



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Libby Weed

Our annual meeting Monday, January 12, to be held at Harris Bell Hall at 7:30 pm, is something you should put on your calendar now. The business segment of the meeting will be brief, but it is quite important. We will hear a report from Treasurer Dave Wieckowski regarding our financial situation, and we will elect our Board of Directors for

2009. For this election, we will consider the slate proposed by Allan Longacre's nominating committee (posted in this newsletter) and will also accept nominations from the floor.

In addition, we will have one of our rollicking sing-alongs, providing music and encouraging everyone to join in on some wonderful G&S choruses. You don't want to miss it!

Since we are at a transition phase, poised to elect a new board to guide us through the coming year, I'd like to mention some people who have been of exceptional worth to our Society, in roles on the board and elsewhere. Each of these will continue to be active in the Society but will not be serving on the board next year.

Nanci Jay - Many of you have enjoyed the hospitality of Nanci in her lovely home, scene of many a fine musicale. Nanci is the talented videographer who has created the superb DVDs of our productions in recent years. She and her husband Benny have taken many of the beautiful cast photos that you have seen in our lobby, and Nanci has also decorated and prepared delicious food for numerous gala gatherings.

Eva Laskaris - Eva is the leader of our Wand'ring Minstrels--writing scripts, creating costumes and settings, and singing soprano to gatherings at parties and schools. She is truly an ambassador of Gilbert and Sullivan to the next generation as well as a remarkable entertainer. Eva has been the creator and conductor of many children's matinee activities in recent years, again bringing young people into the joys of G&S.

Nancy McQueen - Serving as our board secretary for the last few years, Nancy has been invaluable as a record-keeper. You have also seen her in the lobby at our summer productions, selling G&S merchandise and welcoming our audiences warmly. A natural hostess, Nancy always makes wonderful contributions of food and drink at galas and musicales. We are happy she will continue to volunteer.

Jean Smootz - Jean is another person you have often seen in the lobby at show time, as she is often at the ticket table along with Dave Wieckowski. She is such a meticulous record-keeper that we are thankful to have someone like her involved in many activities, such as helping with office tasks and sending out reminders when memberships are about to lapse. Jean also prints the attractive reminder notices for us.

Thank you, Nanci, Eva, Nancy, and Jean, for your many contributions as board members. We look forward to working with you in the coming year.



Gilbert & Sullivan want
YOU to attend our
**Annual Meeting and
Musicale**

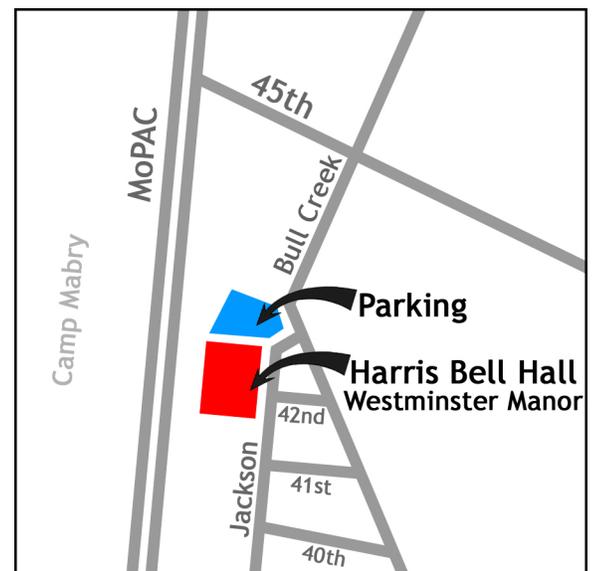


The Annual Business Meeting and Musicale for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, January 12, 2009, at Harris Bell Hall. The most important part for the Society is election of the new Board of Directors to guide the Society for the coming year. Please see the article on page 2 for a list of candidates and rules for the election. After the election, it's time to make merry. Eva Laskaris will lead us in a sing-along. Please bring along your favorite munchies to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

Directions to Harris Bell Hall, 4100 Jackson:
From the north, take 45th Street to Bull Creek (second light east of MoPac); go south, turn right onto Jackson. From the south, exit MoPac at 35th Street, and continue north on Jackson.

Parking is available at the North Entrance.

Please enter through the Health Care Center.



GSSA Board of Directors Nominees

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Allan Longacre, Enid Hallock, and Larry Shepley, has provided the following list of 11 nominees for the 12-member 2009 GSSA Board of Directors:

Byron Arnason	Stephen Reynolds
Chris Buggé	Kathryn Saar
Reba Gillman	Libby Weed
June Julian	Dave Wieckowski
David Little	Ingrid Yaple
Allan Longacre	

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor during the Annual Meeting on January 12; self-nomination is permitted. (Of course, nominees must be members.) Each paid-up member is entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of Directors to be elected, but is not permitted to vote more than once for a given candidate. The candidates receiving the most votes are elected. In accordance with our by-laws, officers are elected by the Board during their first meeting after the Annual Meeting.

