

EVEN THE DARKEST NIGHT WILL END
AND THE SUN WILL RISE.
~ VICTOR HUGO, LES MISÉRABLES



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Les Misérables School Edition

Performed entirely by students

October 29-31 at 7 p.m



A musical by
ALAIN BOUBLIL and
CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

Based on the novel by
VICTOR HUGO

Music by
CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHONBERG

Lyrics by
HERBERT KRETZMER

Original French Text by
ALAIN BOUBLIL and
JEAN-MARC NATEL

Additional material by
JAMES FENTON

Adapted by
TREVOR NUNN and JOHN CAIRD

Original Orchestrations by
JOHN CAMERON

New Orchestrations by
CHRISTOPHER JAHNKE, STEPHEN
METCALFE and STEPHEN
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production is strictly prohibited.*

Director

Joy Anderson

Assistant Director

Leah Huyard '17

Choreographer

Suzanne Trow

Drama Coordinator

& Tech Director

Mark Gornto

Rehearsal Assistant

Aaron Horst

Stage Managers

Hannah Hendricks '22

Anneke McDonald '22

Stage Crew

Giancarlo Caballero '24,
Natalie Clark '21, Marissa Clark '23,
Rebekah Compagnari '21,
Hannah Fairfield '24,

Lighting

Mark Gornto & Scott Huston

Sound

Mark Gornto, Jason Misterka,
Pete Katz Audio, Southard Audio,
Nick Gardner

Orchestra

MTI Performance
Accompaniment Recording

Set Design

Joy Anderson & Charles Hendricks

Set

Dwight Huyard, Isaac Huyard '19,
Leah Huyard '17, Duane Miller,
Marv Nisly, Sam Petersheim,
Joseph Ropp & Ethan Zook '72

Costumes

Rosemary Good '88
Some rented at www.thecostumer.com

Hair & Make-up

Sarah Butzen

Poster & Cover Design

Lindsay Kolb

Fundraising & Cast Bios

Mary Golden Hughes

Headshots

Emma Myers '21

Playbill & Publicity

EMS Advancement



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*Wear masks at all times throughout the show, in restrooms,
and anywhere on EMS grounds.

EMS reserves the right to ask anyone not wearing a mask to leave with no refund.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION BIOS

Claude-Michel Schönberg (Composer) Born in 1944 of Hungarian parents, Claude-Michel Schönberg began his career in France as a singer, writer and producer of pop songs. In collaboration with Alain Boublil he is the book co-writer and the composer of *La Révolution Française*, *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Martin Guerre* and *The Pirate Queen*. In 2008 his musical, *Marguerite*, in collaboration with Alain Boublil, Michel Legrand and Herbert Kretzmer opened at the Haymarket Theatre in London. Claude-Michel has supervised overseas productions and co-produced several international cast albums of his shows. In 2001 he composed his first ballet score, *Wuthering Heights*, which was created by the Northern Ballet in 2002. His ballet, *Cleopatra*, which opened in 2011, was his second collaboration with David Nixon and his seventh complete score. In 2012 Claude-Michel co-wrote the screenplay and reconceived the music for the *Les Misérables* musical movie. His shows have won many awards over the years, most recently the WhatsonStage audience awards for Best West End Show and Best Musical Revival for the London production of *Miss Saigon*. Golden Globe winner, Oscar nominee and Grammy award winner for his outstanding contribution to the creative community, Mr. Schönberg and Alain Boublil were honoured at a New York Pops gala concert in Carnegie Hall celebrating their 40 year collaboration. Mr. Schönberg was appointed Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University - a position funded by the Mackintosh Foundation - and is now an Emeritus Fellow. He is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music where he is a guest Professor. Mr. Schönberg married the English ballerina, Charlotte Talbot, in 2003. He is the father of one son and two daughters.

Herbert Kretzmer (Lyrics) Herbert Kretzmer was born in South Africa, where he began a career in journalism writing the commentary for a weekly cinema newsreel. He came to live in London in 1954, and has since pursued twin careers as newspaperman and songwriter. He was feature writer on *The Daily Sketch* and a profile writer on *The Sunday Despatch*. He joined *The Daily Express* in 1960 and later became its drama critic, a post he held for 18 years, covering about 3,000 first nights. From 1979 to 1987, he wrote television criticism for *The Daily Mail*, winning, in this capacity, two national press awards. As a lyric writer he wrote weekly songs for *That Was The Week That Was* and the later *Ned Sherrin* television shows. He won an Ivor Novello Award for the Peter Sellers/Sophia Loren comedy song *Goodness Gracious Me*. Other award-winning songs include two written with, and for, Charles Aznavour: *Yesterday When I Was Young* and the chart-topping *She*. Herbert Kretzmer wrote the book and lyrics for the West End musical *Our Man Crichton*, which starred Kenneth More and Millicent Martin, and the



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DIRECTORS

Joy Anderson (Director) spends much of her time wondering how she lucked into the best job(s) in the world with the best colleagues and students in the world. She has directed or co-directed several recent musicals at EMS, including *Little Women*, *The King & I*, *Into the Woods*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Brigadoon*. When she isn't working on musicals (or middle school plays), she teaches K-5 music at EMS and is assistant director of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir. Joy has taught and directed infants through adults for 34 years in public and private school and church and community settings. She and husband, Jon, had music- and theatre-loving offspring at EMS from 2002-2017 and attend Park View Mennonite Church.

