Anne With an “e”

The Green Gables Musical

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Neil K. Newell and C. Michael Perry

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STORY OF THE PLAY

"Anne of Green Gables," by L. M. Montgomery, is an enduring story of innocence, joy, and the true meaning of love that has delighted and inspired readers for nearly a century. Now this heartwarming story of the irrepressible Anne Shirley is impressively adapted to the stage with an inspired a musical score! The story begins as Anne arrives at Green Gables and follows her through mishaps and adventures, through Matthew's death and her reconciliation with Gilbert, and finally to her determination to stay at Green Gables and help Marilla while pursuing her education. There are numerous beautiful songs including "Breath of Air!"; "Bosom Friends"; "The Lady of SHALOTT"; "The Perfect Man," and "Bend in the Road." This charming, faithful adaptation appeals to those of every generation. Full evening.

"Anne ... with an 'e' - The Green Gables Musical" was first produced by the Spanish Fork Community Theatre on July 19, 1998. The premiere production was the second highest grossing production in the twenty-year history of the Utah theatre. Produced by Cherie Murray, Directed by C. Michael Perry, Choreographed by Tara Christopher, Musical direction by Steve Boothe and Gregory Lawrence Duffin, Sets Designed by Jim Nicholet and LeEarl Peck.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Widely flexible cast: approx.4 m, 8 w, + numerous Children and Adult extras

Main Male Roles:
Matthew Cuthbert
Gilbert Blythe
Mr. Phillips
Doctor Blair

Main Female Roles:
Marilla Cuthbert
Anne Shirley
Rachel Lynde
Diana Barry
Mrs. Barry
Lucilla Hutton
Miss Muriel Stacy
Mrs. Maria Evans (Orator)

Children with speaking roles:
Ruby Gillis
Ellie Spurgeon
Jane Andrews

Children with non-speaking roles:
Josie Pie
Prissy Andrews
Katie
Sophia
Julia Bell
Arty
Carrie
Charlie Sloan

Other Adults:
Woman 1, 2, 3
Mr. Barry/Man 1
Society Lady
Man 2

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES and MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

#1: Overture

Scene 1: Train Station, Bright River, spring, early 1900s.
#2: "A Breath of Air!" *(Anne, Matthew)*

Scene 2: Kitchen/Parlor, Green Gables, Avonlea, later that afternoon.
#3: "A Risky Thing!" *(Rachel)*
#3a: "Sometimes!" *(Marilla)*
#3b: "Duet" *(Marilla, Rachel)*
#3c: "A Risky Thing!" - Reprise *(Rachel)*

Scene 3: Anne's bedroom, Green Gables, later that evening.
#4: "Pretty Cherry Tree" *(Anne)*

Scene 4: Kitchen/Parlor, next day, evening.
#5: "Why Would Anyone Want to Raise a Child?" *(Marilla, Matthew)*

Scene 5: Anne's bedroom, later that evening.
#5a: "Pretty Cherry Tree" - Reprise *(Anne)*
#5b: Scene Change Music

SYNOPSIS OF MUSICAL NUMBERS - continued

Scene 6: Barry's Pond, the Sunday social, start of summer.
#6a: "Bosom Friends" *(Anne, Diana, Children)*
#6b: "A Sunday Song and a Smile" *(Adults)*
#6c: "A Sunday Song / Bosom Friends" *(Adults, Children)*

Scene 7: Avonlea School, the end of summer.
#7: "School!" *(Mr. Phillips, Anne, Diana, Gilbert and Children)*
#7a: Music Tag and Scene Change

Scene 8: Kitchen/Parlor, that afternoon.
#8: Scene Change

Scene 9: Kitchen/Parlor, the following day.
#9: "Bend in the Road" *(Matthew, Anne)*

ACT II

#10: Entr'acte

Scene 1: Barry Pond, another summer, an afternoon.
#11: "The Lady of Shalott" *(Anne, Jane, Ellie, Ruby)*
#12: Scene Change

Scene 2: Yard, Green Gables, the following evening.
#13: "A Little Romance" *(Anne, Matthew)*
#13a: Underscore/Scene Change

Scene 3: Barry home, hours later, 3 a.m.
#14: Scene Change (Bend in the Road)

Scene 4: Kitchen, Green Gables, the following day.
#15: "A Breath of Air!" - Reprise *(Anne)*

Scene 5: Store, Avonlea, a Saturday afternoon.
#16: "Where Anne Is" *(Marilla, Rachel, Matthew, Miss Stacy, Ensemble)*
#16a: Scene Change

Scene 6: Ballroom, the White Sands Hotel, evening of the concert.
#16b: "The Lady of Shalott" - Reprise *(Anne, Diana)*
#17: "Anne of Green Gables" *(Gilbert)*
#17a: Tag and Scene Change

