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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

September 1993 Newsletter

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

• Tuesday, September 7th, 1993 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.

• Come and enjoy our informal Gilbert and Sullivan with some good performers; bring munchies to ensure the usual high quality refreshment while we socialize after the music. Everyone Welcome, especially old friends, new members and first time attenders! (That means everyone!)

• Note change in date. The Austin Circle of Theaters has announced their B.Iden Payne Award festivities for Monday, September 13th, when we had expected to meet. Now you can plan to go to that affair, too!

Editorial Note: This Newsletter is being written way ahead of time, because I will be out of the country for the last two weeks of August. So please forgive anything out of date.

• INTERESTING NEW IDEA •

There is talk about a two or three-day Gilbert and Sullivan Seminar, to include members of the Austin and Houston Societies, and possibly some people from Dallas and San Antonio. It will feature musical performances, G&S discussions and lectures, visual displays, and meetings for exchange of practical organizational ideas and possible mutual assistance between the Societies. Any interested person will be welcome to attend.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin probably could offer to host and organize this event. Ideas?
Call Robert Mellin, 345-5950

• THANKS •

Thank you to those faithful members who sat in the lobby selling T-shirts and books, dispensing information, and taking in memberships during the run of *Iolanthe*: Reba Gillman (5 times), Bill Hatcher (3½ times), Susie Jacobson (2 times), Pearl Amster (1½ times), and once each for Dawn Bezviner, Ruth & Hugh Eckols, Loel Graber, Enid Hallock and her son Gary, Kate Hendricks, and Terri Wilson.

• Message from your President •

As I have stated previously, our *Iolanthe* was a success, pleasing I'm sure, most who saw it. Financially we broke about even, which is O.K. too. Those involved in the production had a good time, and we raised the awareness and appreciation of Gilbert and Sullivan and our Society to a higher level. And I do welcome all of you who have become new members as a result of our production.

Recently I left Austin to view other Gilbert & Sullivan productions. One was *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. I found parts to enjoy, despite what appeared to be a general lack of respect and understanding for the work. Then in July, our friends the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston presented *The Pirates of Penzance* directed by a D'Oyly Carte alumni Alistair Donkin. He also played the part of the Major General. (I would love to bring him to Austin, and I'm trying to find out if it's feasible.) Houston traditionally mounts a massive production with a full orchestra and a chorus of 40. They now perform in Wortham Center, a magnificent new state of the art theater. Again, I had a good time, even with some definitely non-traditional pieces of business. Our Allen Lawshae performed with the Houston G&S in the past, as did our member Jim Robinson and our new member Mary Metz of Houston. She is an important guiding light of that Society.

Now to the future. We plan to do *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The time will probably be late spring or early summer of 1994, depending on what space is available. My dream is to play the McCullough Theater at UT [formerly the Opera Lab Theater]. I have made contact and they seem amenable, but there are many bridges to cross. Live Oak Theater should be a logical possibility, but more work needs to be done on this. I have been contacted by a person about the possibility of performing in another space, but for the time being this is only exploratory so I can give no details. As a back up, dates have been penciled in for the Dougherty Arts Center for July 1994.

Wherever we play look for a *Pinafore* that will stress its strongest points, and those are simply the words and the music. The words will be understood and the music will be done beautifully. This is my promise to you.

Even now our friend Scott McAfee and his collaborators at GSD&M Advertising are designing various graphics and advertising concepts for *Pinafore*. Which reminds me, their donated posters for *Iolanthe* have recently come to me and they are so exquisitely produced and so beautiful that

Note Date Change!

Tuesday, September 7th at 7:30 pm at Pearl Amster's
Our first Musicale of the Fall Season: come and enjoy the music, the food, and the company!

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pense of the Society: 1) Cultural Connections Conference, all day at the cost of \$60. 2) Corporate Fund Raising for Non-Profit Organizations, 2 hours at the cost of \$25. Granted.

Robert would like to get a grant to hire soloists, an accompanist, and a director, to produce a Gilbert and Sullivan program to take into the schools. We agreed that this is very important. Robert is looking into possibilities for a Fund Raising Event for the fall. This is needed to keep our name in the public eye, and to raise money.

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

First Musicale of the Season

Tuesday 7:30 pm September 7th
At Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road

Real Special: Barton Green, Frank Delvy and many other surprise performers.

Special Welcome
to
All our first time and new Members

W.S. Gilbert's New Opera

Quixotic is his enterprise, and hopeless his adventure is,
Who seeks for jocularities that haven't yet been said.
The world has joked incessantly for over fifty centuries,
And every joke that's possible has long ago been made.
I started as a humorist with lots of mental dizziness,
But humor is a drug which it's the fashion to abuse,
For my stock in trade, my fixtures and the good will of the
business

No reasonable offer I am likely to refuse.

And if anybody choose

He may circulate the news

That no reasonable offer I am likely to refuse.

Oh, happy was that humorist - the first that made a pun at all -
Who, when a joke occurred to him, however poor and mean,
Was absolutely certain that it never had been done at all -
How popular at dinners must that humorist have been!
Oh, the days when some stepfather for the query held a candle
out!

The doormat from the scraper, is it distant very far?
And when no one knew where Moses was when Aaron put the
candle out,

And no one had discovered that a door could be a-jar!

But your modern hearers are

In their tastes particular,

And they sneer if you inform them that a door can be a-jar!

The above purports to be a little known piece by W.S. Gilbert. However, it may be just an inventive effort from the pen of O. Henry. Can anyone throw any light on this?

Anticipate a One-Time Only
Special G&S Musical Program .. Fund Raiser
followed by a Gala Champagne Buffet
Date and location: to be announced later

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
Reba Gillman, Secretary
1606 The High Road
Austin, TX 78746



Come to our Musicale, Tuesday September 7th at 7:30 pm; details inside.