



HARPENDEN
MUSICAL THEATRE
COMPANY

COME FROM AWAY

THE HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE
REMARKABLE TRUE STORY

Book, Music and Lyrics by
IRENE SANKOFF and DAVID HEIN

Orchestrations by **August Eriksmoen** Original Broadway Production
Arrangements by **Ian Eisendrath** produced by **Junkyard Dog Productions**

Come From Away (NAMT Festival 2013) was originally developed at the Canadian Music Theatre Project, Michael Rubinoff Producer, Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, and was further developed at Goodspeed Musicals' Festival of New Artists, in East Haddam, Connecticut. The Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council, and The Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle, Washington, also provided development support. Come From Away was originally co-produced in 2015 by La Jolla Playhouse and Seattle Repertory Theater and presented in 2016 by Ford's Theatre

The Eric Morecambe Centre
7 - 10 October 2026

AUDITION INFORMATION PACK

INTRODUCTION

Harpenden Musical Theatre Company (HMTc) is an award-winning, not-for-profit, community company who have developed a reputation for exceptional, powerful musical theatre in Hertfordshire. Our aim is to produce entertaining, high-quality shows whilst having fun along the way in a diverse and safe space. We are delighted that you are interested in joining us in this production and we are sure you will enjoy the experience working with a dedicated and hard-working company. Last year we celebrated our 75th year and we are excited for the creative projects ahead for HMTc, continuing in producing shows that excite and entertain.

Come from Away is a one-act musical with book, music, and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. It tells the true story of the town of Gander, Newfoundland, in the days following the September 11 attacks, when 38 planes carrying approximately 7,000 stranded passengers were unexpectedly grounded there. Drawing from real events and firsthand accounts, the musical celebrates the extraordinary generosity and compassion shown by Gander residents as they housed, fed, and supported travellers from around the world.

The show was conceived by producer Michael Rubinoff and developed after Sankoff and Hein spent time in Gander interviewing those involved. First presented as a workshop in 2012, it continued to evolve through Canadian and American development programs before being produced professionally. While the characters and events are rooted in reality, they are theatrical composites created as a tribute to the people whose stories inspired the piece.

After a successful pre-Broadway run, *Come from Away* opened on Broadway in 2017, earning widespread critical and commercial acclaim. It received seven Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical, and won Best Direction of a Musical. The production went on to enjoy long-running success internationally, including an acclaimed West End run, and a filmed stage version was released in 2021 to mark the 20th anniversary of the events it portrays.

OUR PRODUCTION TEAM



Hailey Budd - Director

Hailey has been Directing for many years, with her most enjoyable projects being large scale musicals. In recent years she has worked with Hertford Dramatic & Operatic Society, Potters Bar Theatre Company and here at Harpenden, on some great productions, including Hairspray, Made in Dagenham, Nativity! The Musical, Sweeney Todd, Jesus Christ Superstar and Saturday Night Fever.

Hailey used to run her own Youth Theatre Group for 8 years and was involved in all aspects of Direction, Production, Choreography and Musical Direction. However, since having a family of her own, she now teaches part time with Mayhem Theatre Creative Arts and Bishops Stortford Academy and loves influencing young lives through theatre. Hailey has also worked as an Agent in the industry, securing many West End roles for performers in shows such as 'Book of Mormon', 'Blood Brothers', 'Lion King' and countless others – her claim to fame is that she used to represent Nicola Coughlan who is played the lead in the acclaimed TV series 'Bridgerton'! Hailey is very much looking forward to working with HMTC again.



Keith Willis - Musical Director

Keith is a Hertfordshire based professional musician, holding the position of Musician in Residence at the Simon Balle Music Centre in Hertford, since studying Classical music at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He has been working with local dramatic and operatic societies for the last half decade in a variety of capacities, such as musical director, rehearsal pianist and pit musician. Keith's recent MD credits include **Shrek – the Musical** with Hertford Dramatic & Operatic Society, **Company** with Potters Bar Theatre Company and HMTC's very own successful productions of **Made in Dagenham** and **Sweeney Todd**. Keith last worked with HMTC in October 2025 for our 75th anniversary production, **Guys and Dolls**.



Jason Allen-Lane - Choreographer

Jason began his professional theatre training at the age of seven at the Billie Barry Stage School and Digges Lane Dance Studio. He continued his training over the years, graduating from The College of Dance, Dry Ice Theatre Company and LTA with a degree in Musical Theatre. He has been fortunate to enjoy a varied and rewarding career across stage, television and screen, and is especially grateful for the opportunity to share his love of theatre with students and fellow cast members.

