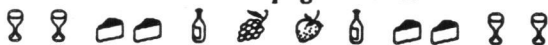


Reba Gillman, Editor

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We are looking for someone who will respect the artistic and musical integrity of Gilbert & Sullivan, and yet be innovative and creative. If interested call our office, 472-4772.

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Newman Hall, Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

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• A Texas 3-Day •
• Gilbert & Sullivan Convention •
Report by Reba Gillman

The Convention was successful although modest, and the Saturday evening entertainment was very well attended. Most of the events took place in the Austin Scottish Rite Temple. Its white stucco, mostly windowless exterior, houses a Victorian interior very friendly to Gilbert & Sullivan. A large hall with wood paneling and polished parquet floors, comfortably furnished with leather chairs and couches, served as the Friday night meeting place and the intermission space Saturday. A pleasing array of photos and posters had been mounted there by Historian Libby Weed, as well as the usual display of G&S cards, T-Shirts, and Harry Benford Lexicons, which we offered for sale. We also sold posters, and played a video tape of our 1995 production of *The Gondoliers*. Proudly displayed were two proclamations: one from Governor George W. Bush, and the other from the Austin City Council, naming December 1 through 3, Gilbert and Sullivan Weekend. A large room in the basement afforded classroom-like accommodations for the Saturday afternoon Trivia Quiz. The pleasant theater, seating over 250 people, was available for musical activities and was filled for the Saturday night Holiday Season All-Star Revue, and *Trial by Jury*.

Events

1) Friday, December 1, 1995 at 7 pm • An informal gathering to discuss organizational matters, attended by 10 people. Present from the G&S Society of Austin were President Robert Mellin, Secretary Reba Gillman, Treasurer Bill Hatcher, and Historian-Parliamentarian Libby Weed. The Houston G&S Society was represented by Jim Robinson, who is a member of their Board but lives in Austin and is also a member of the Austin Society, and Ron Hamilton, a singer and Board member. Dallas was represented by Marian Shulman, Founder and Director of the Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company, her husband Arthur, and Harriet Langston, singer and Board member. Betty Switzer of the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) was the invited speaker. She addressed our funding concerns forthrightly, and explained the mandate for diversity and equity the Commission operates under. She urged us to keep applying for grants, and gave us sound advice on how to explain our mission in specific terms the Commission could relate to. We also exchanged some information on the operation of each group represented, and discussed ways of improving communication among us.

Afterward we gathered around the piano in the lobby of Cambridge Tower, across the street, for informal singing.

2) Saturday, December 2, 1 - 3 pm • G&S Trivia Contest, planned and presided over by Gary Hallock. This was great fun, and was enjoyed by about 30 people, most of them from the Texas G&S Company of Dallas.

3) Saturday, 3 - 4 pm • A session to learn a Gilbert and Sullivan choral ensemble, directed by Eric Moellering, Conductor, and accompanied by pianist JoAnn Brubaker, both of the Texas G&S Company from Dallas. The ensemble from *Patience* was the one that begins with the lovesick maidens singing "In a doleful train Two and two we walk all day", continues with the dragoons singing "Now is not this ridiculous, and is not this preposterous?" and culminates with the magnificent counterpoint of both groups singing together.

4) Saturday, 4 - 5 pm • Master class, conducted by Edward Baird, Professor of Music and Director of Graduate Studies for the College of Music at the University of North Texas. He is also active as a stage director, conductor, clinician, and adjudicator, and played the part of The Judge in the evening performance of *Trial by Jury*. Many thanks to the singers who participated in the master class; they were Amy Baker, from our Holiday Revue, and Harriet Langston who played first Bridesmaid in the Dallas performance of *Trial by Jury*. It was an interesting and rewarding session.

5) Saturday, 7:30 pm • Another One Time Only Holiday Season All-Star Revue, performed by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin; and *Trial by Jury*, performed by The Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company, from Dallas. After the show all adjourned to Cambridge Tower across the street, for the Gala Champagne Buffet.

6) Sunday, December 3, 10:30 am • Sing Through of *The Pirates of Penzance*, attended by President Robert Mellin and some of the Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company. Our Michael McKelvey directed and JoAnn Brubaker from Dallas accompanied the singing.

