FROM THE DIRECTOR

When we sat down to chose our musical this year, *Les Misérables* was not even among those being considered. Honestly. I went in thinking we would be producing either *Footloose* or *Guys and Dolls*. *Les Mis* came up in passing while we were talking, and we found that we kept circling back around to it.

For a while, I thought we were crazy for choosing such a massive show. It really is quite the undertaking. In fact, as I sit here writing this, there is still a part of me that thinks we were insane. For the last six months, as people ask me what show we are doing, the top response has been "How"?! And with every rehearsal that passed, it became easier and easier to answer that question. It's simple really, the answer to the how is in the who.

To my cast and crew, I simply cannot express how proud I am of each and every one of you. You met the challenges of this show head on and have continued to take our already high expectations and raise them even higher. You are the reason I do what I do. Thank you for letting me build the barricade with you.

To my seniors. When I took over the Drama Club in the fall of 2013, you were my freshmen. Where have these last four years gone? I cannot believe we are here already and that my first "class" of actors are getting ready to graduate on to bigger and better things. It has been a privilege to watch you grow, not only as performers, but into the outstanding young men and women you are. Please never forget how Drama has impacted your lives, for I will never forget how each of you have impacted mine.

To Megan, Bill and Dane, thank you is not enough for all you do. We need a vacation...seriously. And finally, thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to ensure the success of the Drama Club and our productions. I could fill an entire program with just a list of fantastic people I need to thank from over the years. But for right now I have to call out two, Renee and Gene Fujikawa. It has been quite the run! Your family has had such an impact on Drama, and me. You have done so much and in so many different capacities over the last twelve years and I really do not know how I can ever thank you enough. I will figure out something eventually, but for now...truly, thank you. For everything.

Thank you for supporting the arts here at Nordonia! We hope you enjoy the show as much as we have loved creating it.

Chris Simmons
Director of Drama

SENIOR AND LEAD BIOS

Ellie Amorino (Young Cosette) is in the fourth grade at Solon Elementary. She has previously performed as an orphan in a production of *Annie*, and has taken theatre lessons from Broadway actress Melinda Rothfuss. Ellie enjoys playing the piano and the ukulele. She has played soccer since the age of four and currently plays for the Ambassadors Club Team.

Hannah Beck (Ensemble) is in the twelfth grade and this is her fourth musical with NHS, although she has been performing since the 3rd grade with Garfield Heights Youth Theatre and the Middle School Drama Club. She is also the Historian for the Drama Club and served as an Assistant Director for last fall's *Almost, Maine*. Hannah has played Bass Clarinet for the Marching Band for four years. She prides herself as an avid sleeper who is enthralled with cooking shows. Hannah plans to go to Cleveland State University to major in Early Childhood Education.

Missie Bleich (Ensemble) is a senior who first appeared on the NHS stage as a cadet in 2010's *Seussical*. She has since appeared in *The Wedding Singer, Aida, Cinderella* and *Almost, Maine*. Missie has swam, played tennis and is a member of Student Council. She has taken voice lessons with Vicki Lester for six years. Missie will study Physics and Astronomy in college.

Danielle Bobay (Ensemble) is a senior performing in her third musical production with the Drama Club. She was previously in *Aida* and *Cinderella*. She has played soccer for four years, and has served as a captain. She is also a member of National Honor Society and TI. Danielle will attend Case Western after graduation to study Engineering.

Jamie Bowser (Pit Orchestra) is a senior playing the Saxophone in the Orchestra. He previously appeared on stage in *The Wedding Singer* and in the pit for *Cinderella*. He is a member of Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Ensembles, Symphonic Chorale, Synergy, and participated in the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony. Jamie plans to attend Cleveland State University for Music Education.

Alex Byers (Tech Crew Manager) is a senior who has worked on the tech crew for the last three musical productions. This is his second year as the Tech Manager. In addition to Drama, he also works on the football film crew. Alex plans to attend Tri-C to study Nursing.

