

VERSES FOR THE AUDIENCE TO SING

Song #1 (Chorus of Cows)

*We are cows who love to sing
and dance together too-oo.*

*If you think we are a-moo-oo-sink,
we hope that you won't boo!*

Song #2 (Cows & Baby Hermes)

*You are the tallest baby
that we've ever seen!
Perhaps because you're tall,
you think you don't fit een.*

*However, that conclusion
would be very wrong;
no matter what your size or shape,
you still belong.*

Song #3 (Apollo & Trackers)

*We are trackers. We can help you.
We will make a thorough search.
If we find your cows, you'll thank us.
We won't leave you in the lurch!*

Song #4 (Baby Hermes & Trackers)

*I've just been born, so how
do I know what a cow
looks like? But if I did,
I'd show you one right now.*

*The St. Olaf College Department of Classics
presents*

ICHNEUTAE ("The Trackers")

*an ancient Greek moo-sical
by Sophocles*



Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27, 2024

**Christiansen Hall of Music, Rm. 233, 7:30 p.m.
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN**

*45 minutes of marvelous myths,
terrific tunes, and family-friendly humor!*

St. Olaf Classics Play MMXXIV

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

*Cowboy (living in Arcadia,
a remote region of southern Greece)*

Benjamin Reister '24

Chorus of Singing Cows

Violet Ecklund-Johnson '26, Lucia Iurino '25,
Karin Juhl '27, MaKenzie Kuckkan '26 (harp),
Grace Lindquist '26, Jasmine Patterson-LaBaw '27

Cyllene (a mountain spirit, nurse of baby Hermes)

Emma Woodruff '26

Baby Hermes (just born but miraculously grown up)

Alex Van Etten '27

Apollo (visiting his herd of cows in Arcadia)

Joey Richards '25

Senior Track Team (= "The Trackers")

Maddie Alexander '27, Aria Giefer '27, Em Haas '25,
Charlie Knieff '26, Laura Smith '25, Julia Thomas '27

Backdrops: Amani Iqbal '26, Lucia Iurino '25, Charlie Knieff '26
Grace Lindquist '26

Costumes: Laurel Brook, Lucia Iurino '25, Makayla Rodriguez '27

Program Cover: Julia Thomas '27

Videographers: Sylvia Fleck '27, Makayla Rodriguez '27

Music & Lyrics: Anne Groton, Professor of Classics, St. Olaf College

Special thanks to Heidi Reynolds, Alita Shenk, Deirdre Diggins,
Beth Severy-Hoven, Constance Ford, Miranda Morton,
Craig Wolke, Seán Easton, and everyone else who helped make our 23rd
student production of an ancient Greek or Latin play possible.

BACKGROUND TO THE PLAY

Ancient Greek tragedians like Sophocles (c. 496-406 BCE) wrote not only tragedies but also satyr plays—comical spoofs or parodies of serious drama. Each has a plot based on Greek myth, and each includes a chorus of boastful satyrs (goat-men with horses' tails) who take on a surprising new job or try out a new profession, different from their traditional role as the wild and rambunctious companions of the god Dionysus.

Today, the only satyr play that survives completely intact is Euripides' *Cyclops*. Sophocles' *Ichneutae* ("The Trackers") is the next-best preserved. Early in the 20th century, a papyrus manuscript containing more than 400 verses of the play (from the middle portion; the opening and the ending are still lost) was discovered at Oxyrhynchus, Egypt; it was published in 1912. The playwright Tony Harrison wrote an adaptation, *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, which premiered in the ancient stadium at Delphi in 1988.

Sophocles' play is based on the *Homeric Hymn to Hermes*, in which Hermes, though just a new-born baby, is already clever (and naughty!) enough to steal Apollo's herd of cows and to construct a lyre out of a tortoise shell. In the *Ichneutae*, Apollo hires the satyrs to be hunters and track down his lost cows. For our production, we have added a cowboy, made Hermes less naughty, and replaced the satyrs with a different sort of track team.

GREEK WORDS TO LISTEN FOR

bous, boōn	cows	ego, me	I, me
ichneutae	trackers	su, se	you (singular)
pais, paidos	baby	touto, tauta	this, these
theos	god	ekeino, ekeina	that, those
dendron	tree	ti	what?
misthos	reward	ou	not
akouson!	listen!	mē blapte!	don't injure!
chaire! (singular)	hello! bye!	chairete! (plural)	hello! bye!

TOUR SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Great Oaks Academy, Farmington - 8:45 a.m.
Blake School, Upper School, Minneapolis - 10:45 a.m.
Holy Family Catholic High School, Victoria - 12:30 p.m.
Macalester College, St. Paul - 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Parnassus Preparatory School, Maple Grove - 8:45 a.m.
Agamim Classical Academy, Edina - 11:00 a.m.
St. Croix Preparatory Academy, Stillwater - 1:30 p.m.
Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter - 4:45 p.m.