

Clark Spring Semester 2020 Homeschoole MT

JENNA: In the early 1940s, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein III's 'Oklahoma!' adapted from a play written by Claremore playwright Lynn Riggs, opened on Broadway. It was the first musical they wrote together..

KYLE: Each had already found success on Broadway: Rodgers, having written a series of popular musicals with lyricist Lorenz Hart, and Hammerstein, having written the monumental classic, 'Show Boat.' But together with 'Oklahoma!', they would change musical theatre forever.

“Oh! What a Beautiful Mornin’”

There's a bright golden haze on the meadow
There's a bright golden haze on the meadow
The corn is as high as an elephant's eye
And it looks like it's climbing clear up to the sky

Oh, what a beautiful mornin'
Oh, what a beautiful day
I've got a beautiful feeling
Everything's going my way

All the cattle are standing like statues
All the cattle are standing like statues
They don't turn their heads as they see me ride by
But a little brown maverick is winking her eye

Oh, what a beautiful mornin'
I've got a beautiful feeling
Everything's going my way

All the sounds of the earth are like music
All the sounds of the earth are like music
The breeze is so busy, it don't miss a tree
And an old weeping willow is laughing at me

Oh, what a beautiful mornin'
Oh, what a beautiful day
I've got a beautiful feeling
Everything's going my way

Oh, what a beautiful day

ALEXA I: With its character-driven songs and innovative use of dance, 'Oklahoma' elevated how musicals were written. 'South Pacific' would elevate what musicals could stand for.

EVIE: Set during World War II, 'South Pacific' tells the story of the lives and loves of military personnel in the Pacific. 'South Pacific' was acclaimed when it opened on Broadway in 1949, but it also garnered controversy for having its white characters confront their own racial prejudices.

“You’ve Got to Be Carefully Taught”

You've got to be taught
To hate and fear,
You've got to be taught
From year to year,
It's got to be drummed
In your dear little ear
You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught to be afraid
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,
And people whose skin is a different shade,
You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught before it's too late,
Before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate,
You've got to be carefully taught!

ADY: Rodgers and Hammerstein so believed in the importance of this song that they risked the entire production in order to keep it included. The original production ended up running for almost 2,000 performances over four years and won ten Tony Awards.

ROSALIND: 'South Pacific' also won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, one of only nine musicals to win that prize (the most recent was 'Hamilton'). In the end, Rodgers' and Hammerstein's optimism won out, and many of their musicals would continue to address the social issues of the day.

“A Cock-eyed Optimist”

When the sky is bright canary yellow
I forget ev'ry cloud I've ever seen
So they called me a cockeyed optimist
Immature and incurably green

I have heard people rant and rave and bellow

That we're done and we might as well be dead
But I'm only a cockeyed optimist
And I can't get it into my head

I hear the human race
Is fallin' on its face
And hasn't very far to go
But ev'ry whip-poor-will
Is sellin' me a bill
And tellin' me it just ain't so

I could say life is just a bowl of Jello
And appear more intelligent and smart
But I'm stuck like a dope
With a thing called hope
And I can't get it out of my heart!
Not this heart

CORA: One of Rodgers' and Hammerstein's lesser-known musicals is 1958's 'Flower Drum Song.' It tells the story of first and second-generation Chinese immigrants living in San Francisco's Chinatown. The production was notable for having a large cast of Asian actors.

MATTHEW: Although written with the best of intentions by its white creators, much of the musical's libretto has not aged well. However, much of the score, including dance number "Grant Avenue" and the hit song "I Enjoy Being a Girl," stand the test of time as proof of Rodgers' and Hammerstein's gifts as songwriters.

"Grant Avenue"

We call it
Grant Avenue, San Francisco,
California, U.S.A.
Looks down from Chinatown
Over a foggy bay.

You travel there in a trolley,
In a trolley up you climb,
Dong! Dong! You're in Hong Kong,
Having yourself a time.

You can eat, if you are in the mood,
Shark-fin soup, bean cake fish.
The girl who serves you all your food
Is another tasty dish!

You know you
Can't have a new way of living
Till you're living all the way
On Grant Avenue. --Where is that?--
San Francisco, That's where's that!
California U.S.A.

A western street with eastern manners,
Tall pagodas and golden banners
Throw their shadows through the lantern glow.

You can shop for precious jade
or teakwood tables or silk brocade
Or see a bold and brassy night club show,
On the most exciting thoroughfare I know.

We call it
Grant Avenue, San Francisco,
California, U.S.A.
Looks down from Chinatown
Over a foggy bay.

You travel there in a trolley,
In a trolley up you climb,
Dong! Dong! You're in Hong Kong,
Having yourself a time.

You can eat, if you are in the mood,
Shark-fin soup, bean cake fish.
The girl who serves you all your food
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BANNY: Starting with the "Dream Ballet" in 'Oklahoma,' Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals became well-known for their dance numbers.

MYLI: Here now is a waltz from 'Rodgers' and Hammerstein's Cinderella,' which was originally written for television and starred future Maria Von Trapp, Julie Andrews.

Cinderella Waltz

ZOE: Rodgers' and Hammerstein's final musical together was 'The Sound of Music,' which opened on Broadway in 1959. Clark Youth Theatre presented our own production of 'The Sound of Music' earlier this year.

REGAN: 'The Sound of Music' has all the hallmarks of a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical including charming characters, addressing of social issues, and of course, timeless music.

“So Long, Farewell”

ALL

There's a sad sort of clanging from the clock in the hall
And the bells in the steeple too
And up in the nursery an absurd little bird
Is popping out to say "cuckoo"

(Cuckoo, cuckoo)

Regretfully they tell us (Cuckoo)
But firmly they compel us (Cuckoo)
To say goodbye . . .

(Cuckoo!)

ALL

. . . to you

ALL

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good night
I hate to go and leave this pretty sight

ALL

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu

MATTHEW AND REGAN

Adieu, adieu, to yieu and yieu and yieu!

ALL

So long, farewell, au revoir, auf wiedersehen

EVIE AND JENNA(and the third)

I'd like to stay and taste my first champagne

ALL

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye

KYLE AND ADY

I leave and heave a sigh and say goodbye -- Goodbye!

CORA AND ALEXA 1

I'm glad to go, I cannot tell a lie

MYLI AND ZOE

I flit, I float, I fleetly flee, I fly

ALEXA 2 AND BANNY

The sun has gone to bed and so must I

ALL:

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye

Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye

Goodbye!

ALEX II: We've got one more song for you, and we hope you'll join us in singing along.

“Oklahoma!”

OOOOk-lahoma, where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain,
And the wavin' wheat can sure smell sweet,
When the wind comes right behind the rain.

OOOOk-lahoma, Ev'ry night my honey lamb and I,
Sit alone and talk and watch a hawk makin' lazy circles in the sky.

We know we belong to the land (yo-ho)
And the land we belong to is grand!

And when we say
Yeeow! Aye-yip-aye-yo-ee-ay!

We're only sayin'
You're doin' fine, Oklahoma!
Oklahoma O.K.!

(BOWS)