Sam Chaffee (Pit Orchestra) is a senior playing the Keyboard in the pit for his fourth musical production at NHS. He has also played for *The Wedding Singer, Aida*, and *Cinderella*. He has played soccer for thirteen years, piano for nine, and been in Band for seven. Sam will attend Case Western Reserve University to major in Business Finance and Music.

Sophie D'Aloiso (Makeup Crew) is a senior working her first show with the makeup crew. She has previously appeared on stage in *The Wedding Singer, Aida*, and *Cinderella*. Sophie is also a member of Band and Colorguard. She has attended CVCC for the last two years and this year earned her State Testified Nursing Assistant certification. After high school Sophie will attend Tri-C and then Cleveland State University to pursue a career as an Occupational Therapist.

Hunter Danlachew (Enjolras) is a senior and this is his second musical after appearing in the ensemble of *Cinderella* last year. Hunter is in Choir, National Honor Society, and has played Euphonium in the Band for eight years. He plans to further his education in Environmental Science at The University of Mount Union. Hunter is a strong advocate for animal rights and after he finishes his degree, he plans to explore deep space in search of the legendary space sharks.

Gabrielle Fee (Pit Orchestra Liaison) is a senior playing Oboe in her third musical this year after *Aida* and *Cinderella*. She is a part of the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Chamber Ensembles, her youth group worship team, and National Honor Society. Gabrielle has been to eight other countries and has had the opportunity to play a solo in Severance Hall. She will attend Cleveland State University to study towards a Bachelor of Music and Arts Management with a minor in Spanish.

Jacob Fillsky (Gavroche) is currently in the seventh grade at Nordonia Middle School and is thrilled to be joining the high school Drama Club for this year's production. Earlier this winter, he appeared as the White Rabbit in the middle school's *Alice in Zombieland*. In addition to acting, Jacob has played baseball for five years.

Sam Fujikawa (Marius) is a senior who has been appearing in musicals at Nordonia for the better part of the last decade. *Les Misérables* marks his eighth musical performance. He first appeared on the Nordonia stage as Jerome in 2007's *South Pacific*. He has also appeared in *Seussical* as Jojo, *Beauty and the Beast* as Chip, *Joseph* as Benjamin, *The Wedding Singer*, *Aida* as Zoser, and *Cinderella* as Prince Topher. He performed in *Almost, Maine* last fall as well as serving as an Assistant Director. Sam is the Co-President of the Drama Club, and his college plans are currently TBD. He would like to thank Ina and Jeffrey Garten for their everlasting romance that has inspired his performance this year.

Ashley Gilbert (Makeup Crew) is a senior and is working on her first show at Nordonia! While she plans to take a year off after school to work, she plans to become a teacher's assistant, and is currently working in child care at Western Reserve Grace Church. Ashley enjoys nature and hiking, cosplay, and is a hardcore unicorn believer!

Rachel Hayes (Fantine) is a junior and is appearing in her second musical at Nordonia. She previously was a Minister in *Aida* and also provided the live music for *The Wedding From Hell*. Rachel runs Cross Country and Track and has sung for Nordonia's A Capella choirs for three years. After high school, she plans to study Nutritional Science and Music Therapy.

Rachel Kidd (Éponine) is a senior and is appearing in her fourth musical on the Nordonia High School stage. She previously performed in *The Wedding Singer, Aida*, and *Cinderella*. She also performed with the Middle School Drama Club in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Til Death Do Us Part*. In addition to the Drama Club, Rachel has been playing soccer for fourteen years and is a member of the Varsity Lady Knights. After graduation, she plans to study Mechanical Engineering at Harvard. Rachel would like to give a big thanks to Chris, Megan, and Bill for all they have done for the Drama Club these last four years! (And a HUGE thank you to Chris for letting her turn in her bio info at the last possible second...) *Director's Note: She wasn't the last.