Jason is delighted to return to HMTC, where he has previously had the pleasure of directing productions such as *The Addams Family* and *Evita*. His choreography work with the company includes *Follies*, *9 to 5*, *Guys and Dolls* and a piece for *Sweeney Todd*, as well as directing and choreographing *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* in October 2024. Most recently, Jason has been directing *We Will Rock You* with RMTC and is currently working on HMTC's special one-night event, *Encore: A Night at the Musicals*, celebrating 75 years of the company.

SYNOPSIS

Come from Away opens in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, where the locals introduce their way of life in (**Welcome to the Rock**). On the morning of September 11, 2001, Mayor Claude learns that U.S. airspace has been closed, and 38 international flights are suddenly diverted to Gander (**38 Planes**), nearly doubling the town's population. With little warning, the townspeople spring into action, gathering supplies and preparing shelters in schools and community spaces (**Blankets and Bedding**).

The stranded passengers, held on their planes for hours, experience fear, frustration, and uncertainty (**28 Hours / Wherever We Are**) before finally being transported into town (**Darkness and Trees**). As they learn about the attacks (**Lead Us Out of the Night**) and attempt to reach loved ones (**Phoning Home**), moments of stress and tension arise, balanced by humour, generosity, and cultural exchange. Friendships form on buses and in bars (**On the Bus, Heave Away**), while personal stories of resilience emerge, including Beverley's reflection on her career as a pilot in **Me and the Sky**.

When flights are cleared to leave, the passengers express gratitude to the town that welcomed them (**Somewhere in the Middle of Nowhere**). Ten years later, locals and travellers reunite in Gander to celebrate the lasting bonds formed during five extraordinary days (**Ten Years Later**), proving that even in moments of global crisis, kindness and community can bring people together.

CHARACTERS AND AUDITION PIECES

Please attempt to learn your audition piece, so that you can give your best performance:

Role	Gender	Vocal Range	Music Audition Piece (All Bar Numbers are Inclusive)
Annette (Captain Beverley Bass)	Female	Mezzo-Soprano	BEVERLEY (Annette) #11."Me And The Sky" b29-60
Beulah Davis (Delores)	Female	Mezzo-Soprano	BEULAH (Delores) #5."28 Hours/Wherever We Are" (as <i>Delores</i>) b261-263 (+more ad lib.) #1."Welcome to The Rock" b95-113
Claude Elliott (Derm, Eddie)	Male	Baritone	CLAUDE (Derm, Eddie) #10."Screech In" b88-96 &127-End #1."Welcome to The Rock" b14-22
Oz Fudge	Male	Baritone	OZ (Various) #8."Prayer" (as <i>Rabbi</i>) b16-25 #1."Welcome to The Rock" b95-22 (Tenor 1)
Janice Mosher (Britney)	Female	Mezzo-Soprano	JANICE (Britney) #1."Welcome to The Rock" b95-113 (Top Part)
Bonnie Harris (Martha)	Female	Mezzo-Soprano	BONNIE (Martha) #1."Welcome to The Rock" b95-113
Kevin Tuerff (Garth)	Male	Tenor / Baritone	KEVIN T. (Garth) #8."Prayer" b54-End
Kevin Jung (Dwight, Ali)	Male	Baritone	KEVIN J. (Dwight, Ali) #7."Costume Party" b118-127 (All melodies) #1."Welcome to The Rock" b95-113 (Tenor 2)
Hannah O'Rourke (Margie, Mickey)	Female	Alto	HANNAH (Margie, Mickey) #7f."I Am Here" b35-End
Diane Gray (Crystal, Brenda)	Female	Mezzo-Soprano	DIANE (Crystal, Brenda) #12."Stop The World" b29-58

Nick Marson (Doug)	Male	Baritone	NICK (Doug) #12. "Stop The World" b1-16 #1. "Welcome to The Rock" b95-113 (Tenor 2)
Bob (Muhumuza, Captain Bristol)	Male	Baritone	BOB (Muhumuza, Captain Bristol) #13. "38 Planes (Reprise)/Somewhere" b33-62 (Baritone)
Company (Featured / Ensemble) 6 places	Any Gender	Soprano / Mezzo-Soprano / Tenor / Baritone	ENSEMBLE #15. "Finale" b95-122

