

# British Theatre Guide

News, reviews, features and podcast on theatre across the UK

## Momentous Musicals

Speckulation Entertainment

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*Momentous Musicals* was a one-off concert directed by John Garfield-Roberts at New Wimbledon Theatre last July in which a handful of well-known West End performers performed songs from musicals in which they have appeared and a few others.

No longer a one-off, the show goes on tour later this year to Wimbledon, Torquay, Bradford and Manchester and has also resulted in this live recording, released this month on CD.

The track listing doesn't contain much that any self-respecting musical theatre fan won't already have several version of, but then it's a show that shamelessly presents the popular and familiar rather than seeking to unearth forgotten classics. Rice and Lloyd Webber have the highest number of tracks between them—not always together—with songs from *Joseph*, *Chess*, *Evita*, *Aspects of Love* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, but we also get a couple of Boublil and Schönbergs (*Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*) and one and a half Sondheims (*Company* and the lyrics to *West Side Story*).

Heading the cast list is Gareth Gates, who originally came to prominence through a TV talent show for pop singers before the musical theatre reality shows hit the small screen but has made a serious career out of musical theatre over the last few years. He reminds us of his roles in *Joseph* and *Les Mis* with passionate renderings of "Close Every Door" and "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables" and adds the other popular Boublil and Schönberg to his repertoire with "Why, God, Why?" from *Miss Saigon*.

Rachael Wooding is currently starring in *We Will Rock You* and from that show she sings "No One But You (Only the Good Die Young)" as well as opening the show with another pop-rock number "One Night Only" from *Dreamgirls*, which is perhaps less relevant now the tour has been announced. She also duets with Gates on "For Good" from *Wicked* and sings "You Must Love Me" from *Evita* and "So Much Better" from *Legally Blonde*.

With Wooding on the *Chess* hit "I Know Him So Well" is Emma Williams, who came to fame as Truly Scrumptious in *Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*, and from that show she sings "Hushabye Mountain" and the rather less innocent "Mein Herr" from *Cabaret*. Daniel Boys gives us "Maria" from *West Side Story* and the latter half of "Being Alive" from *Company*, after Bobby's big realisation.

Jonathan Ansell, of pop-opera group G4, shows off his versatility within the Lloyd Webber canon with the light and frothy "Love Changes Everything" from *Aspects of Love* and the ultimate show-off number for the male rock musical performer "Gethsemane" from *Superstar*, which he pulls off very well.

All-in-all, nothing surprising or new here; just five top West End performers doing a pretty good job of putting across some musical theatre songs that most people will at least recognise. It's fine as a musical theatre taster or for fans of the artists featured to add to their collections, but nothing for die-hard musical theatre fans to get too excited about.

**Reviewer:** [David Chadderton](#)