

Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society

March 1977 Newsletter

A Brief, Unofficial History of The Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society

The Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society began in September 1976, when Linalice Carey called a meeting of a dozen or so interested people at the Creek Theatre. We were encouraged by the great success of Zachary Scott Theatre's production of H. M. S. Pinafore in April 1976, and were confident there was sufficient public support to form a Gilbert and Sullivan Society in Austin. Several of us volunteered to serve as Interim Officers: Robin-Elena Hinderer and Rosemary Vines, Co-Chairpersons; Madeline Olds, Treasurer; Sue Ricket Caldwell, Secretary; and Warren Morris, Historian. We discussed the possibility of producing Trial by Jury at the Creek; Doug Gehrke, who had directed G & S in Australia, volunteered to direct it. We agreed to meet again in October.

But the October meeting was pre-empted by auditions for Ruddigore (which had replaced Trial in the interim). Rehearsals for Ruddigore continued for months, and the Society was never formally organized. In February 1977, Ruddigore was a resounding success, playing to full houses every weekend at the Creek.

In the afterglow of the production, Robin-Elena Hinderer called a meeting of the Society on February 28, to try again to get organized. She provided survey forms, to help us plan goals and directions of the Society. There was general agreement on two goals: monthly meetings to share our enjoyment of G & S, and one or more G & S productions yearly. Volunteers formed a By-Laws Committee. Plans were made for the next meeting.

April Meeting Set

The next meeting of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be on Monday, April 4, at 7:30 pm, at the home of Felicity and Peter Coltman, 4925 Strass. The Proposed By-Laws will be discussed, section by section. If a final version is approved, we will then elect officers as specified by the By-Laws. After the business meeting, we will sing selections from Pirates of Penzance, and Warren Morris will present some background information on the show. (If lost, call the Coltmans at 454-7562.)

Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society Interim Officers

Co-Chairperson	Robin-Elena Hinderer	4805 Sinclair	451-4046
Co-Chairperson	Rosemary Vines	105 East 46th	454-4358
Treasurer	Madeline Olds	206A East 34th St.	478-4454
Secretary	Sue Ricket Caldwell	825 Harris Ave.	477-8886
Historian	Warren Morris	1500 Valleyridge Dr #2	447-8577

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Auditions for PIRATES OF PENZANCE Announced

Zachary Scott Theatre will hold auditions for their August production of Pirates of Penzance on April 24-26 at ZSTC. Terry Deeming, music director for their recent production of Oliver, will be the audition pianist and possibly the music director for Pirates; the stage director and chorus director have not yet been selected. For more information, contact ZSTC, 476-0541 or 476-0594.

Proposed By-Laws Offered

The enclosed By-Laws represent the best efforts of the By-Laws Committee appointed by the Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society on February 28, 1977; this committee consisted of John Gaehring, Warren Morris, Steve Sansom, and Sue Ricket Caldwell. We recommend its passage. However, these By-Laws are subject to section-by-section approval at the April meeting. Please read the By-Laws over carefully, and write down any recommendations you may have for changes. Remember, at the April meeting it will require only a simple majority to make any changes; thereafter, a 2/3 majority will be required. If you have any questions about the By-Laws (e.g., why 3 vice presidents?), you may direct them to committee chairperson Warren Morris (address listed under current officers).

If you wish to run for office, but are unable to attend the April meeting, please submit a written statement of candidacy, either to one of the current officers before the meeting, or sent to the meeting with a trusted friend. Nominations of persons whose willingness to run cannot be determined will not be allowed.

Newsletter News

This Newsletter was produced by Interim Secretary Sue Ricket Caldwell. If you know someone who ought to be on the mailing list and has not yet received a copy of the newsletter, please let me know their name and address.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, Texas, Inc.

Section 1. Name.

The name of this organization shall be The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, Texas, Inc. (hereafter called "the Society").

Section 2. Purpose.

The purposes of the Society shall be:

A. To produce, and to encourage others in the production of, performances of Gilbert and Sullivan Operas (either entire operas or selected excerpts) in the traditional manner.

B. To study the lore of Gilbert and Sullivan and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

C. To promote social activities among those devoted to the Savoy Operas.

Section 3. Membership.

Any person interested in the Savoy Operas shall be eligible for membership and upon payment of prescribed dues shall be enrolled as a member of the Society.

Section 4. Membership Meetings.

A. There shall be regular monthly meetings of the Society, with advance notice of time and location given to all members. The September meeting shall be designated as the Annual Meeting.

B. The ultimate authority for Society action shall reside in the membership, which shall have the authority to overrule the decision of any sub-unit of the Society.

Section 5. Officers.

A. There shall be seven (7) officers of the Society: a President, an Executive Vice President, a Production Vice President, a Publicity Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Historian-Parliamentarian.

