

Opera Lovers to show “Kismet” on November 19

Please join The Villages Music Society’s Opera Lovers on our third Thursday afternoon, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. in Montgomery Center, when we will present the musical “Kismet.”

The 1953 musical “Kismet” adapts the lush melodies of the 19th Century Russian composer, Alexander Borodin, into popular Broadway songs, arranged by Robert Wright and George Forrest. For example, “Stranger in Paradise” is a theme in *Prince Igor* (Polovtsian Dances) while “And This is My Beloved” is adapted from Borodin’s String Quartet No. 2.

“Kismet” was a hit on Broadway—Borodin was even awarded a Tony posthumously. We will be showing the 1955 movie version, starring Howard Keel, Ann Blyth, Dolores Gray and Vic Damone. The director is Vincente Minnelli and the music is conducted by André Prévin and Jeff Alexander.

The action is fast-paced and full of comedy along with romantic interludes. The setting is a fantasy on old Baghdad and revolves around an impoverished poet (Howard Keel) who manages to get himself and his daughter into all kinds of trouble before we reach the happy ending.

This musical was requested by one of our members: “It was a great favorite of mine as a young man and was a great introduction to Borodin and the Russian composers.” We hope you enjoy it too.

The running time is just under 2 hours and no registration is required. All Villagers are welcome. If you need additional information, please call Opera Lovers’ president, Mary Stradner at (408) 887-3293. Our final 2026 date will be on December 17. We also recommend visiting <https://VillagesMusicSociety.org> for information about other musical events.

If you need a ride to any Villages Music Society event, please call Villages Medical Auxiliary at (408) 238-4230 to arrange your free transportation.