With Special Thanks

to
Gordon Kelso, General Secretary of the
Scottish Rite Temple
and
Pearl Amster, who arranged the Gala Buffet
and the many gracious contributors to the Buffet
and
Kay Novak • Mike Workman • H.E.B.
Coca-Cola of Austin • Texas French Bread
St. Austin Church School and Staff

Coming!!! Frederic's Birthday • Thursday February 29, 1996

As you may remember, Frederic (from *The Pirates of Penzance*) was born in leap year on the 29th of February, which means that he can celebrate his birthday only every four years. And 1996 is one of those years, so put the date on your calendar!

• News of Members •

- Chris Buggé and his wife Jean have a new baby boy, Domenic. That makes three boys in their busy household.
- Noel Koran, who directed our production of *Iolanthe* is leaving Austin to become the Director of the Opera Program at Ohio State University. Congratulations and best wishes!
- Marcy Shepherd and her husband Marc, are the proud parents of Robert Jeremy, born last March.
- With sorrow we report the recent death of a new member, Jerry Strickland.

The Gondoliers

A video of our production is now available
Cost: \$20. Call the office (472-4772) to
place an order. Or mail us your check.

• Dues Notices Are Being Mailed •

At last! We have not kept up with the dues situation, I'm sorry to say, and I apologize. Many of you pay promptly when reminded, and it's not fair not to let you know it's that time. One batch of notices has gone out: many thanks to those who have already responded! Another batch will be mailed soon. Thank you all for your patience and support.

♪ G & S Concert Group ♪

On November 16, 1995 Amy Baker, Frank Delvy, Janette Jones, and Garrett Maddox performed for the Onion Creek Women's Club, with Bob Wall at the piano. The program was very well received.

A few weeks later the group (minus Garrett Maddox) took Gilbert and Sullivan to Brooke Elementary School, to perform for Tom Ashbaugh's students. Barbra Horak, Manager of Kinko's on 6th Street, was present to represent the Adopt-a-School program which sponsors Brooke. The children wrote us thank you notes, which we may be able to reprint in a later Newsletter. The Concert Group plans to bring Gilbert and Sullivan to other schools this year.

• Wish List •

For use in the Society Office
Call 472-4772

Tall File Cabinet
Fax Machine
Laser Printer - 17 pages per minute
CD Player
TV/VCR
New Touch Tone Telephone
Microwave Oven
Small Refrigerator

Pick Up Truck or Van

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WE RELY ON YOUR SUPPORT!

Now is the time to renew or upgrade your membership.
If you're not a member, here's your opportunity to contribute. We need you!

If you like Gilbert and Sullivan, and want to support our efforts ...

... you can do so by becoming a member of our society for a mere ten dollars.

Members receive a monthly newsletter with information about G&S, our activities and our members.

Our monthly informal G&S musicales are open to the public at no charge.

- Your tax-deductible contribution in any of the other categories are welcome and will help us mount our yearly productions and pay our monthly expenses •

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Savoyard \$1,000 | <input type="radio"/> Pooh-Bah \$500 - \$999 | <input type="radio"/> Major General \$250 - \$499 |
| <input type="radio"/> Grand Duke \$100 - \$249 | <input type="radio"/> Lord High Patron \$50 - \$99 | <input type="radio"/> Patron \$25 - \$49 |
| <input type="radio"/> Member \$10 | <input type="radio"/> I prefer to keep my identity anonymous | <input type="radio"/> I do not wish to receive the Newsletter |

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip code _____

Make checks payable to Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin and mail with this form to:
2026 Guadalupe Street, #309
Austin TX 78705

• Membership Update •

Welcome to new members Victoria LeBlanc, Jon Montgomery, and Robert & Martha Spiegel who have all joined as Patrons.

* * * * *

Many thanks to those who have renewed their memberships:

Grand Duke • Dean & Darlyene Yarian.

Lord High Patron • Mary Ann Courter, Mr. & Mrs. William Garner, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. George S. McQueen, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tull.

Patron • Sally Bartkowiak, Bill Hatcher, Bob & Helen Jones, Patricia Lane, Allen Lawshae, Bee Polomé, Bill & Susan Reid, Larry Shepley, and David A. White.

Member • Wally & Ruth Ellinger, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., Joan Pearsall, Robert Rudié, and Kent & Marion Smith.

• Many Thanks •

To Larry Shepley, who has volunteered to set up the Playbill program for our production of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

MANY THANKS
to

• UNDERWRITERS •

For the Texas 3-Day G&S Convention

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START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

Come to Our Musicales and Annual Meeting
on Monday, January 8, 1996 at Pearl's