Leah Huyard '17 (Assistant Director) is the sister of Luke ('21) and Benjamin ('23) Huyard. She is no stranger to the EMS stage. During her time as a student, she performed in every high school theatre production, including *Almost Maine*, *Cinderella*, *Brigadoon*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as stage managing *Pride and Prejudice*. Last year she was assistant director for the EMS production of *Little Women* and co-directed *Alice in Wonderland*. She is currently a teacher-in-training for EMS 6th grade.

Suzanne Trow (Choreographer) has really enjoyed working with the students in this program these three years. After working in NYC as a performing artist, director, choreographer, & active Actor's Equity member, she can't believe that she has found as much joy in the Valley sharing her passion and love for the arts. A few favorite credits include: B.A. from JMU in 2000, Radio City Music Hall's *Pokemon Live!* (NYC; European Tour; Vegas Show), *Mississippi Love* (Mark Twain Playhouse), & roles in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express* (Equity National Tour). Suzanne also found another passion and career as a Realtor with Funkhouser Real Estate Group, and is a proud wife to Brian and mother of three. Thank you to my family for all the support and to all my DANCERS up there on stage. You all have warmed my heart and watching your hard work in taking on and overcoming challenges as performers has brought me so much happiness. Remember: Dance is JOY!!!

Mark Gornto (Tech Director & Drama Coordinator) holds a BA in English from LaSalle University and is a graduate of Villanova's masters program in theatre. From 2003-2020, he taught literature, acting, writing, and directing at Moorestown Friends School in NJ where he directed over 30 mainstage productions. Additionally, he taught Acting I, II, and Intro to Theatre at West Chester University from 2001-2005. In 2006, Mark traveled with Villanova Film Professor Hezekiah Lewis to Ghana where he served as a producer for the award winning narrative short film, *Warrior Queen*. In addition to holding the Drama Coordinator position, Mr. Gornto teaches middle school English at EMS.

lyrics for *The Four Musketeers*, which ran for over a year at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, starring Harry Secombe as D Artagnan. He also supplied the lyrics for the Anthony Newley musical film *Can Heironymous Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness?* He was the co-lyricist for *Kristina* which he wrote with Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (ABBA), premiered at Carnegie Hall, New York, in September 2009. Herbert Kretzmer's latest work is *Marguerite*, written with Michel Legrand, Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg.

Alain Boublil (Original French lyrics) Alain Boublil is the author of the librettos and lyrics for the musicals *La Révolution Française*, *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Martin Guerre*, and *The Pirate Queen*, all in collaboration with Claude-Michel Schönberg, as well as *Marguerite* with music by Michel Legrand. He also co-produced the original cast albums of all his shows. He co-wrote the screenplay of the Golden Globe-winning and Oscar-nominated film, *Les Misérables*. He is the author/lyricist of *Abacadabra*, a fairy tale musical including ABBA classic songs, of the stage adaptation of the Demy/Legrand film, *Les Demoiselles de Rochefort*, as well as author of the musical play, *Manhattan Parisienne*, and the play, *The Diary of Adam and Eve*. He wrote a prize-winning French novel, *Les dessous de soi*. His many awards include two Tonys, two Grammys, two Victoire de la Musique and a Molière Award for *Les Misérables* as well as an Evening Standard Drama Award for *Miss Saigon*, a Laurence Olivier Award for *Martin Guerre* and a New York Chapter Honors Grammy for his outstanding contribution to the creative community. Boublil and Schönberg's 40 plus year collaboration was celebrated in May 2016 at Carnegie Hall as honorees of the New York Pops' 33rd Birthday Gala. Boublil was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the New York Pops. He lives in New York with his wife, singer, actress, director, Marie Zamora, and is the father of four sons.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Last winter we saw significant numbers, talent, and engagement coming up among our student drama community for the following (this) year, and began toying with the possibility of staging *Les Mis*—a show many students had been clamoring to do for years. It takes an unusual group of students to pull it off, and it looked like we might have the right bunch. We licensed the show in late winter, 2020. Yep—late winter, 2020.

The time that followed has been one of significant loss. Particularly poignant are the losses sustained by young people with their fleeting windows of opportunity. We teachers and directors see generations of students pass through and make indelible marks on our community through the productions they create. Losing this particular group's contribution would have been terribly sad for us and for them. We resolved to do whatever we could to keep alive the possibility of staging *Les Mis* in some form.

