



# Area Arts

2nd Half 2010

## Centralia Cultural Society Magazine

Linking People with the Arts and Artists with the Community, through Appreciation, Education, Exhibition and Performance.

The Centralia Cultural Society's Little Theatre Players proudly present:



FINAL TWO PERFORMANCES FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 & 9

This lively musical is based on the New Line Cinema film by Tim Herlihy, with music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and a book by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy. It's the 1980's and Robbie Hart is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer until his fiancée leaves him at the altar. Heartbroken, he is forced to reexamine the meaning of love and marriage with the help of Julia, a waitress from one of his wedding-singing venues.

The 1998 film of the same title, starred Adam Sandler opposite Drew Barrymore. The CCS stage version directed by Carrie Perkins Schnicker, stars Tony Waters as Robbie Hart the wedding singer, who falls for waitress Julia, played by Paisley Kleinhenz. The cast also includes; Rob Jackson, Dylan Stanley, Victor Lopez, Austin Beals, Abbi Lambert, Lana Shaw, Tara Moulder, Tina Altenbaumer, Katey Altenbaumer, Chelsea Marble, Jacob Houser, Heath Doughty, Bryan E. Smith, Kelly Hawkins, Rene Dillon, Rose Ross, Camile Ann Harris and Bronson Meyer.

St. Mary's/Good Samaritan is the event's major sponsor along with Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Nolen. Show times and dates are Fridays and Saturdays, October 1, 2, 8 & 9, 2010. Doors into the theatre will open at 7:30 with the show beginning at 8:00pm. General Admission is \$12 with Patron admission \$10. Please note that the performance contains adult language and therefore is not recommended for young audiences. During the time that is normally considered intermission, the audience AKA "Wedding Guests" are invited to take part in the "Wedding Reception" complete with punch, cookies and cupcakes. So please consider this your personal invitation to come and join "The Wedding Singer" for an evening of fun and entertainment.

**FOOTNOTE:** Chad Beguelin was born and raised in the Centralia community and graciously credits the Centralia Cultural Society for providing him with skills and encouragement to become the 2-time Tony-Nominated Lyricist for his work on "The Wedding Singer".

The Wedding Singer is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, NY, NY 10019.

## Summer's Smithsonian Exhibit: "New Harmonies"

This past summer the Cultural Society had the opportunity of hosting a traveling Smithsonian Exhibit entitled "NEW HARMONIES: Celebrating American Roots Music". The 6-week long exhibit made possible through a partnership between the Illinois Humanities Council and the Smithsonian Institution, began with an opening night reception on July 17 with a program presented by Chris Villallo, the Illinois State Scholar. In addition, local exhibits reflecting our communities musical "roots" were created, including items from the Pittenger Opera House, the Chautauqua programs, and "Centralia" themed sheet music to list a few. A vast collection of vintage band instruments plus photos documenting area community bands from the late 1800's were featured as well.

As a host site, CCS was required to include additional humanities based programming to compliment the exhibit's theme. On Sunday, July 25, members of the "Independent Silver Band", a fourteen piece brass band, (replica of one which originally existed from 1884-1889), performed for an old fashioned Box Social. Originally planned as an outdoor picnic, this event was moved inside due to July's hot temperatures. The auditorium and stage were draped in vintage quilts and Kerosene lamps glowed on the tables where guests were treated to a "Box Supper" that consisted of items documented to their availability in the 1880's. The first two weekends in August, the Gospel Musical CROWNS was presented. The play tells the history and stories of black women as reflected by the hats or "crowns" they wear. This production took place under the direction of Viki Oliver Loomis and starred a cast of local talent. The exhibit finale program was *Handbells & Harmonies - Music of America* held on Saturday, August 28. The "Bronze Expressions" handbell ensemble shared the stage for this event with the "Sounds of Harmony" Barbershop Chorus from Belleville, and a great time was enjoyed by all. Handbells and Barbershop a capella harmony are not a common combination, but the music by each group was excellent, and the program succeeded in educating the audience and performers alike about the roots of many familiar songs. Both groups are discussing the possibilities of joining together again.

It was an honor for the Cultural Society to have the opportunity to host this Smithsonian Exhibit and we look forward to similar events in the future. Photos from the various events are posted on pages 6 & 7.