

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

April 1993 Newsletter

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

- Monday, April 12th, 1993 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.
- Our President, Robert Mellin, has lined up an impressive program. Come and hear the lovely soprano Katharine Shields, the smooth and silvery tenor of Jim Robinson, and the awesome bass of Gregory Russell - members all. Robert has also invited local critics John Bustin, Jerry Conn, and Jerry Young to join us for the evening. This is a very special occasion, and we want a good turn-out.
- Please come to swell the crowd, and enjoy the fun (and bring something good to munch on). If you haven't attended a "meeting" lately you don't know what you're missing!

• Message from your President •

OK, I confess! I'm nervous. About what? Well, *Iolanthe*, of course. Now don't get me wrong. Our directors, designers and wonderful cast fill me with the confidence to believe that *Iolanthe* will be the very best Society production since I came to town. I believe this even though I feel that some of the past productions were quite good. So then, why am I nervous? I guess it comes with the territory of being President and Producer. Paying for the show is naturally a concern. We're still behind in the goal of raising \$15,000 front money needed for our \$25,000 budget. Oh, well, maybe we'll get lucky somehow. Any Texas lottery winners out there?

• MANY THANKS TO •

OUR NUMBER ONE UNDERWRITER

ARMSTRONG MOVING & STORAGE

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UNITED VAN LINES

Other than fund raising, dealing with the production aspect and connecting with the many people involved is both interesting and challenging. Have you ever produced a show? Actually, it's very exhilarating in addition to being scary. You must try it some time. However, I'm rewarded even by attending a rehearsal that goes well, and when *Iolanthe* is in full production, I know I'll be in the throes of pleasure as I am sure you too will be.

Special thanks must be given to certain members of our Society. Rick Anderson, of Armstrong Moving and Storage-United Van Lines, donated \$2500 to the production, and thus becomes our number one underwriter. Society Vice President for Production, Patrick Bennett, is doing an effective job. Member Michelle Perris helps me send out letters, and she bought an ad for our program. (You, too, can buy an ad. Call me!) Our newest member is Kim Pyle, who plays Fleta in *Iolanthe*. She took the initiative to send out a sizeable solicitation mail-out to businesses, and has other fund raising plans. Vice President for Publicity, Donna Delvy, has done good work. And we must not forget to thank Reba Gillman, who is responsible for the important Newsletters that you receive each month. The Newsletters are the glue that binds this Society together.

• PROGRAM ADS •

- It is not too late to buy ads for the *Iolanthe* program. Ask someone you regularly do business with to place an ad, or buy one for your own small business. Every little bit helps. The deadline is April 15th.

Program Advertising Rates

Back Page	\$275
Full Page	\$250
Half Page	\$150
Quarter Page	\$80

Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950

Production plans for 1994 and 1995 are already being formulated. Expect the Gilbert & Sullivan Society to reach a proportionate level of quality, success and recognition as one of Austin's premiere Arts organizations.

***** Robert Mellin *****

Donations for this production are still welcome and needed. We thank all those who have already given. If you were intending to, do it now!

The times they are a-changing!

Our monthly gatherings have really changed. We have had good Gilbert and Sullivan music every month. We hope to add special attractions now and then. If you have suggestions or want to volunteer to perform, call Robert Mellin at 345-5950.

4/93 A10

• Last Gathering and Musicale •

On Monday, March 1st, fifteen of us gathered at Pearl Amster's: members Frank and Donna Delvy, Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber with guest Leslie Harper, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock, Janette Jones with guest Clare Hawkins, Bob Kusnetz, Robert Mellin, Bob Wall, and Jess and Emma Walters. Pearl Amster came home later. The evening began with a most unusual and exciting event, and if you weren't there you missed it!