But part of loving students is respecting them, including honoring the standards of excellence they hold for the productions we create together. Could we do the show well? Challenges abounded: we lost some of the students we had been counting on due to changes in enrollment and student availability. Indoor singing: a big no-no! A large-cast show on a physically-limited indoor stage: also a big no-no. The need to keep actors 10+ feet apart at all times, except for very brief "incidental contact"? Umm... alrighty, then! Enter a fleet of helpers you'd have to see to believe. Please be sure to look at all the names of helpers and contributors in this program and share our gratitude for the dozens of people without whom this production would certainly have been impossible.

Enter also new and talented students from other area schools, who are now so much a part of our drama family, they seem to have been here for years. Our local school drama community is a warm and supportive one. Many of these new students were already admired for the roles they had played at their former schools (whose programs we continue to wish well as they navigate challenges even greater than ours). We ended up with kind of a dream team.

So here we are, presenting this iconic musical—deeply significant and timely in its complex and nuanced themes of poverty, power, good and evil, and redemption. Like all worthwhile drama and literature, *Les Misérables* (the Victor Hugo novel and the musical) rejects easy and simplistic notions of good and evil. It challenges our tendencies to categorize people without looking more deeply at their stories and the circumstances and structures that have landed them where they are.

We determined, early on, that this powerful redemption story would lose its power if we portrayed only a weak, watered-down picture of these contrasts. We know that "it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick" (Mark 2:17 NIV) and we tell powerful redemption stories well when we have the courage to clearly examine and portray images of evil and brokenness. With the support of EMS administrators, we are not shying away from troubling images, situations, and language. We have spent valuable time in important conversations about these issues and themes. Some of our portrayals may shock you. If so, that is appropriate. The world is a shocking place, and part of our role as Christian educators is to send our young adults into the world equipped to take on the sometimes gritty challenge of demonstrating God's redemptive power in a broken world.

Thank you for your support of this ambitious endeavor and these amazing young people. They are living through a strange time, and we hope this production will provide a lifelong memory for them, and inform their lives as resilient, creative, and socially conscious workers in God's project of love and redemption.



Kate Weaver '24 (Factory girl, Woman, Chorus) joins EMS as a new student this year but brings theatre experience from productions at J. Frank Hillyard middle school as well as chorus roles in Broadway High School's productions of *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*, *Big Fish*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Kate states that she appreciates how this cast is "always so positive and helpful to one another" and that she enjoys playing adults in this production. Kate enjoys volunteering and singing in her spare time and is a member of the We Serve club at EMS.



Eleanor Yoder '24 (Factory girl, Woman, Chorus) brings stage experience from Thomas Harrison Middle School productions and choral experience from the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir. She's enjoying "playing an adult" in *Les Mis* and also the "experience of how community is built through theatre." A powerful lesson gleaned from *Les Mis* is that "violence is not the answer and that everyone should be respected regardless of social status, as you never know everything that has happened in their life." When she's not onstage Eleanor likes to draw, sing, dance, listen to music, and watch anime.



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CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Ana Roth-Mullet '31 (Young Eponine) is appearing in her first theatre production and admits that at “the first rehearsal I was scared because I had to go in front of a bunch of high schoolers. The lesson I learned from that was that I had to be brave! And now I really love to be in rehearsals!” Ana enjoys reading, running, and “being cozy” in her spare time and has loved meeting new people as part of this show. She would like everyone to know though, that unlike her character of young Eponine, Ana “is not mean!”



Anna Stempel '21 (Fantine) is a familiar face to the EMS stage, having acted in *Little Women* (Hag, Ballroom Dancer), *The King & I* (Uncle Thomas and Wife), *Into the Woods* (Groupie), *Charlotte's Web* (Fern), and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Beverly). Anna has enjoyed delving into the “struggles, self-sacrifice, and bravery” of all the *Les Mis* characters and has learned a lot from her character Fantine, namely the importance of “caring not only for others, but yourself as well. You are important.” Anna stays busy with many interests including serving as a Senior class officer, NHS, playing violin in the orchestra, and hopefully singing

with the Touring Choir this spring. Anna’s spare time is filled with art, music, and playing with her puppies.



Eli Stoll '22 (Bishop, Pimp, Combeferre, Enjolras U/S) has been on the EMS stage multiple times including in *Little Women* (Knight), *The King & I* (Monk), *Into the Woods* (Chorus and understudy for several roles), *Charlotte's Web* (Homer Zimmerman understudy), and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Extra). At EMS Eli runs cross country and track, plays soccer, plays bass in the orchestra, and sings in the choirs He enjoys staying busy by cycling, kayaking, hiking, and playing guitar and Uno. The one thing he loves about his role “is how generous the Bishop is, and how he gives people second chances.” Eli agrees that there are

many important takeaways from *Les Mis*, including that although “powerful people may try to stay in power, if you come together with other people... forward progress can be made.”



