

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Musical Theater Workshop

Theater group debuts with Austen's 'Sense and Sensibility'

Entertainment Desk

Updated: 05/07/2009 09:24:12 AM EDT

Thursday, May 07 LENOX — Berkshire Musical Theater Workshop, a new non-profit organization devoted to the collaborative development of stage musicals, makes its debut this weekend with a staged reading of "Sense and Sensibility," based on the novel by Jane Austen.

The performance is scheduled for Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. in the Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre at Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St.

Admission is free but because seating is limited, reservations are recommended. They can be made either by e-mail at [tix@ bmt w.org](mailto:tix@bmtw.org) or telephone at (413) 637-3353.

Directed by Sam Scalamoni, "Sense and Sensibility" features music by Neal Hampton and book and lyrics by Jeffrey Haddow. Amy Lieberman is music director.

The cast of chiefly Equity actors includes BMTW founding director Deborah Grausman, a New York-based stage actress, voiceover artist and producer. She also is an award-winning ceramist whose work can be seen at the Hoadley Gallery in Lenox.

Haddow co-authored the hit off-Broadway revue "Scrambled Feet" at the Village Gate, and the L.A. Drama Critics Award-winning play, "Chekhov in Yalta." "The Legend of the Yellow Rose," an original

opera for which Haddow wrote the libretto, premieres in July in Dallas.

Hampton has composed for the theater and ballet. He has been guest conductor for orchestras in Savannah, Rhode Island, Tallahassee and Springfield (Mass.). He is a member of the faculties of Brandeis University and Wellesley College, and was music director of the Genesee (N.Y.) Symphony and the Lowell Philharmonic and assistant conductor of the Young Artist's Orchestra at Tanglewood.

Scalamoni is founding member and managing director of Skyline Theatre Company in Bergen County, N.J. He was associate director for the Broadway production of Elton John's "Lestat" and "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" for which he also supervised the U.S. national tour. He has directed off-Broadway and at various theaters throughout the country.