Survey Responders Reap Reward

Ten lucky people were selected by random drawing from those completing the survey included in our 2008 *The Pirates of Penzance* program. Each of these has received a DVD of the show. The winners are: Jewell Ellis, Charlotte Flynn, Miles Gauthier, Chelsea McKee, Cheryl A. Mebane, Julie Rysenga, Stephen Reynolds, Nancy Salinas, David & Doris Scott, and Charlie Sullivan.

Pirates DVDs and CDs Available



We have professionally produced DVDs and CDs of our 2008 *The Pirates of Penzance* production available. To order, send \$20 per DVD and \$15 per CD to The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, P. O. Box 684542, Austin 78768-4542, attention DVD. No sales tax is required, and shipping via USPS is free.

Wand'ring Minstrels

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin's Wand'ring Minstrels are the ambassadors for the Society to the Central Texas community. Their programs serve as an educational outreach tool that provides an introduction to the genre that is distinctively Gilbert & Sullivan. Programs range from a lively recital of Gilbert & Sullivan's most popular tunes to interactive, mini-productions of the Society's full summer productions. The Wand'ring Minstrels are available for private parties, school shows, and corporate events. NEW THIS FALL: Fairies in the Schools, an interactive mini-production of *Iolanthe* for all ages.

The Wand'ring Minstrels will custom design a program for any event where G&S would be appropriate for a wide variety of budgetary considerations. You'll hear great voices, skilled in the G&S style, presenting satirical, sentimental, and rousing Gilbert & Sullivan favorites with style and flair.

For bookings or additional information, please contact **Eva Laskaris** by email at minstrels@gilbertsullivan.org, or at 512-350-4935.



Donors

We wish to thank the following contributors whose generous support is helping to make our 2009 production of *Iolanthe* possible!

Vaughn Alexander • Jessica Klimek Alexander • Byron Arnason • Richard Arndt • Ken & Emily Ashworth • Amy & Gary Bennett • Joe, Trish & Nicole Bennett • Steve Bodkin and Kathy Stone • Sam Burnes • Barbara Buttrey • Florence Castle • Lucian & Vera Chimene • Jim & Eleanor Cochran • Marion Wier Deford • Conrad & Anna Derdeyn • Delphi - Ron Gauny and Sunny Peer • Lon Gee • Maudi Greenwood • David & Roslyn Gutman • Enid & Gary Hallock • Ethel Harvey • Betty R. Hatcher • Cynthia Hill • Col. & Mrs. Leon Holland • Diana & Sabrina Houston • Earl R. Hunt and Susan C. Spruance • Dr. Peter & Dr. Elizabeth John • Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Kellogg • Matthew & Margaret King • D. Krause • Steve Kubenka • Mack & Margery Lindsey • Dale Lipsett and Linda Creel • Allan & Barbara Longacre • Alice & Ralph MacPhail, Jr. • Norman & Emilia Martin • Michael Meigs • Joseph & Joanne Moldenhauer • Gerrell Moore • James S. Moore • Tim Moore • Wilson Nolle • Maurie Ommerman • Diana Phillips • Larry & Donna Roth • Dorothy Rutishauser • Harriet Rutland • Mrs. Marjorie Saad • The Sage Family • Linda & Joe St.Clair • Cynthia Shelmerdine and Kate Bracher • Janes S. Shepard and Patricia Bennett • Larry Shepley • Gary & Grace Silcott • Andree F. Sjoberg • Linnea Bergquist Smith • Alice Tharinger and Bobbie Erb • Cathie & Bob Tull • Mary & William Weaver • Patricia Wedel • Libby & Michael Weed • Louise & Steven Weinberg • Stramer & Linda White



This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award by the National Endowment for the Arts which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



A Little-Known Lyric from *Iolanthe* by Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

In both the London and New York premières of *Iolanthe* in 1882, and following the show-stopping trio “If you go in,” Strephon had a solo that was quickly cut and is little-known today. We will recall that Strephon, in Act II, has been sent to Parliament by the Fairy Queen after being insulted by The Lord Chancellor at the end of the previous act. Strephon, now member of the House of Lords, enters and sings the following lyric:

Recitative.

My bill has now been read a second time:

His ready vote no Member now refuses;

In verity I wield a power sublime,

And one that I can turn to mighty uses!

What joy to carry, in the very teeth

Of Ministry, Cross-Bench, and Opposition,

Some rather urgent measures—quite beneath

The ken of patriot and politician!

Fold your flapping wings, / Soaring Legislature!

Stoop to little things— / Stoop to Human Nature!

Never need to roam, / Members patriotic,

Let's begin at home— / Crime is no exotic!

Bitter is your bane— / Terrible your trials—

Dingy Drury Lane! / Soapless Seven Dials!

Take a tipsy lout / Gathered from the gutter—

Hustle him about— / Strap him to a shutter:

What am I but he, / Washed at hours stated—

Fed on filagree— / Clothed and educated?

He's a mark of scorn— / I might be another,

If I had been born / Of a tipsy mother!