Jacob Stoltzfus '22 (Convict, Sailor, Grantaire) Although new to EMS this year and making his debut appearance in a theatrical production, Jacob is pleased to perform “multiple roles on a multi-platform stage.” Jacob likes how his character Grantaire has a “sarcastic nature” and that although he’s a student he “never seems to go to school.” Jacob thinks the biggest lesson that *Les Mis* offers is “that there is hope in God.” In his downtime from school Jacob enjoys playing video games and watching anime.

- Inspector Javert..... Liam Hughes '21 (*Understudy: Ben Huyard*)
- Jean ValjeanLuke Huyard '21 (*Understudy: Josiah Ropp*)
- Bishop Eli Stoll '22
- Foreman..... Ricky Castaneda '22
- Fantine..... Anna Stempel '21 (*Understudy: Emily Hess*)
- Old Woman (“Hair Hag”)..... Anna Miller '23
- Sick prostitute..... Emily Hess '23
- Pimp Eli Stoll '22
- Bamatabois Eli Hess '21
- Fauchelevant..... Mac Rhodes-Lehman '24
- Mistaken ValjeanBen Huyard '23
- NunNoelle Ropp '22
- Young Cosette Ana Cecilia Aponte '31, Julia Holand '29
- Mme. Thénardier..... Arwen Hertzler '21 (*Understudy: Naomi Diener*)
- Young Eponine Leah King '30, Ana Roth-Mullet '31
- Thénardier..... Simon Beach '21 (*Understudy: Ricky Castaneda*)
- Gavroche Samuel Aponte '31, Colton Nussbaum '27
- Enjolras..... Gabe Albers '21 (*Understudy: Eli Stoll*)
- Marius Josiah Ropp '21 (*Understudy: Simon Beach*)
- Solo Urchin in Gavroche’s Gang..... Jackson Comfort '28, Hudson Miller '26
- Cosette.....Maggie Fairfield '21 (*Understudy: Erin Loker*)
- Eponine..... Melody Flanders '21 (*Understudy: Claire Parsley*)
- Babet..... Eli Hess '21
- Montparnasse..... Garrett Gregory '21
- Combeferre Eli Stoll
- FeuillyBen Huyard '23
- Courfeyrac.....Ricky Castaneda '22
- JolyRyan Hostetter '24
- Prouvaire Drew Holland '24
- Lesgles..... Mac Rhodes-Lehman '24
- Grantaire Jacob Stoltzfus '22
- Army OfficerSimon Beach '21
- Major Domo Eli Hess '21

ENSEMBLE

[Chain Gang, Constables, Farm Workers, the Poor, Factory Workers, Sailors, Prostitutes, Inn Customers, Wives and Girlfriends, Wedding Guests]

... in addition to cast listed above ...

- Carson Cale '24, Naomi Diener '23, Sophie Hendricks '24,
- Erin Loker '24, Mackenzie Miller '23, Claire Parsley '22,
- Kate Weaver '24, Eleanor Yoder '24

ACT I

Prologue	Chain Gang, Convicts, Javert, Valjean, Farmer, Laborer, Bishop, Constables
At the End of the Day	Foreman, Workers, Woman, Girls 1–5, Fantine, Valjean, Chorus
I Dreamed a Dream	Fantine
The Docks (Lovely Ladies)	Sailors, Prostitutes, Old Woman, Fantine, Sick Prostitute, Pimp, Bamatabois, Javert, Valjean
Cart Crash.....	Bystanders, Valjean, Onlookers, Fauchelevent, Javert,
Fantine’s Death	Fantine, Valjean, Javert
Little Cosette	Young Cosette, Mme. Thenardier
The Innkeeper’s Song	Thenardier, Mme. Thenardier, Customers, Chorus
The Bargain.....	Valjean, Thenardier, Mme. Thenardier
The Beggars.....	Gavroche, Marius, Enjolras, Solo Urchin, Chorus
The Robbery.....	Mme. Thenardier, Marius, Eponine, Thenardier, Valjean, Javert
Stars	Javert, Gavroche, Eponine, Marius
The ABC Café	Combeferre, Feuilly, Courfeyrac, Enjolras, Joly, Grantaire, Marius, Gavroche, Students
The People’s Song.....	Enjolras, Combeferre, Courfeyrac, Feuilly, Students, Chorus
Rue Plumet	Cosette, Valjean, Marius, Eponine
A Heart Full of Love	Marius, Cosette, Eponine
The Attack on Rue Plumet.....	Montparnasse, Babet, Thenardier, Brujon, Eponine, Marius, Valjean, Cosette
One Day More.....	Valjean, Marius, Cosette, Eponine Enjolras, Javert, Tenardier, Mme. Thenardier, Chorus