Frank Delvy started things off with a stirring rendition of "I am a Pirate King" from *Pirates*. President Robert Mellin then gave us a brief update on *Iolanthe*: an *Iolanthe* had just been found (Carrie Skinner), a *Strephon* was still needed, more tenors are needed for the chorus. So is lots more money, although we made money on our December Fund Raiser, and individuals are contributing generously. Jess Walters and Janette Jones each contributed \$50 on the spot, and today we received the backing of Armstrong Moving and Storage to the tune of \$2500.

Reba passed around some cards and flyers received from Southwest Texas State University Music Department. These announced their production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, April 28 - May 2, and June 4-6 in San Marcos. They are also planning a G&S Workshop July 7 - 21, 1993 which will culminate in a production of *The Mikado*. Call Reba at 327-2277 for more information. Bob Kusnetz reported G&S productions: *Iolanthe* in Atlanta, and *Patience* in Shreveport.

And then the singing began in earnest. With Bob Wall at the piano, Janette Jones, Frank Delvy and Loel Graber took a variety of roles: "When Frederic was a little lad", Janette as Ruth in *Pirates*; "When Britain really ruled the waves", Loel as Lord Mountarat in *Iolanthe*; "When I went to the Bar as a very young man", Frank as the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*; "Prithee pretty maiden", Loel and Janette as Grosvenor and Patience in *Patience*; "The law is the true embodiment of everything that's excellent", Frank as the Lord Chancellor joined by everyone as Peers, in *Iolanthe*; "Alone and yet alive", Janette as Katisha in *Mikado*; "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast", Janette and Frank as Katisha and Ko-Ko in *Mikado*; "You understand, I think I do", Frank and Loel as Richard and Despard in *Ruddigore*; "Love, unrequited, robs me of my rest" (also known as The Nightmare Song), Frank as the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*; and finally "Never mind the why and wherefore" (The Bell Trio), sung by Janette, Frank and Loel as Josephine, the Captain, and Sir Joseph Porter in *Pinafore*.

Robert M. then announced that Michael Drousche was moving to Hawaii, and that the evening was in his honor. Michael allowed as how he would miss us all, but intended to find G&S fans, and other theatrical groups as fast as possible in his new home. We all sang "Now to the banquet we press" and moved into the dining room for refreshment and sociability. Thank you, Pearl, for your hospitality!

• IOLANTHE CAST •

The Lord Chancellor	Frank Delvy
Lord Mountarat	Allen Lawshae
Lord Tolloller	Barton Green
Private Willis	Douglas Schram
Strephon	Jeff Swartz
Queen of the Fairies	Leah Tsamous
Iolanthe	Carrie Skinner
Celia	Julia Lawshae
Leila	Lynn Hamza
Fleta	Kim Pyle
Phyllis	Sandy Johnson

Chorus of Fairies

Dawn Forbes, Sheila Glenn, Diana McAlpin, Jeanie Roberts
Cybele Clamaron, Julie Dunlap, Susan Pauley

Chorus of Peers

Michael Watson, Barry Whitten,
Dave Goudy, Dan Smith, Erik Vik, Matthew Kaplan

* * * * *

Stage Director	Noel Koran
Music Director	John McLean
Choreographer	Terri Lynn Fiala
Costume Designer	Leslie Bonnell
Light Designer	Pat Fox
Scene Designer	Dick Hannon
Set Builder	Steve Parks

The last two are the latest additions to our production team. Dick Hannon is a faculty member at Southwest Texas State (SWT), and Steve Parks works for the Austin Lyric Opera. We're very fortunate to get them.

• Volunteers Needed •

Here's your chance to get involved in the production. Can you paint scenery? Sew costumes? Work backstage during the run? We need 6 to 12 people backstage every night (dressers, props, and lots more). Experienced, we hope.

Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950.

It's Official!!!

A few months ago we began using our true, official, and legal name: Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin.
Please try to get used to it, and use it "officially". (I confess I slip now and then.)

