Ron Fosker 27.10.23 WAOS

In this era of the jukebox musical it’s something of a surprise to find that most of the songs in Crazy For You, Witham Amateur Operatic Society’s latest offering, are originals.

The musical, first produced in 1992, is based on George and Ira Gershwin’s 1930s Girl Crazy, which included the classics Embraceable You, But Not For Me and I Got Rhythm among others.

Other numbers, such as Someone to Watch Over Me and They Can’t Take That Away From Me, are added into the mix to turn it into a Best of Gershwin evening.

And WAOS take full advantage of the familiar material to produce a lively evening’s entertainment.

The company’s ability to attract outstanding talent is to the fore again as the lead actors are both new to WAOS although clearly not new to the stage.

The pure voices of Matthew Scott and Sophie Holmes light up the main roles of Bobby and Polly as the action unfolds around them.

The plot will win no prizes – a variation on the familiar ‘Let’s do the show right here’ theme – but it’s punctuated with delightful routines and quips that give the cast full rein to enjoy themselves, from Maeve Borges’ coquettish Naughty Baby, Trevor Drury’s laconic menacing Lank Hawkins, Tracey Hackett’s imperious Mrs Childs and Matthew Waldie and Carole Hart’s upper class English couple.

Aimee Hart, normally to be found onstage, can be well pleased with her first show as director and choreographer