ACT II

Building the Barricades	Enjolras, Javert, Marius, Eponine, Valjean, Army Officer, Chorus
Javert at the Barricade.....	Joly, Javert, Gavroche, Grantaire, Prouvaire, Enjolras, Marius, Eponine, Combeferre, Lesgles
The First Attack.....	Sentries, Enjolras, Feuilly, Lesgles, Grantaire, Valjean, Javert
The Night	Feuilly, Prouvaire, Joly, Grantaire, Marius, Valjean, Enjolras, Chorus
The Second Attack	Enjolras, Feuilly, Marius, Valjean, Gavroche, Lesgles, Joly
The Final Battle	Army Officer, Enjolras, Combeferre, Courfeyrac
The Sewers.....	Thenardier
Javert’s Suicide	Valjean, Javert, Women
The Café Song (Empty Chairs at Empty Tables)	Marius
Marius & Cosette.....	Cosette, Marius, Valjean
The Wedding	Major Domo, Thenardier, Marius, Mme. Thenardier, Wedding Guests
Epilogue	Valjean, Fantine, Cosette, Marius, Eponine, Chorus



Claire Parsley '22 (Factory Worker, Prostitute, Eponine U/S) comes to EMS with a vast theater experience from Wilbur Pence MS and both drama and musical productions at Turner Ashby High School including *James and the Giant Peach* (chorus) and *Hello, Dolly!* (chorus). In her spare time Claire enjoys theatre, choir, and jumping rope. Although her favorite part of being in *Les Mis* is “seeing the show progress and watching everyone work together,” she also enjoys playing a character that is very unlike her and is instead “obnoxious and rude.” Claire says the best lesson this musical offers is “that if people can't be understanding toward one another, the world will become rigid and unforgiving.”



Mac Rhodes-Lehman '24 This is Mac’s first musical performance at EMS though he was previously cast in the stage productions of *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* (Town’s Guy), *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (Augustus Goop), and *Anne of Green Gables* (President of Queen’s Academy). He also appeared in EMU’s production of *Shrek the Musical* (Pig 3). Mac says one of the best things about being in the musical this year is “getting the extremely necessary social time with my friends after months upon months of getting none whatsoever” thanks to the pandemic. Mac plays French horn in the orchestra and enjoys playing ping pong, listening to and creating music, and playing video games in his spare time.



Josiah Ropp '21 (Marius) joins EMS as a new Senior, but is certainly not new to musical theatre, having performed in *Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka* (Willy Wonka) and *Big Fish* (Young Edward) at Broadway HS. Josiah enjoys singing, video games, reading, and writing music in his spare time. One thing Josiah enjoys about *Les Mis* is “being around so many talented and fun people.” Josiah finds his character Marius to be “so oblivious it hurts,” and likes to think of himself as “much more observant” than the role he’s playing. A life lesson Josiah says he will take from this production is that “anyone can be redeemed if they truly want to be.”



Noelle Ropp (Farm girl, Nun, Chorus) is a new Junior at EMS and brings stage experience from Broadway High School including roles in *Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka* (Kid/Cook/Squirrel) and stage crew for *Big Fish*. She’s enjoying *Les Mis* because of “the costumes, getting to do fun dances, and spending time with the awesome people in the cast.” An important takeaway, she says, is how “sometimes you have to let yourself show grace and mercy for others.” In her spare time you’ll find Noelle playing video games, reading, or watching television.



Anneke McDonald '22 (Stage Manager) returns to backstage having served as stage manager for *Little Women*, and on the backstage crew for both *The King & I* and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*. Although she was cast in *Alice in Wonderland* (Hare) and *Anne of Green Gables* (Diana), she enjoys backstage work because she gets to “see the show progress and watch the actors develop their characters.” When she’s not backstage, Anneke enjoys spending her time doing art.



Anna Miller '23 (Old woman/‘Hair Hag’, Chorus) is excited to once again be a “hag” at EMS, after performing the same role last year in *Little Women*. Anna has also appeared on the EMS stage in *Charlotte’s Web* (Sheep), *Anne of Green Gables* (Aunt Josephine), and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (Mrs. Salt). Anna plays bassoon in the orchestra and is also a member of the Shenandoah Valley Youth Symphony. Anna says the “powerful messages of mercy and forgiveness in *Les Mis* are something we all can learn from.”



Mackenzie Miller '23 (Farm girl, Prostitute, Chorus) Hailing from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Mackenzie is a new student at EMS who brings solid performance experiences from her time at Menno Simmons Christian School. She has found the musical as a “great way to get to know people better and to keep busy after school.” Mackenzie notes there are relevant lessons throughout *Les Mis* including the “forgiveness Jean shows to Javert” and that although the characters she plays have very different life experiences than her own, “they represent what real people, even today, go through in our communities. It is therefore important to show understanding and empathy for others.”