♥ ♥ Thank You, Generous Donors ♥ ♥

- Rick Anderson, of Armstrong Moving and Storage, heads the list with his \$2500 underwriting grant.
- Next comes that faithful supporter of the theater in Austin, "Deacon" Crain, with another \$500 donation.
- Scott McAfee, of GSD&M Advertising, is a big in kind contributor with his expert flyers and advertising copy.
- Generous new memberships also support our production. These are for \$100 (or "a little bit over") from James and Nanni Almond, Rick Anderson, Robert Miller, and Steven and Louise Weinberg; \$50 from Eva Pickerel; \$35 from John Tate and Carol MacPherson; and \$25 from Eliza Morehead.
- Contributions from our members are a much appreciated evidence of support. To date we have received: \$140 from Ronald and Marion DeFord; \$50 each from Bill and Virginia Binger, Dalton and Mary Jean Gross, Janette Jones, Jess and Emma Walters, and Dean and Darlyene Yarian; and smaller amounts from Mary Lu Barras, Bill Hatcher, and Kate Hendricks.
- Thanks also to our friends Wilson and Peggy Nolle for \$40, and Larry Greenhaw for \$25.
- Regular membership is another much appreciated form of support. New members not listed before are: Lyn Atkins, Barbara Lee Cook, Douglas F. George, Dudley Houghton, Jeanie Roberts, P.J. Roy, and Kim Pyle.
- And of course, Thank You to all the rest of you faithful members not listed here. Probably I have omitted some outstanding donor as well. Please accept our thanks and my apologies.

• **Needed:** people to sit in the lobby as G&S Society hosts during the run of *Iolanthe*. And someone to take charge of that effort. Please!

• **Also still needed:** Garage-sized storage space.
Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950

- We will perform again for the **Annual Pun-Off** at the O. Henry House on Saturday afternoon, May 1st. Watch for further announcements.

• Kudos •

- Our stage director, Noel Koran, is a very talented man. I enjoyed the opera, *Albert Herring*, which he directed at UT. I also admired his excellent performance in the speaking role of the Pasha in Austin Lyric Opera's production, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.
- And we know some of the many talents of our member, Historian, and Poet Laureate, Anne Collins Smith. But did you see her picture in the Statesman on Sunday, March 7th? "Philosophy teacher hits warp speed. Star Trek boldly explored in class," an article about the class Anne is teaching for the Texas Union Informal Classes.

• Meeting of G&S Executive Committee •

The Executive Committee met on March 10, 1993 at Frank and Donna Delvy's. All were present except Reba Gillman. Various aspects of our production of *Iolanthe* were discussed. Patrick Bennett will take care of setting up a phone with answering machine to take reservations at the Dougherty Arts Center Box Office.

Officers

President	Robert Mellin	345-5950
Executive V.P.	Bob Kusnetz	836-1853
Production V.P.	Patrick Bennett	442-0528
Publicity V.P.	Donna Delvy	451-3710
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Co-Treasurers	Kate Hendricks	371-7901
	Diane Simpson	343-0901
Historian	Anne Collins Smith	339-1086

• Go See *Sweeney Todd* •

Opening Night April 14, 1993
Check the paper for continuing performances

At Capitol City Playhouse
Call 472-2966

Go see our friend Martin Vasquez, and members
Kristina Havenhill and Janette Jones

Iolanthe was based on a story called *Yolanda*. However during rehearsals the opera was known as *Perola*, to protect Gilbert and Sullivan's work from pirated production in America (a common problem at the time). At the last minute the cast was asked to learn the real name, and *Iolanthe* was unveiled to the London theatrical world on November 25, 1882.

4/93-2



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin.

Invites you to attend

The opening performance and Champagne Buffet

of

Jolanthe

On Friday April 30, 1993 at the Dougherty Arts Center
1110 Barton Springs Road (East of Lamar, at Dawson Road)

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People who send money by mail will have the best seats reserved

Phone reservations will be for open seating

Send orders to: G&S Society of Austin

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Austin, TX 78731



Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Reba Gillman, Secretary

1606 The High Road

Austin, Texas 78746