ALL BAR NUMBERS ARE INCLUSIVE

Come From Away Dialogue Audition Pieces

Actor	Characters	Dialogue Audition 1	Dialogue Audition 2	Dialogue Audition 3
1	Diane/ Brenda	P44, P108	P66	
2	Hannah/ Mickey	P70/71	P42/43	
3	Janice /Flight Attendant	P38 & 56 (Janice)	P11 (Flight Attendant-any American accent)	
4	Beulah /Dolores	P17, P70	P27 (Dolores) (any American accent)	
5	Bonnie	P62/63 & 103		
6	Beverly/ Annette	P96/97/98 (Texan accent)	P39/40 & P68	
7	Oz / Mr Michaels	P17/18 P60	P40 (Mr Michaels)	
8	Kevin T/ Garth / President Bush	P71 (American – LA)	P28/29/30 & P45 (Garth)	P32 (Bush- Texan accent)
9	Kevin J/ Dwight /Ali	P65/66 (Kevin J-New York)	P13/14/15 (Dwight)	P75/76/96 (Ali- Egyptian)
10	Bob/Muhumuzah	P59 (Bob – New York)	P45	
11	Claude/Eddie	P15/16 & P120	P72 (Eddie)	
12	Nick/ Doug	P14	P8/9	

****Characters in bold require a Newfoundland accent. ****

Different from the usual ‘all singing all dancing’ musical, it is an extremely ensemble piece for actors who sing and singers who can act, as each of the 12 performers plays many characters and rarely leaves the stage. It will require a true team spirit and commitment. It will take dedication, respect for each other and the rest of the team.

Come from Away celebrates the power of human connection in the face of adversity. As such, we are committed to casting a diverse group of actors that reflect the true breadth of the communities represented in the production. We encourage actors of all ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, ages, shapes, sizes and backgrounds to audition. Our goal is to honour the spirit of inclusivity and showcase the richness of human experience

We are seeking individuals who can embody the real-life emotions of people who found themselves in a moment of shared humanity. You’ll be asked to play multiple roles, some light-hearted, others more serious, but all filled with a deep sense of connection to the heart of the story

BEULAH: A teacher at Gander Elementary who takes control of the situation to help the stranded passengers. She befriends Hannah and prays with her. Secondary roles: Delores, who sings My Heart Must Go On, no actual solo. 40+ playing age

BEVERLY: American Airline pilot, has always loved flying, when her world suddenly changes. Secondary roles: Annette - a local, slightly man-crazy teacher at the Gander Academy and Reporter. (This actor may flash her bra very briefly at one moment along with two others). Has one very strong solo. 40+ playing age

BONNIE: A no-nonsense wife, mother and committed employee of the local SPCA. She fights for the welfare of the animals trapped on the planes when no one else will. A fun, humorous role but the comedy must come from the truth. Secondary roles: Martha, no actual solo. 30+ playing age

DIANE: A divorcee from Texas, who begins a friendship with Nick. Secondary roles: Crystal, Brenda. Is part of one duet and one trio. 40+ playing age

HANNAH: A New York grandmother is waiting for news about her firefighter son, comforted by Beulah. Secondary roles: Margie, Mickey. (This actor may flash her bra very briefly at one moment along with two others) 40+ playing age

JANICE: An eager new local TV reporter, thrown into the deep end on her first day. Secondary roles: Britney, Flight Attendant. No actual solo. (This actor may flash her bra very briefly at one moment along with two others) Early 20s playing age.

BOB: A hardened big city dweller - Bob fears that someone's going to steal his wallet or shoot him. Secondary roles: Muhumuza, Captain Bristol. Requires a Black actor. This actor needs to have comedy experience. Ability to do an African accent is desirable.

CLAUDE: The Mayor of Gander, Claude loves the townspeople and his daily traditions, but he's never had to deal with a crisis of this magnitude before. Secondary roles: Derm, Brenda's brother, Eddie. This actor must be comfortable with comedy and wearing a yamaka/kippah. 40+ playing age

KEVIN J: Kevin T's boyfriend and secretary. Sarcastic and unhappy, originally from NYC, he wants to leave as soon as possible. Secondary roles: Dwight, Ali (note Ali is of Middle Eastern descent, so believable features and/or accent work required). This actor should be comfortable with finding comedy in difficult situations and speaking with a Middle Eastern accent and wearing a 'kufi'.

KEVIN T: Kevin is travelling with his boyfriend and secretary, also named Kevin. Secondary roles: Garth, the head of the local bus drivers union who are currently on strike, and President Bush.

NICK: An Englishman on a business trip. He has a slight heart issue, but life is turned upside down when he falls for Diane. Secondary roles: Doug, an air traffic controller married to Bonnie, and Officer Stephenson, Male Townsperson. 40+ playing age

OZ: The quirky chief of a two-person Gander police force. Secondary roles: Joey, Customs Officer, Mr Michaels, Terry, Matty, Rabbi, Head Cardiologist.