Colton Nussbaum '27 (Gavroche) This is Colton’s third EMS musical performance, having previously appeared in *The King & I* (royal child) and *Brigadoon* (village child). When he’s not busy with musical rehearsal, you’ll find Colton playing basketball or soccer or “collecting collectibles.” Colton says the three best things about being in the musical are: “making new friends, getting to have an accent, and having a character who has a lot of energy!”

SYNOPSIS

In nineteenth century France, Jean Valjean is released from years of unjust imprisonment for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his starving family, but finds nothing in store for him but mistrust and mistreatment. His consuming hate and desperation lead him to steal silver from a kindly Bishop. Valjean is caught, but the Bishop saves him by telling the constables he *gave* Valjean the silver— “buying his soul for God.”

Valjean breaks his parole and seeks redemption despite being hunted for decades by his rival and ex-guard Inspector Javert (who believes only in justice and the law—never in mercy or redemption.) In his quest for absolution, Jean Valjean agrees to take care of Cosette—the daughter of tragic factory worker Fantine, who, through Valjean’s unconscious carelessness, has lost her job and fallen into desperate poverty. Little Cosette has been “cared for” by a crooked and abusive innkeeper and his wife, M. and Mme. Thénardier, along with their young daughter, Eponine. Valjean (now calling himself by another name) and Cosette travel across France avoiding the wrath of Javert until they find themselves in Paris, leading up to the “June Rebellion” of 1832 (not, as sometimes mistakenly assumed, the French Revolution, which was in the late 1700s). During the Paris student uprising of 1832, Javert must confront his ideals after Valjean spares his life and saves that of the student revolutionary who has captured the heart of Cosette.

Epic, grand and uplifting, *Les Misérables* packs an emotional wallop that has thrilled audiences all over the world. The sung-through piece is ideal for a cast of exceptional singers and overflows with melodies that are already standards. This author-approved school edition has been abridged to a running time of just over two hours while beautifully maintaining the integrity of this musical masterpiece.

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES



Gabe Albers '21 (Enjolras,) is well known to EMS theatre audiences: previous performances in *Little Women* (Professor Bhaer), *The King & I* (Sir Edward), and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince). Outside of EMS, he has been in productions with ShenanArts, the Waynesboro Players, and BRCC, including composing the original musical score for *The Hermitage*. Gabe admires the "strong will and passion toward his cause" of his character Enjolras and says that the biggest lesson *Les Mis* offers is that "anyone can be redeemed." Gabe is also a member of the NHS, plays viola in the orchestra, sings with the Touring Choir and runs Track & Field (top-ranked in the state in hurdles).



Ana Cecilia Aponte '31 (Young Cosette) says that one of the best things about being in *Les Mis* is that she "gets adopted by Luke." Although the content of this production is difficult for a second-grader to think about, she says it "does make you think and pray for all the people who die in the world." Ana Cecilia enjoys taking violin lessons, playing with her siblings, and doing arts and crafts. She also says she's "very glad she doesn't have to go out in the dark to get water" like her character Cosette.



Samuel Aponte '28 (Gavroche) This is Samuel's second EMS musical performance, having appeared in *The King & I*. He says that "we're pretty lucky to be able to do this outside" and that "just having theatre outside is cool." Samuel insists that the only way he is like his character Gavroche is that "we both like to climb on anything we see." When he's not onstage you can find Samuel keeping busy with 4H, altar serving at his church, filming videos, or playing baseball and video games. A piece of advice Samuel has learned from *Les Mis* is "when you steal... trouble could be near."



Ben Huyard '23 (Convict, Sailor, Mistaken Valjean, Feuilly, Javert U/S) previously performed in the EMS productions of *Little Women* (Troll, Ballroom Dancer), *The King & I* (Prince Chulalongkorn), *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (Grandpa Joe), *Anne of Green Gables* (Gilbert Blythe), and *Charlotte's Web* (Lamb). Ben participates in Cross Country and Track & Field for the Flames and spends his spare time running and eating. Ben says the best parts about *Les Mis* for him is that "all the music is really good" and that his character gets to "die spectacularly."



Luke Huyard '21 (Jean Valjean) is a familiar face to the EMS stage having been cast in *Little Women* (Laurie), *The King & I* (Lun Tha), *Into the Woods* (Woodsman), and *Charlotte's Web* (Uncle Homer). He also performed in the BRCC debut of *The Hermitage* (Toby). Although he finds the *Les Mis* story sad, and his role as Valjean quite difficult, he also sees it as a story full of lessons, including the importance of "giving people a second chance." Luke is very grateful to have this time to "hang out with his Senior buds" in his senior year.

