

# PLAYBILL

## Lost in the Stars

music by Kurt Weill  
libretto by Maxwell Anderson

Lost in the Stars is a musical with book and lyrics by Maxwell Anderson and music by Kurt Weill, based on the novel Cry, the Beloved Country (1948) by Alan Paton. The musical premiered on Broadway in 1949 and ran for 281 performances. It is a tale about loss, forgiveness and redemption.

Stephen Kumalo is an Anglican priest in South Africa. His son Absalom has moved away and is in trouble. In a botched robbery, Absalom kills Arthur Jarvis, a white friend of his fathers. Absalom is faced with a quandary. He can lie about the act and live, or tell the truth and die. Absalom's friends lie and are set free. Absalom tells the truth and is sentenced. His father marries Absalom and his betrothed, Irina in the prison. Stephen returns home with Irina and her son Alex. Alex becomes friends with the child of Arthur Jarvis. On the eve of Absalom's execution, Arthur's father come to Stephen and offers him friendship, because in the end, both men have lost their sons.



Mark Swessinger has worn many hats in his varied career in music. He has sung opera around the country. He has conducted choirs of all levels throughout the United States. He is a teacher of voice. He has educated students at the elementary, junior high, high school, college and graduate level. He has played in orchestras, sung in choirs, and has been the featured soloist for several institutions. Mark has served as Director of Music at First Methodist Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin, First Lutheran Church in Rock Island, Bettendorf Presbyterian in Iowa, and is proud to be serving in his twentieth year at Two Rivers United Methodist Church.