

Mac-Haydn Theatre, Chatham, NY
Something Wonderful Starring George Dvorsky
Reviewed by J. Peter Bergman

“It’s Almost Like Being in Love.”



George Dvorsky

For 45 years George Dvorsky has never held a “day job;” he has sung and acted his way through life like the professional he is. His tenor voice has been put to the test this past week in his solo show at the Mac-Haydn Theatre in Chatham, New York where he and his accompanist, Eric Shorey, have been offering an hour and forty minute look back at George’s career. It has encompassed leading romantic roles (Tommy in twelve productions of “Brigadoon”) and character parts, film voice-overs for Disney and both Broadway and regional theater appearances. His dramatic good looks make you fall in love with him and want to hear him more often. Unfortunately you would need a fast car to keep up with him.

He is frank about his likes and dislikes within the show music that has enhanced his life. He talks about his recordings, his long friendship and recent partnering with Chita Rivera, his love of various theaters and his joy at performing for friends and family. What he never speaks of, and what can’t be found on line, is his personal life. He is all entertainer

and never a person who opens up about that sort of thing. Oddly, no matter how much you may want to know and hope to hear about, is never really missed as his show moves through his professional life and his closeness with his parents. We never even get to know his age. George Dvorsky is a character played by George Dvorsky and we adore the character.

His show opens with “All I Care About is Love” from John Kander and Fred Ebb’s musical play “Chicago.” This sets the tone for the show. It is all about love in its myriad formats. We learn which composers he loves and which he doesn’t care for; we learn which shows and roles he loves but never which he disdains. The picture that ultimately emerges is one of a major theater fan who has had the luck and the joy of working in that profession for a long time.

He puts two Jerome Kern songs together and lets us hear his favorite Kern: “Long Ago (and Far Away);” and the most famous Kern song: “All the Things You Are.” He sings them with genuine affection for Kern in his voice. He harks back to a favorite role in the revival of “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” where composer Jule Styne gave him a special moment singing a Jane Powell song “A Ride on a Rainbow.” He sings his adoration for the output of “Sara Lee.”

In fact he sings of nothing but adoration. He won a Berkshire Theatre Critics Award (Berkie) for his role as Daddy Warbucks in the Mac-Haydn production of “Annie” and he sings the song “Something Was Missing” from that show with such heartfelt sympathy he nearly brings his audience to tears. He is truly something wonderful singing on the stage.

His voice is not quite what it was a few years ago, but his use of it, his control of what it can do has never altered. His post curtain call encore is an a capella song that made his friend Olivia Newton-John happy in her final year and with it he concludes an event that is both brilliant and effective. We come out of the theater feeling we know him and it isn't until later that we realize that we know his music and his history and the professional George, but we have never really met the man he is. But maybe the music and the professional impression are enough for now. I want to read his memoir, though, and learn who George Dvorsky is in his private moments. Then I can put the songs into proper perspective.

The show's two performances have ended, but he will be on stage somewhere, and if we can get there we will. He is worth the trip.

+ 08/11/2023 +