When he's not at rehearsal, you'll find Luke playing volleyball, as a member of the NHS, singing in the Touring and Chamber choirs, playing violin in the orchestra, and playing EMS Tennis.



Leah King '30 (Young Eponine) is a new third grade student at EMES and is very excited to be a part of *Les Miserables*. Last year, she played a Munchkin in a production of *The Wizard of Oz* and looks forward to being involved in other productions in the future. Leah loves to read, sing, dance ballet, and spend time with her family. She is very grateful to have a part in the musical and wishes the cast all the best and "break a leg on opening night!"



Erin Loker '24 (Onlooker, Chorus, Cosette U/S) A new student to EMS, Erin brings great performance experience from both the Valley Playhouse, Thomas Harrison Middle School, and the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir. Erin enjoys running, Cross Country, and the new friendships she has made. She also likes having the chance to portray characters who are "far less reserved" than she is and how *Les Mis* shows audiences that "anyone can change and that there is always a brighter tomorrow." When she's not at rehearsal, you can find Erin running, reading, or listening to music.



Drew Holland '24 (Convict, Prouvaire, Chorus) has been cast in *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* (Robin Hood), *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (Charlie Bucket), *Anne of Green Gables* (Jimmy Glover), *Alice in Wonderland* (March Hare), and *The Fairytale Network* (Jimmy the Pig). He's enjoying the "awesome music" and "being a college student." Drew runs Cross Country and Track at EMS and spends his spare time solving Rubik's cubes, reading, biking, messing with music production software, playing video games, and computer programming.



Julia Holland '29 (Young Cosette) Although still in elementary school, this is Julia's second time on the EMS stage having performed in *The King & I*. Additionally, she sings for the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir and enjoys opportunities "to perform and be on stage." Julia says that "singing a solo is the best part" of her role and that it would be "really cool if I actually had a castle on a cloud." When she's not performing, Julia enjoys doing art and gymnastics.



Ryan Hostetter '24 (Convict, Joly, Chorus) Ryan is new to EMS this year but brings varied theater experience from performances at J. Frank Hillyard Middle School and from the cast of lost boys in Broadway HS's production of *Peter Pan*. Ryan is a member of EMS' We Serve club and enjoys tennis, biking, hiking, volleyball, basketball and YouTubeing. He says the best thing about *Les Mis* is the "passionate and heartfelt music" as well as the "themes of redemption and persistence."



Liam Hughes '21 (Inspector Javert) was talked into filling walk-on roles in *The King & I* three years ago, then returned to the stage last year in *Little Women* (Rodrigo). As Javert, Liam enjoys "routinely engaging in yelling matches with Luke/Valjean and falling from a high platform," though Liam readily admits that his character "puts way more stock into following rules" than he does. Liam plays baseball for the Flames, plays bass in the orchestra and Jazz Combo, sings with the Touring and Chamber choirs, and is a member of NHS and Model UN club. At home if he's not watching sports, or playing bass/guitar, he's playing with his dog.



Simon Beach '21 (Thénardier the Innkeeper, Army Major, Sailor) arrives with extensive theater experience including Harrisonburg HS's productions of *Hairspray* (Link Larkin) and *Legally Blonde* (Harvard student), as well as several musicals and one-acts performed at Thomas Harrison MS. Simon anticipates being in the EMS Touring Choir and playing baseball for the Flames this spring. He's enjoyed spending time with his cast mates and playing a character who is "flat-out evil" and nothing like himself. "Going around stealing stuff from everybody, constantly being drunk, wreaking havoc, and thinking super highly of myself is great fun."



Carson Cale '24 (Factory girl, Chorus) Carson has been cast in the EMS productions of *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory* (Veruca Salt), *Anne of Green Gables* (Jane Andrews), and *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* (Lady in Waiting). Although Carson says her *Les Mis* character is nothing like her "because I would never join a rebellion," she most certainly "would not mind living in France." She's also grateful for the opportunity of this musical and for being able to spend time with friends she doesn't have classes with. Carson plays tennis for the Flames and in her spare time enjoys baking, arts and crafts, and taking walks with her dog.



Ricky Castaneda '22 (Convict, Foreman, Courfeyrac, Chorus) has been cast in a number of EMS productions including *The King & I* (Phra Alak), *Alice in Wonderland* (The Executioner), *Anne of Green Gables* (Matthew Cuthbert), and *Charlotte's Web* (Wilbur). One thing he really enjoys about the musical is meeting and talking with people he normally wouldn't have the chance to interact with. Ricky appreciates the lessons embedded within *Les Mis* including that "anyone can change for the better." Ricky is on the Mennonite Youth Council, plays EMS soccer, and plays trumpet in the orchestra and Jazz band. Ricky also enjoys art, music, and running in his spare time.



