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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

May 1993 Newsletter

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

- Monday, May 10th, 1993 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.
- President Robert Mellin, promises us a delightful evening of highlights from our current production of *Iolanthe* performed by members of the cast. Come and bring munchies. We'll have a good time!

• FLASH •

- *Iolanthe* opened Friday, April 30th to a good crowd. The performance was splendid, the music was delightful, and the after-show party delicious. The champagne bubbled and the buffet table was laden with delectable dishes provided by our talented members. An auspicious beginning. Now, keep things rolling with good audiences!
- The bad news is that the program listing of members and their contributions suffered an incredible lapse (an old list was used). We extend our apologies to all who were missed, and plan a program insert to correct the matter.

• IOLANTHE •

When you're lying awake and repose is taboo'd
by anxiety
just go to the phone and dial 465-8276
and make your reservations for the show.
The machine answers night and day.

Dougherty Arts Center Theater
1110 Barton Springs Road
Just east of Lamar at Dawson Road

Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 pm
Sundays at 3 pm; through May 23

• In Memoriam •

- With deep sorrow we report the death of our member Bob Greenwood, aged 81, on April 25. Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at UT, Bob was known for his creative teaching and his Math-e-Magic shows, as well as his active involvement in such community organizations as The Sherlock Holmes Society and the G&S Society. We will miss his kind and gentle presence at our meetings.

• Message from your President •

Your president's message is being written at 1:15 in the morning of the night before the opening of our *Iolanthe* (I'm a busy man, you see). Therefore I intend to keep it short. By the time you read this message many of our members will already have seen *Iolanthe*, and I will make a prediction. I predict when I meet many of you at our next monthly Musicale (Monday, May 10th) you will come up to me and tell me what a wonderful show it was.

Yes, I do think we have produced a winner. The staging, singing, costumes, sets, dancing and orchestra make me a believer. I can only hope that the critics agree, and we will have a big audience attendance. This would help defray the cost of *Iolanthe* because I surely wasn't able to get the funding in advance that I had hoped for. However, I do thank all of you individuals who have made contributions and bought ads. A foundation has been laid fortunately for the potential of future sponsorship.

I want to thank the very many members who volunteered their services and time. If your name did not get mentioned in the program, I hope to thank you personally.

Please come to our monthly Musicale. It will feature some of the more popular numbers and performers from *Iolanthe*. And, if you have not yet seen *Iolanthe* do yourself a favor and make reservations now.

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

• Invitation to A Party •

Come one, come all. Everyone is invited!!!

Iolanthe

"Thank goodness they're all (sic) of them over"

Saturday, May 29; 4:30 pm - ∞

- Pool and Barbecue Party at the home of Harold Gilbert, west of Dripping Springs. Hamburgers and hot dogs supplied; bring anything else you want to eat or drink.

There will be a sing through of *Trial By Jury*; please bring scores if you have them.

- Directions: Maps available. Call Reba at 327-2277 to receive one. You start out by driving south on Route 290 to Dripping Springs. Harold lives on a back road about 7 miles from the Dripping Springs traffic light. Easy with a map.

Buy an *Iolanthe* T-Shirt - Or help sell them!

T-Shirts, memberships, and books ("The Gilbert & Sullivan Lexicon" by Harry Benford) are being offered at a table in the lobby at every performance. If you would like to help, call Reba at 327-2277.

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• Last Gathering and Musicale •

On Monday, April 12th, we gathered, 24 strong, at Pearl Amster's: members Pearl, Donna Delvy (Frank was at rehearsal and came in later for refreshments), Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bob Greenwood, Russell Gregory, Bill and Nan Hatcher with daughters Lisa and Lauren, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Jim Robinson, Katharine Shields, Diane Simpson, Isobel Stevenson, Bob Wall (valiant at the piano, as usual), Jess and Emma Walters, Terri Wilson, and Deborah Zallen. Guests were Jerry Conn, critic for the Westlake Picayune and performer in his own right; Jeanette Lay; and Paula Tyler, who is cultural arts coordinator for the program at the LBJ High School magnet school.

We started right off with a bang with Russell singing a mystery song, which turned out to be from *The Red Mill* by Victor Herbert (no wonder we couldn't place it!). After singing "A more humane Mikado" complete with blood-curdling laughter, Russell left us for another engagement. President Robert Mellin then brought us up to date on *Iolanthe*. He showed us pictures of the set, told us that we need a volunteer coordinator, that we are \$6,000 behind where we were at this time for our *Mikado* production, and asked can anyone help find a corporation that would match a donation the way IBM did for us last year?

Robert then introduced Jim Robinson and Katharine Shields who were to provide the rest of the musical entertainment. They started with a duet from *Iolanthe*, "None shall part us". Then Jim sang "Is there not one maiden breast" from *Pirates*, with the ladies joining in enthusiastically on the choruses. Katharine sang "The sun whose rays" from *The Mikado*, and they finished up with the duet, "Oh love, true love" from *The Sorcerer*. Katharine remarked that they had sung these parts together a long time ago in our first production of *The Sorcerer* (November 1977).

We then paused for introductions all around. Jess Walters was prevailed upon to sing "When I, good friends, was called to the Bar" from *Trial By Jury*. Jim Robinson, who is a member of the Houston G&S Society, announced that their annual production this summer will be *Pirates*, opening on July 16. Alistair Donkin, from the former D'Oyly Carte company, will play the Major General. By request Robert explained the plot of *Iolanthe*. We sang "Now to the banquet we press" through twice (after a while we'll all know it!) and adjourned to the dining room. Thank you, Pearl, for being a welcoming home to the Society!

• Special Thanks •

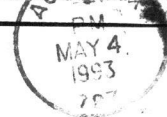
- To Pearl Amster for master-minding, coordinating, cooking, and generally providing a fabulous Champagne Gala party after the opening of *Iolanthe*.
- To Susie Jacobson for updating the mailing list and providing labels for the Gala invitation mailout.
- To Diane Simpson and Reba Gillman, who put the labels on the invitations. And to President Robert Mellin (who does everything) for overseeing the post office chores of the bulk mailing.

Sweeney Todd
the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Is a good show - go see it!

At Capitol City Playhouse through May 29
Call 472-2966

See Kristina Havenhill, Janette Jones, and Martin Vasquez



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Reba Gillman, Secretary
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Austin, TX 78746

