classic musical this weekend**

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Locals will soon be able to hear the sound of music coming from the auditorium of the Bethlehem Central High School.

The cast and crew of Stage 700 will perform Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music," at the Bethlehem High School Auditorium on March 26, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m., with a final matinee performance on Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. The high school is located at 700 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

A 22-person orchestra will be performing all of the musical's hits songs and will guide the action on the stage. James Yeara is directing the play, Jason Dashew is the music director and Danielle Vincent is the dance choreographer.

Yeara said it's a big effort by all involved to put together such a production, but the community will not be disappointed.

"When you applaud the cast at the end of the performance, you're also applauding the efforts and talents of the dedicated crew who built the sets, painted them, hung and gelled the lights, worked the sound levels, managed the

stage, and kept the props and costumes going to the right actors, all with the same passion and focus on the performance as the actors," Yeara said. "It's all one production, so please clap extra loud so those backstage can hear you, too."

The last time the musical was performed at BC was in 1988.

"Twenty years ago today was the last time I directed 'The Sound of Music' at BCHS. Students then were much as they are now, and Bethlehem has always had some great students," said Yeara.

As one of the most popular stage musicals of all-time and a box-office champion, the musical also garnered a "Best Picture" Oscar for its film adaptation.

The family motto of the Von Trapps, whom the story is based on, is "Nec Aspera Terrent," which is Latin for "be not terrified by adversity." For a core group of BC seniors the play marks a bittersweet achievement, as it will be their last performance together as Bethlehem students.

The leads include Aislinne Lutz as Elsa Schraeder; Mike Rice as Max Detweiler; Marcela Desemone as Maria Rainer; and Ari Rodriguez as Captain von Trapp, all of whom are seniors. Layla Wolfgang, also a senior, was a central part of set cast.

"Whether I never perform again, which I hope doesn't

happen, this will also be an important part of my life," said Rice of his acting experience at Bethlehem.

Lutz said, "I absolutely love my role."

The rest of the leads agreed about their respective roles.

"I've been told by a lot of people that I suit my part very well," Rice said of his Max Detweiler character, jesting, "which is kind of interesting because he's a little on the creepy side."

There is a big difference between acting in a drama as opposed to a musical, however.

"We just finished 'Macbeth' in December, and it's really interesting, the difference in audience reaction to a Shakespearean tragedy and to a musical," Rice said.

The actors were divided on which type of play they preferred to act in.

"When I was first starting with theater here I was only planning on doing the musicals—I've been singing for a while," Desemone said. "I did Shakespeare for the first time and now ... I can't choose which one I like more because they're so different and so rewarding."

The difference, according to Rodriguez, is the focus of the acting roles.

"I would say there are different challenges," he said. "In Shakespeare it relies so much

more on you personally as an actor, while here it's such a big production ... you have to be aware of so much technical stuff while acting."

All of the seniors agreed that musicals need everyone on hand to be successful.

"It's really a group effort here," Wolfgang said.

The group said that having Yeara directing the play ensures another excellent production.

"He's someone who really cares about the performance of the actors, and he pushes us on stage," Rodriguez said.

Yeara gave a special thank you for this year's production.

"Year after year Debi Karpowitz would leap into the breach when work on a show had yet to be done or students were loitering off-stage instead of working on the show. Debi functioned as a de facto executive producer/art director/costumer/ 'what needs doing-I've done it' whirlwind," Yeara said. "Thank you Debi. 'The Sound of Music' is dedicated to you. You will always be one of our 'Favorite Things.'"

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.stage700.org](http://www.stage700.org), and cost \$10 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. They can also be bought on the day of the show at the high school.

"Come on out, it's way less than Nisky or Shen," Lutz said, "and it will be a way better show."