Take a wretched thief / Through the city sneaking,

Pocket handkerchief / Ever, ever seeking:

What is he but I / Robbed of all my chances—

Picking pockets by / Force of circumstances?

I might be as bad— / As unlucky, rather—

If I'd only had / Fagin for a father!

Dickens was one of Gilbert's favorite authors; in fact, the librettist once admitted that he never traveled without a volume of Dickens in his luggage. Gilbert probably took great delight in his reference to *Oliver Twist*—and equal delight in referring to the irony of station in life being a product of birth and “force of circumstances” (a theme he had also treated in *H.M.S. Pinafore*—and elsewhere).

Alas, others thought that the song was too serious for a light opera—it certainly was a change-of-pace from the ebullient trio that preceded it. But the argument that may have won Gilbert over was that it didn't further the plot, and delayed the very moving climax of his story.

And while the song has been restored occasionally in more recent productions, it remains relatively unknown today. (We will not perform it this coming summer.)

MEMBER NEWS

Music Director **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** has directed two concerts in December. The first was the 20th anniversary concert by the Capital City Men's Chorus. The 20-piece orchestra included many Society production regulars, such as **Allison Welch**, **Barbara Mahler**, **Joel Bright**, and **Charles Prewitt**. The second concert was the Celtic Christmas concert at St. Mary's Cathedral, which included Society performers **Sam** and **Cecily Johnson**, **Claire Vangelisti**, **Jay Young**, and **Lisa Alexander**.

Member **Glary Marie Posch** recently directed *Nothin' but Opera* with the Cy-Fair Lyric Opera company in Houston, and has been signed to direct *The Medium* the first week of May, 2009.

Emma McNairy, who performed in our *Pirates of Penzance* and *The Gondoliers*, is now a junior at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, majoring in vocal performance. She was recently cast in The Lamplighter Music Theater's 2009 production of *Iolanthe* as Celia. She is active with San Francisco Conservatory, the Conservatory Baroque Ensemble, and Opera Workshop. She thanks the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin for all she has learned from her experience working with the group.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

We encourage you to join our Society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal on the top of the mailing label. If expired or near expiration, your membership needs to be updated! To correct your address, renew your membership, or become a member, complete this form, and mail it to us with your check, payable to “GSSA”, or call to join (512) 472-4772 (GSSA).

Please check a membership category:

- Individual** (\$20-\$29)
- Family/Group** (\$30-\$49)
- Patron** (\$50-\$99)
- Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249)
- Major General** (\$250-\$499)
- Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999)
- Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499)
- Savoyard** (\$2500 & up)

Name _____

Address _____

State _____

Phone number(s) _____

E-mail address _____

Employer _____

Does your company match donations? _____

I'd like to volunteer. I'm interested in:

We are proud to list our members in our programs, but if you would prefer NOT to be listed in our programs, please check here:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of G&S through

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Educational/Community Outreach
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G&S Office: 6901 Lamar Blvd., #139, Austin, TX 78752

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Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

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The Society holds nonprofit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Artistic Director
Music Director

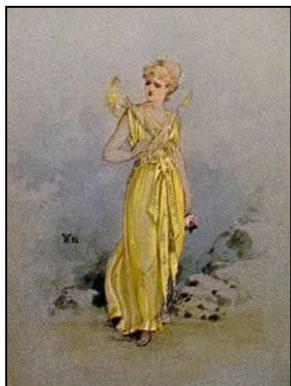
Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Board of Directors

Libby Weed	President	837-5441
Allan Longacre	Executive Vice President	301-5611
Nancy McQueen	Secretary	258-2149
Dave Wiecekowski	Treasurer	542-0446
Reba Gillman		327-2277
June Julian	Membership	627-3482
Eva Laskaris	Educational/Community Outreach	350-4935
David Little	Web Master	970-5883
Byron Arnason		(801) 558-8041
Chris Buggé		517-9635

Database Manager
Newsletter Editor

Arthur DiBianca
Sue Ricket Caldwell



COMING EVENTS

Annual Business Meeting & Musicale

Monday, January 12, 2009, 7:30 pm

see page 1 for details

Iolanthe Auditions

Saturday, February 28, 2009

and Sunday, March 1, 2009

IOLANTHE

or the Peer and the Peri

June 11-14 and 18-21, 2009

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It's now easier than ever for you and your G&S friends to sign up for our Email Mailing List! Visit www.gilbertsullivan.org and click on "Join The Mailing List" to receive emails telling you about upcoming shows, special events, auditions, and more.

above: original costume designs for the Fairy Queen and Iolanthe, by Wilhelm (from *The Gilbert & Sullivan Archive*, math.boisestate.edu/GaS/)

IOLANTHE
or The Peer and the Peri
Coming Summer 2009

Send Us Your News!

We try (within space constraints) to include descriptions of members' performances (past and future) and other activities, and any information related to Gilbert and Sullivan. Please send your news to news@gilbertsullivan.org. Thanks!

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