

Rodney, the Church Mouse

A Little Operetta for Children plus one Tenor, one Soprano, one Flute and one Piano

By Elizabeth Owens Dean

This work is dedicated to the memory of Arline Baker Wahn (1921-2016),
always a warm, wise, intelligent, supportive friend.

Jackson Barry (Ensemble) is in fourth grade at Clyde F. Brown School, where he sings in the choir. He is a seven-year veteran of the St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant, where he has played a page, a shepherd, and one half of the donkey.

Caroline Condon (Ensemble) is in second grade at St. Joseph Elementary School. She plays the piano and has previously appeared on stage as Sandy and Mr. Bundles in *Annie*, as well as playing an angel in the St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant.

Sophie Hunter (Ensemble) is in sixth grade at Wellesley Middle School. She plays the piano and sings in the Wellesley Middle School Chorus. Sophie's prior roles include Daisy in *Alice in Wonderland*, a dancing Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*, and a wise man in the St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant.

Peter Mahoney (Ensemble) is in first grade at Schofield Elementary School. He enjoys swimming, sailing, woodworking, and attending German school. *Rodney, the Church Mouse* is his performance debut.

Alexa Pekowitz (Ensemble) is in fourth grade at Upham Elementary School. She plays the piano and has previously appeared on stage as Tinker Bell in *Peter Pan*, a shooting star in the Christ's Church Christmas Pageant (Rye, NY), and a reader, shepherd, and angel in the St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant.

Julia Pekowitz (Ensemble) is in sixth grade at Wellesley Middle School. She plays the piano and sings in the Wellesley Middle School Chorus. Julia has previously played the Happy Ladybug in *The Grouchy Ladybug*, an ensemble member in *Peter Pan*, and the roles of an angel and Mary in the St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant.

Directed by Amanda Kern and Katherine Roer

Cast/Musicians

Rodney the Church Mouse Michael Sansoni
Teacher Laura Cervinsky
Flute Timothy Macri
Piano/Organ Helen Ward Mannix

Children's Ensemble

Jack Baker, Emma Barry, Jackson Barry, Caroline Condon, Sophie Hunter, Peter Mahoney, Alexa Pekowitz, and Julia Pekowitz

About the Composer

Elizabeth Owens Dean has been an alto in the St. Andrew's choir for ten years. *Rodney* is her fourth operetta. She is currently working on a new operetta regarding global warming. Many of her works are available online.

Director's Note

Since Adrian's first introduction of the little mouse that lived in the church school's replica of St. Andrew's Church in Jerusalem, Rodney the Rector Mouse has sparked the imaginations of children and adults alike. He has given many of us another avenue to connect with people of all ages within our community. I am honored to have been asked to direct this composition and thank everyone who has put time, talent, and energy into bringing *Rodney, the Church Mouse* to life.

Through Liz's thoughtful and charming composition and our talented cast and musicians, Rodney brings with him curiosity, silliness, and warmth—and, in the way only a rector mouse can, he reminds us that God is here for us when we feel afraid or alone, and there is an amazing strength in our community.

*I am never alone, nor is anything fearful to me when I am here.
Truly, I fear no evil; the Lord is with me always.
I feel the Holy Spirit surround me.
I feel joy here, and calmness, and peace.
All who hope in Thee be happy! Joy exceeding for all time!
And together, we are joining,
Singing loud, with love, and showing deep affection for Thy name.
Joy, for you are here among us, spreading wings of peace and good,
As you speak the true and just word,
Lord, protect us with your love!*

“Omnes Generationes” – All Generations

Today, we celebrate our patron, St. Andrew, someone charged by Jesus to be a fisher of people, or in more modern terms, someone to build a community of people to love and serve the Lord together and for all time. I would like to dedicate this performance of *Rodney, the Church Mouse* to the members of our wonderful St. Andrew's family, who, in ways big and small, consistently work to build and strengthen our community. May it bring hope, joy, calmness, and peace to you all—and perhaps a little laughter too! —Amanda Kern

Cast Biographies

Amanda Kern (Director) is a mother, singer, performer, and music teacher with over 14 years of experience in public and private education. She has conducted many choirs with singers of all ages and has directed many full-scale musical theater productions, including *Seussical*, *Into the Woods*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She has been on the St. Andrew's staff for eight years, directing choirs, integrating music, and theater experiences into church school and Vacation Bible School, and directing the annual Christmas Pageant. She enjoys singing with the Senior Choir when her schedule permits and is honored to be directing this special production for the St. Andrew's community.

Katherine Roer (Assistant Director) is a sophomore at TEC Connections Academy. Her prior roles include Horton in *Seussical*, technical director in *Grease*, and angel, star bearer, narrator, and backstage helper in the St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant. Katherine's dance repertoire includes ballet (pointe), lyrical, jazz, and tap. She both studies and teaches at Erin's School of Dance.

Michael Sansoni (Rodney) teaches music at Franklin High School in southern Massachusetts. When he is not teaching or pretending to be a mouse, he sings in various Baroque musical ensembles throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Laura Cervinsky (Teacher) is the soprano section leader of the St. Andrew's Senior Choir. Her past credits with Elizabeth Owens Dean include the comic operettas *Cheesy Bagels*, *Texting*, and *Lucius: The B Movie*.

Timothy Macri (Flautist) is the principal flutist of the New Bedford Symphony and the music director of Ensemble St. Germain.

Helen Ward Mannix (Pianist/Organist) is the minister of music and director of the Senior Choir at St. Andrew's Church. She holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in organ performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. In addition to her ministry at St. Andrew's, she teaches music at South Shore Charter Public School and Derby Academy's Summer Arts Program.

Jack Baker (Ensemble) is in preschool. As the youngest member of the *Rodney* cast, he is very excited to be making his operetta debut!

Emma Barry (Ensemble) is in seventh grade. She is a soloist in the Millis Middle School Chorus and a member of the primary competition team at Step by Step Studio of Dance. She is a nine-year veteran of the St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant and has played nearly every role, including sheep, angel, innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, reader, and narrator.