Sally Kress (Young Cosette) is a fifth grader at St. Barnabas, where she has performed in four productions with their Drama Club. She studies voice with Vicki Lester and plays volleyball and softball for CYO. This is Sally's first performance with the Drama Club and is excited to follow in her sister Karoline's footsteps by performing in a Nordonia High School musical!

Delaney Major (Ensemble) is in the twelfth grade and is appearing in her fourth straight musical. She was also in *My Fatal Valentine* as well as shows with the Middle School Drama Club. Delaney is a member of the Marching and Concert Band and has participated with her youth group for seven years. This summer she will be going on a three week mission trip called Operation Barnabas. Delaney plans to attend Malone College, and while her major is undecided, she plans to minor in Cross Cultural Ministry. And finally, gotta blast! :)

Lexi Majoros (Madame Thénardier) is a senior and this is her fourth musical with the Drama Club. She was in *The Wedding Singer*, *Aida* as Mereb, and her star turn as the Raccoon in last year's *Cinderella*. She is currently the Co-President of the Drama Club and has served as the choreographer for the summer camp for the last two years. In addition to Drama, Lexi has been cheering for six years, three years with All Star Cheer, and is a member of National Honor Society. She plans to attend Kent State University this fall to study Early Childhood Education.

Abby Posar (Cosette) is a senior. This is her fourth Nordonia musical. She has previously appeared in the ensembles of *The Wedding Singer, Aida*, and *Cinderella*. She is the Secretary for National Honor Society and a member of the Ski Club. After graduation, Abby will attend Cleveland State University to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Dakota Pugh (Javert) is a senior this year and is appearing in his fifth musical on the Nordonia stage. He has performed in the ensemble for *Joseph, The Wedding Singer*, and *Aida*, and was Jean-Michel in last year's *Cinderella*. He is also involved with Band, Choir, and the Tech Crew. As the self proclaimed "coolest cat in town", Dakota prides himself in being a professional weeaboo as well as Nolan's personal punching bag. He plans to attend Ohio University after graduating to study Astrophysics.

Halle Robinson (Pit Orchestra) is in the twelfth grade playing the flute in her third show with the Drama Club. She has been in Marching Band for four years. She is considering learning the saxophone and doing Colorguard in college. Halle loves the outdoors and would love to travel to England and Japan someday. She loves Legend of Zelda and old-school music from the 70s through the early 2000s. Halle plans to attend Mount Union to major in Music Education to become an elementary school music teacher.

Maria Sansavera (Tech Crew) is in the twelfth grade and is working on her fourth musical as a member of the tech crew. She is also involved with: Knight Readers, Band, Concert and Wind Ensemble, and is a member of the International Thespian Society. Maria plans to attend Kent State to study Early Childhood Education and Library Science.

Eric Schonauer (Pit Orchestra) is a senior playing the keyboard in the pit this year. He has played keyboard and tenor sax in the last three musicals as well. He is a member of Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Chamber Ensembles, and Jazz Combo. He will continue his education majoring in Engineering with a minor in Music Composition.

Nolan Tater (Thénardier) is a junior this year. He is the current Vice President of the Drama Club. This is his third musical, sixth production overall at Nordonia. He has appeared in: *Aida, Cinderella, And Then There Was One,* and *The Wedding From Hell*. His breakout performance however, was in last fall's *Almost, Maine* where he was blessed to portray Chad opposite the incomparable Dakota Pugh. Nolan has found his passion for boxing, a sport he hopes to compete in. He currently plans to further his education at CSU after high school, majoring in Marketing.

Noah Weyrick (Pit Orchestra) is a senior playing percussion in his third musical this year. He previously played in *The Wedding Singer* and *Aida*. He is a member of Band, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, and works at Bob Evans. His role model is Paul Krempasky. Noah will attend The Ohio State University to major in Biological Engineering.

Bradford Zinn (Jean Valjean) is a junior making his theatrical debut as Jean Valjean! He is a member of Synergy and has been a part of Choir for two years. Brad has been singing and playing the guitar since he was five.