'Riverboats and Ragtime' sure to get feet tapping

Angela Smith, Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
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It's difficult not to leave a Theatre-Go-Round Dinner Theatre production humming tunes from the show.

But the newest show, "Riverboats and Ragtime," will have you tapping your feet in your seat. With its flashy costumes, high-energy choreography and big vocals, the cast did an amazing job transporting theatergoers to an era when steamboats traveled the rivers of Middle America, which is just what artistic producer Jon Putzke had hoped when he created the show.

"I wanted to try to get as much as I could of the feeling of the river and songs that came from the river and that time period," Putzke said. "But I also wanted some contemporary ones, so we orchestrated some in along with characters with story lines."

The show includes classics such as "Here Comes the Showboat," "When You Wore a Tulip," to "Oh Suzanna" and more modern tunes such as "Proud Mary" and "You Can't Stop the Beat." Singers Beth McKenzie-Shestak, Caitlin Harris, Gregory Harris and Brendan Wenger did a fabulous job performing toe-tapping hits.

For Wenger, Go-Round's newest singer, putting the show together has been exciting.

"It's so much fun and really fast-paced, some of the songs with the ragtime beat are quick," Wenger said. "I hope the audience has a lot of fun with the cast, because we have so much fun onstage."

Audience members at Sunday night's opening appreciated all the hard work. They erupted into loud applause.

ABOUT THE EVENT

What: "Riverboats and Ragtime"
When: Dinner seating begins at 4:30 p.m. with the show following at 6 p.m.; Sundays through May 7 (No performance Easter Sunday, April 16)
Where: Quilted Giraffe Restaurant, 500 U.S. 1, Vero Beach
Tickets: $55, includes show ticket, three-course gourmet dinner, tax and gratuity. Reservations required.
Information: 772-252-9341 or www.theatregorounddinnertheatre.com