The show is traditionally performed with 12 actors: 6 male and 6 female. This is how we currently expect to cast the roles but are **also looking for an ensemble of 6 who will take on various non-speaking roles including towns people, technical elements including lighting and all will be required to sing as part of the ensemble.**

AUDITION PIECES AND AUDITION FORM

A link to of all libretto and sheet music audition material is available [HERE](#).

A link to the audition form is available [HERE](#). Please complete it by **Friday 24th April 2026**. You may audition for up to **TWO** specific roles which need to be stated on your audition form.

If you have any questions, please contact our Production Manager, **Sharon Galatis** (sharongalatis.hmtc@gmail.com).

COME FROM AWAY – LAUNCH NIGHT, PREPARATION WORKSHOPS AND AUDITION DATES

All auditionees are invited to take part in acting, singing and movement/dance pre-audition workshops. These all take place at The Gibbons Hall, Harpenden Trust (above the Co-op), 130a Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PU [Map](#)

Date	What	Who
Thursday 16 April 2026 @8pm	Launch night: Come along and hear all about Come From Away – talk through the plot, characters, set and vision. Go through audition pieces	Everyone
Monday 20 April 2026 @8pm	Music workshop. Go through all audition pieces in detail and answer any questions.	Everyone
Thursday 23 April 2026 @8pm	Movement workshop. Music audition pieces.	Everyone
Monday 27 th and Thursday 30 th April	Ensemble and principal auditions (time slots will be given)	Everyone

Please arrive in good time for workshops. There is free parking in the Co-op car park for up to 3 hours. Entry to the halls is via a door on the car park side and **you will need a door code** which will be provided prior to workshops/auditions. Go up the stairs and go through 3 sets of double doors until you reach the Gibbons Hall.

Workshop tips

There is no need to prepare anything for the workshops as such, but here are some points to, hopefully, put your mind at rest...

- We need to see you can work well with others.
- You may be asked to work individually, in pairs or groups during the audition.
- Don't take yourself too seriously – the workshops are designed to be fun and enjoyable – so relax and go for it!
- You may like to bring water and comfortable clothes to move/dance in.

Please do not attend workshops or auditions if you are feeling unwell. Everyone attending should follow good practice, remember to wash your hands regularly and cover coughs and sneezes.

REHEARSALS

A full rehearsal schedule will be issued once casting is complete. We meet on **Monday and Thursday** evenings, but you may not be required on both days (usually ensemble one evening and principals on the other). Our rehearsal space is at the Gibbons Hall, Harpenden Trust (above the Co-op), 130a Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PU, and rehearsals will begin at 8pm prompt until 10.15pm. We will also introduce some Sunday rehearsals in September 2026 (usually from 2pm until 6pm), dates to be confirmed – all cast will be expected to attend.

We ask that should you be offered a part within the company of **Come From Away** that you make this production your priority. We appreciate that there will be occasions when you may not be available for rehearsals. If this is the case, please make every effort to ask another cast member to take notes for you and liaise together to catch up. Please make any current commitments known on the audition form.

WE EXPECT ALL CAST TO BE AVAILABLE IN THE THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SHOW.

Fees

All performers must be members to be covered by insurance. For new members, a **non-refundable fee of £10** is payable at auditions which will then be deducted from the full membership fee if successful.

Annual Membership	£20	Membership year runs from 1 June to 31 May
Rehearsal fees (equivalent to £6 per week)	18 years and over - £120 Under 18 or student - £60	Rehearsal fees may be collected in instalments prior to October 2026.

Copies of the Libretto will be provided with a refundable deposit of £10 via our Production Manager.

Performance week

The performances will take place at The Eric Morecambe Centre (EMC) in Harpenden from 7th to 10th October 2026 (including a Saturday Matinee.)

All cast and crew members are expected to be available for the following dates/times. If you cannot attend on any of these dates, **please DO NOT audition.**

- Saturday 3th October from 9am: Get-in to help the production team and crew construct sets, organise dressing rooms plus other general preparations at EMC
- Sunday 4th October from 10am: Band call and technical rehearsal at EMC
- Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th October from 6pm: Technical and dress rehearsals at EMC
- Wednesday 7th to Saturday 10th October: Arrive from 6pm at EMC (1pm on Saturday)
- Sunday 11th October from 9am: Get-out to help production team and crew de-construct sets, assist with props and tidy EMC