Scene 7: Porch, Green Gables, the following summer.
#18: "The Perfect Man" *(Anne, Diana)*
#18a: "Anne of Green Gables / The Perfect Man" *(Gilbert, Anne, Diana)*
#18b: Scene Change

Scene 8: Porch, two days later.
#19: Scene Change

Scene 9: Barry's Road / Porch, Green Gables.
#20: "The Bend in the Road" – Reprise (Finale) *(Anne, Gilbert, Marilla, Rachel, Matthew)*
#21: Curtain Call *(Ensemble)*
#22: Exit Music

ACT I

MUSICAL #1 – OVERTURE

SCENE 1

(Train station at Bright River, Prince Edward Island, Canada, a small town on a peninsula stretching into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Late spring afternoon in the early 1900s. MATTHEW CUTHBERT, a simple, shy man, well into his 60s, turns the corner and is surprised to see a girl, nearly 13 years old and dressed in a very short, very tight, ugly dress of yellowish grey wincey. She has a faded brown sailor hat over two long braids of very thick, very red hair. She is full of spirit and vivacity. A shabby, old-fashioned carpet bag is tucked under her arm. This is ANNE SHIRLEY, soon to be Anne of Green Gables. Matthew stares awkwardly at the girl for a few moments as though he is dumbstruck.)

ANNE: *(One hand grasps the handle of her carpet bag, the other she holds out to MATTHEW.)* Are you Mr. Matthew Cuthbert?
MATTHEW: Well now …
ANNE: Of Green Gables?
MATTHEW: I suppose I am.
ANNE: Anne Shirley. The matron said I should wait at the station until you arrived.
MATTHEW: You're from the orphanage?
ANNE: I was this morning, but today ... today I am Anne of Green Gables. Isn't the world full of wonderful surprises?
MATTHEW: I reckon it is.
ANNE: I was beginning to be afraid you weren't coming and I had made up my mind I would go down the track and climb into that big cherry tree at the bend and stay all night. Wouldn't it be lovely to sleep in a wild cherry tree all white with bloom in the moonshine?
MATTHEW: The matron didn't send anyone else?
ANNE: I am sure she wanted to. The orphanage is spilling over with children. Oh, Mr. Cuthbert, I feel as though I just stepped into a fairy tale!
MATTHEW: *(At a loss as to what to do, HE smiles, takes HER hand.)* The horse is over in the yard. Give me your bag.
ANNE: Oh! I can carry it. I've got all my worldly goods in it but it isn't heavy. And if it isn't carried a certain way the handle pulls out.

(MATTHEW awkwardly leads her to the "buggy.")

ANNE: Do you know how often I have dreamed of this moment - the moment I would actually belong to someone? I've never belonged to anyone before - not really. Oh, but I have spent hours imagining what it would be like. Do you ever imagine things that could only come true in a fairy tale, Mr. Cuthbert?

MUSICAL #2 - A BREATH OF AIR!

MATTHEW: Well now, I can't say as I have.

ANNE: I don't suppose you ever were an orphan, so you can't possibly understand what it is like. It's worse than anything. Can you only think of what an immensely important day it was for me when Mrs. Spencer said I was wanted by a Matthew Cuthbert and his sister Marilla? For the first time in my life, I am utterly, absolutely, contented.

(MATTHEW helps her into the Buggy.)

ANNE:
TAKE A BREATH OF AIR!
I CAN FEEL TOMORROW
IT'S CALLING ME
WAITING THERE!

TAKE A BREATH OF AIR!
I CAN TASTE THE FUTURE
IF I ONLY DARE!
COULD IT BE A FAIRY TALE
BECKONS NOW FOR ME?
LOOK AT ME, I'M ON THE TRAIL
OF HAPP'LY EVER AFTERING!

ANNE: Oh, Mr. Cuthbert ... those trees they look like a bride all in white with a lovely misty veil! I've never seen a bride, but I can imagine what she would look like. I don't ever expect to be a bride myself. I'm so homely nobody will ever want to marry me - unless it might be a foreign missionary. I suppose a foreign missionary mightn't be very particular. But I do hope that some day I shall have a white dress and it will have puffed sleeves. Puffed sleeves are my highest ideal of earthly bliss. I just love pretty clothes. And I've never had a pretty dress in my life - but of course it's all the more to look forward to, isn't it?

TAKE A BREATH OF AIR!
CAN YOU SMELL THE COLUMBINE?
ALL OF MY DREAMS ARE THERE
TAKE A BREATH OF AIR!
CAN YOU JUST IMAGINE
A PLACE FREE FROM CARE?
I CAN FEEL IT CALLING ME
JUST BEYOND THAT BEND
IF I LOOK HARD I CAN SEE
A HEARTH, A HOME, A FIRE, A FRIEND

ANNE: Just now I feel pretty nearly perfectly happy. I can't feel exactly perfectly happy because-well, what color would you call this? *(She pulls at a braid of her hair.)*

End of Freeview

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