Jackson Comfort '26 (Solo Urchin in Gavroche's gang) is appearing in his third EMS musical with former roles in *The King & I* (Louis) and *Brigadoon* (village child). When he's not onstage Jackson enjoys Cross Country, drawing, watching *The Simpsons*, and playing games. Jackson says the things he loves about this musical are: "hanging out with other students, and exploring the streets of France" and also "realizing just how blessed our loves are in comparison to our characters."



Naomi Diener '23 (Factory Worker, Prostitute, Woman, Mme. Thénardier U/S) Naomi's Ballet Extension training was highlighted in the EMS productions of *Little Women* and *The King & I*. She also performed in *Charlotte's Web* (Baby Spider), *Anne of Green Gables* (Mrs. Barry), and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (Narrator). Naomi says the characters in *Les Mis* aren't "living their best lives," but she admires how brave they are, giving "their lives for something they believe in." She says *Les Mis* is full of great takeaways, including "standing up and fighting for what is right" and being sure not to "steal bread or you may go to prison."



Maggie Fairfield '21 (Cosette) is enjoying the "sweet love story" of her *Les Mis* character and that she gets "to sing up high for once instead of using [her] belting/chest voice." She has been cast in a wide variety of roles in EMS productions: *Little Women* (Jo), *Alice in Wonderland* (Caterpillar), *Into the Woods* (Lucinda/stepmother), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Alice), and *Charlotte's Web* (Charlotte). Maggie is a member and officer of the National Honor Society, plays trumpet in the orchestra and Jazz Band, sings with the Touring and Chamber choirs, and plans to study premed/biology. Maggie states she is grateful she gets to spend time with her cast mates through the musical, "especially during this wacky year."



Melody Flanders '21 (Eponine) joins EMS in her Senior year with a wealth of performance experiences in musical theatre and dramas (Inter-Lakes Middle/High School (NH), Western Albemarle High School and most recently at Turner Ashby's as Dolly Levi in *Hello Dolly!*). Melody has found the musical to be a great way to make connections. "Being a new student in the midst of physical distancing and mask wearing, I thought it would be impossible for me to find people to make friendships with, but being in this show has made it super easy... I also really enjoy getting to be a part of this extremely powerful and intense musical." Melody enjoys swing dance, ballroom dance, and songwriting. She hopes to soon produce her own compositions.



Hannah Hendricks '22 (Stage Manager) Hannah returns for her second year as EMS stage manager, having previously managed *Little Women* and helped backstage for *The King & I*. The best part of stage management for Hannah is watching the show come together and the actors' characters develop. Hannah thinks "*Les Mis* teaches us the value of redemption and that you should stick to your beliefs and be dedicated."



Sophie Hendricks '24 (Factory girl, Woman, Chorus) was previously cast in the EMS productions *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* (Maid Marian), *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (Oompa Loompa), and *Anne of Green Gables* (Minnie May). Sophie says the best part of being in the *Les Mis* chorus is that the "characters are very expressive of their feelings. You have to have big actions to stand out in a crowd of people." She also enjoys the opportunity of "randomly breaking out into song." When she's not at musical rehearsal you'll find Sophie reading or doing art.



Arwen Hertzler '21 (Mme. Thénardier) would typically be found backstage in the pit orchestra during school musicals. She returns onstage for her Senior year, having been in the EMS productions of *Charlotte's Web* (Goose), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Mrs. McCarthy), and *James & the Giant Peach* (Centipede). Arwen is in the NHS, serves as a Senior class officer, plays in the orchestra, Varsity Tennis, sings in the Touring and Chamber choirs, and serves on the Chapel Planning Committee. Outside of school Arwen enjoys karate and writing. Arwen states that although *Les Mis* is "an incredibly depressing story... I feel like we should pay more attention to the people that held onto hope and kindness despite their situation (the students, the Bishop, Cosette, Valjean, etc.). The Bishop is exactly the type of person that I want to grow to be."



Eli Hess '21 (Bamatabois, Babet, Guard/Constable) has frequented EMS stage productions including *Little Women* (Troll), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Father), *Charlotte's Web* (Gander), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Chorus), and *James & The Giant Peach* (Chorus). Eli says the best thing about being in *Les Mis* is "that we are still able to perform and build community together despite the pandemic." Eli is a member of the NHS and FTC club and enjoys playing D&D. Bamatabois' character is the opposite of Eli's personality and nature, but he says if he could have one part of *Les Mis* be a part of his real life it would be having a silver platter "to display on my mantel."



Emily Hess '23 (Factory Worker, Sick Prostitute, Woman, Fantine U/S) is well versed in EMS theatre with performances in *Little Women*, *The King & I*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (Mrs. Teevee), *Anne of Green Gables* (Anne), and *Charlotte's Web* (Narrator). Emily likes how *Les Mis* strongly demonstrates the importance of understanding and that "you don't always completely know what other people are going through." Emily also notes that one of the biggest lessons this musical offers is "that people can change."