B. All officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall hold office for one year or until their successors take office. Officers may succeed themselves. Officers shall take office upon adjournment of the meeting at which they were elected.

C. In case of vacancy in the office of President, the Executive Vice President shall become President automatically. Vacancies in the other offices shall be filled by special election at the next regular membership meeting.

D. A Nominating Committee, consisting of at least three members, shall be elected at a membership meeting at least two months before the Annual Meeting. It shall present a slate of candidates for officers at the Annual Meeting. Notice of all announced candidates, including but not limited to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee,

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together with a brief statement of qualifications for office of each candidate, shall be published in the newsletter preceding the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Self-nomination shall be allowed. Election shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting. In the event that no candidate for an office receives a majority on the first ballot, a runoff election shall be held at the same meeting between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes on the first ballot. Members must pay Society dues to be eligible to vote or hold office in the Society.

Section 6. Duties of Officers.

A. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Society, shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board, shall coordinate activities of the Society, and shall be ex officio the chair of the Program Committee.

B. The Executive Vice President shall assist the President and, in the absence or inability of the President, shall perform the duties of the President; he or she shall also be ex officio the chair of the Membership Committee.

C. The Production Vice President shall be the artistic advisor to the Executive Board, and shall be ex officio the chair of the Productions Committee.

D. The Public Relations Vice President shall provide news of the Society to the media, and shall be ex officio the chair of the Publicity Committee.

E. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board, shall conduct Society correspondence not specifically assigned to others, and shall be ex officio the chair of the Newsletter Committee.

F. The Treasurer shall receive all funds of the Society and shall deposit them in such bank or banks as may be designated by the Society; shall disperse these funds by check in accordance with the approved budget; shall make regular reports to the Executive Board and to the membership; and shall be ex officio the chair of the Fundraising Committee and a member of the Productions Committee.

G. The Historian-Parliamentarian shall maintain a scrapbook containing reviews of productions, records of activities, and records of membership; shall advise the President on matters of parliamentary procedure; and shall be ex officio the chair of the Historical Committee.

Section 7. Executive Board.

The Executive Board (or Board of Directors) shall consist of all elected officers of the Society. It shall carry on the day to day business of the Society between meetings of the membership, and shall report its activities at the next membership meeting of the Society. It shall meet monthly or upon call of the President or any three officers. Actions of the Executive Board must be approved by a majority of the total Executive Board.

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Section 8. Committees.

The Executive Board shall be assisted in its duties by such Committees as it may establish, including but not limited to the following Standing Committees:

- A. The Program Committee, which shall decide on the program for membership meetings, subject to the approval of the membership.
- B. The Membership Committee, which shall welcome new members and seek additional membership.
- C. The Productions Committee, which shall plan and coordinate the productions of the Society.
- D. The Publicity Committee, which shall place announcements of meetings, projects, and productions in the media.
- E. The Newsletter Committee, which shall produce a monthly newsletter sent to all members providing notice of meeting times and places and a summary of Society business information.
- F. The Fundraising Committee, which shall seek revenue sources to support the activities of the Society.
- G. The Historical Committee, which shall provide historical information pertaining to the Savoy Operas.

Section 9. Finances.

- A. The Fiscal Year shall be September 1 to August 31. The Treasurer shall be responsible for a complete financial report covering the previous fiscal year, to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- B. Dues shall be \$5.00 for regular membership, and \$2.50 for associate membership. Both regular and associate members shall have full rights of membership. Associate membership is available for the second and succeeding members from a given mailing address who do not wish to receive additional newsletters; such associate membership shall run concurrent with the regular membership from that address.
- C. Dues shall be renewable on the anniversary of the date paid. The Treasurer shall notify members of renewal date at least one month in advance.
- D. All checks must be signed by two officers of the Society.
- E. The Executive Board shall submit to the membership for approval a provisional annual budget, and such additional production budgets as shall be necessary. The provisional annual budget shall be submitted at the regular membership meeting in July, and shall take effect at the Annual Meeting.

Section 10. Procedure.

The parliamentary authority for this Society shall be the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 11. Amendments.

These By-Laws may be amended by the following process:

A. Amendments must be introduced in writing at a regular monthly membership meeting. They shall be freely circulated among the membership, and published in the next newsletter (in abstract form if over one typed page in length).

B. Amendments must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at the regular monthly membership meeting held during the month following introduction of the amendment.

Section 12. Implementing By-Laws.

A. These By-Laws shall take effect upon approval of a majority of those present and voting at the April 4, 1977, meeting of the Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

B. Election of officers enumerated in these By-Laws shall take place immediately after adoption of the By-Laws. The initial officers shall hold office only until the Annual Meeting in September, 1977.

C. Dues paid to the Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society shall be deemed to be dues paid to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, Texas, Inc., and shall be valid for membership until the anniversary of the date paid.