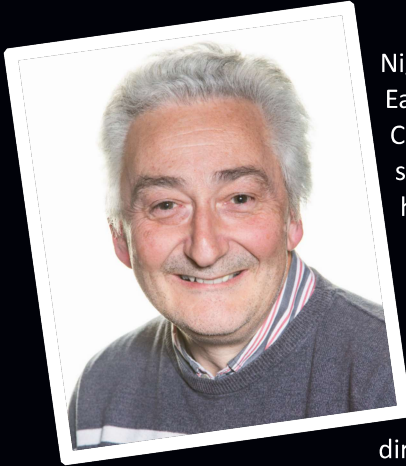


We Dedicate This Production Of Evita To Our Dearly Loved And Much Missed Nigel Finch



Nigel Finch, our friend, musical director and society treasurer died in August 2022. Eastleigh Operatic and Musical Society had a tribute to him in their programme for Chess, which was to have been his latest production with them. We wanted to say something about Nigel, and the EOMS tribute was such a lovely, warm and heartfelt tribute that we felt it could not be matched. The author of the tribute, Louis Spencer and EOMS have very kindly let us use the piece, with just a few changes, and we are very grateful indeed to them for that.

This production of Evita was to be the next in a line of hugely enjoyable shows with Nigel Finch as musical director in partnership with Vic Luke, beginning in 2013 with *Beauty and the Beast*, followed by *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Pirates of Penzance* in 2014 and *Cinderella* in 2018. As our treasurer and effectively our resident musical director he was not remotely idle in the intervening years, working with a range of other directors on shows including *Chess*, *Sister Act*, *Oliver*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Legally Blonde* and most recently a sparkling production of *Crazy for You* with Louise Hodson as director. Even though Nigel was our society treasurer and well knew the financial constraints, he always held out for the biggest and best band that he could get – and he was so right. His musicians were always terrific, and the show cast always upped their singing to match, getting the sound that Nigel knew was such a key part of the production values for the shows. As Louis said ‘He was from head to toe a man of music. Long serving at the SOS rehearsal piano and much loved, he was ever the perfectionist in everything he did, bubbling with skill, dedication, a giant belief and an infectious sense of fun. Look into the magnificent band as you pass, and you will see where he had expected to conduct your entertainment from this evening. He couldn’t wait to do so, and we all owe him a huge debt tonight.



Nigel had a joy for music and made music a joy. His impact was immeasurable. The pivot to so many societies and the gravity that drew them together in their shared passion, the galactic central point to our little constellation. He was known and respected by hundreds. Musical ability was the prize he was dealt by birth, but it is too easy to assume that it was always bound to be so, forgetting the practice, the dedication, the dull work of preparation that made everything come together so seamlessly and the melodies flow. Nigel doled out his gift with generosity and spent it willingly on us all. Utterly competent and a sage to all, the expert who didn’t let you down

