

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

April 1997 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting - Our monthly Musicale •

• **Monday April 7, 1997 at 7:30 pm** at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.

• **Frank Delvy** singing from *Yeomen*, and more.
A special treat: **Len Gillman** will give us an updated version of Tom Lehrer's "The Elements" set to the Major General's song from *Pirates*. Come and enjoy the fun. Please bring munchies.

Open Auditions for the full cast of

♪♪♪ *Yeomen of the Guard* ♪♪♪

Will be held at the UT Recital Hall Building on
Sunday, April 6 from 1 to 6:30 pm in Room 5.138, and
Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm in Room 2.604
♪♪♪

Please call the Gilbert & Sullivan office (472-4772) to
arrange for an appointment to audition.

Please bring sheet music from a Broadway show, Gilbert
and Sullivan, or any opera. Accompanist will be provided.

The show will
play at Live Oak
at the State
Theater, June 20
through June 29.
Rehearsals begin
April 15th, twice
a week, but may
later be called on
as many as 6 days
or nights a week.
Performers will
receive a modest
stipend.

Musicale

March 3, 1997

Photo by Ernie
Welch

• FLASH •

The State Theater on Congress Avenue just south of 8th
Street will host *The Yeomen of the Guard* for seven
performances, June 20 through June 29, 1997. The Society
is pleased to have secured the services of the following:

Stage Director • **Christina J. Moore** has a back-
ground in musical theater and opera. She has directed in
many Austin theaters, including Zachary Scott, Different
Stages and Capitol City Playhouse. She directed the current
show at the Hyde Park Theater, *Why we have a body*,
playing through April 5th.

Music Director • **Robert Galván** is Choir Director at
the First Unitarian Church, and conductor of the Austin Area
Community Philharmonic.

Choreographer • We welcome back **Andrea Ariel**, the
popular Austin dancer who choreographed our recent
productions of *Pirates* and *Gondoliers*.

Production Manager • **Richard Brown**.

Lighting Designer • **Mike McBride**.

Props • **Karen Collier**, welcome back.

Production Team • **Doug Glenn** and **David Collier**.

Others to be announced.

• Message from your President •

Returns next month



66
6/10

• Last Meeting and Musicale •

39 people gathered for G&S and other delights at Pearl Amster's on Monday March 3. Members present were: Pearl Amster, Wren Andersen and her mother Joy Sappington, Chris Buggé, Alistair Campbell-Dick, Lucian Chimene, Shirley Cohn, Yvonne & Doug DeLay, Frank & Donna Delvy, Reba Gillman, Doug Glenn, Loel Graber, Russell & Kay Gregory, Bill Hatcher, Cathy Jackson (just joined!), Chuck Kraus, Allen Lawshae, John Mast, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerman, Kay Novak, Joan Pearsall, Bee Polomé, Larry Shepley, Paula Tyler, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess & Emma Walters, Lord High Photographer Ernie Welch, and Theresa Wilson. Guests were Linalice Carey, who helped get our Society started in her Creek Theater back in 1976; Cynthia Hill, our alternate Mabel in *Pirates*; and Verna Grice with Winston Bode, journalist and old time Austinite, who has recently featured the Society on his five-minute KVET broadcast "On The Avenue" [Tune in to 1300 AM at 5 minutes before 1 pm any Monday through Friday to hear his program.]

Looking for a Lord High Ice Breaker to start the evening's events Robert seized on Frank Delvy, who obliged with perhaps the most famous of all the G&S songs, "Willow, tit-willow" (*Mikado*) with the irreplaceable Bob Wall at the piano.

Robert then told us that our next production *The Yeomen of the Guard* will run June 20 - 29 at the State Theater on Congress Avenue, with auditions the first weekend in April. Call the Society Office for details. [See page 1 of the Newsletter for the announcement.]

Cynthia Hill then raised her lovely voice singing "Getting to know you" from *The King and I* (Rodgers and Hammerstein) and "Oh! mio babbino caro" from *Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini). This was followed by a novelty for us, Frank accompanying himself on the guitar. He told us he first came to Austin in 1973, playing and singing in Doak Snead's band. He played in many different bands often at the old Armadillo World Headquarters, and only after 1981 did he move into acting in theaters. He was wearing the T-shirt from the last band he played in, "Dogs at Play." He sang "Mary Crawley" by Marty Robbins, and "Remember" by Doak Snead. Putting aside his guitar Frank sang "Fanette" from *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* by Brel, accompanied by Bob Wall.

Then back to G&S with Russell Gregory singing "Oh, better far to live and die a Pirate King" from *Pirates*, with all joining in on the choruses. We were especially glad to welcome back Russell, who had been laid up for several months with a bloodclot in his leg. After that Wren Andersen played her guitar and sang an old Bee Gees song "I

started a joke, but I didn't see the joke was on me", followed by "Don't cry for me, Argentina" from *Evita* (Lloyd-Webber).

Allen Lawshae brought us back to G&S momentarily, singing "There lived a king" (*Gondoliers*) and "When the night wind howls" (*Ruddigore*) with lusty choruses from the audience. Then Russell accompanied himself in "Every day is ladies day for me" by Victor Herbert, and Frank sang "Where is the life that late I led?" from *Kiss me Kate* by Cole Porter. Robert appeared laden with baguettes from Texas French Bread, which he proceeded to award to random persons who were able to answer such difficult questions as "What's your name?" mixed in with Gilbert and Sullivan trivia questions. (as "What was Gilbert's middle name?") Cynthia Hill sang "The hills are alive with the sound of music" from *The Sound of Music* (Rodgers and Hammerstein), and Frank sang The Nightmare Song from *Iolanthe*. With a rousing "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*) we pressed on to Pearl's dining room for conversation and refreshments.

*Attend Our Traditional Opening Night
Champagne Buffet Gala Reception with the
CAST*

at the State Theater • 715 Congress Avenue

*Reserve Now for Best Seats
Send Checks to the G & S Office
\$30 per person for June 20 Opening Night
Half Price for Children*

The Yeomen of the Guard

This is Gilbert and Sullivan's most nearly tragic opera. Colonel Fairfax, falsely accused of sorcery, is to be beheaded in the Tower of London. To thwart his accuser he secretly marries Elsie Maynard, while both are blindfolded. Sergeant Meryll and his daughter Phoebe (who is in love with Fairfax) help him escape from the Tower. Fairfax discovers that Elsie is his bride and woos her, in his disguise as a Yeoman of the Guard. When the Merylls' help is discovered both are forced into unwanted marriages. This is also the story of Jack Point, the itinerant jester travelling with Elsie, whom he intended to marry. When a pardon arrives for Fairfax all is revealed. Elsie chooses Fairfax and Jack Point, crushed, falls senseless at their feet. Although not often performed, this opera has some of Sullivan's best music and some of Gilbert's most poignant observations on life.

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone 472-4772

Office Hours M - F, 1 - 5 pm

Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe Street, Austin TX 78705

• The Gilbert & Sullivan Society •

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin is organized for educational purposes, including production of the G&S operas in the traditional manner. We produce one large show a year. Our monthly G&S musicales are free and open to all. Our monthly newsletter is sent to our many members and friends. We bring small, quality concert groups to the schools. Students from Adopt-a-Schools are invited guests at our large productions. We award musical scholarships.

Executive Board

President	Libby Weed	837-5441
Executive V.P.	Paula Tyler	459-4639
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Treasurer	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Hist. & Parl.	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Dir. at large	Robert Mellin	345-5950
Executive Director Robert Mellin		

Lucy Shoe Meritt will receive the *Pro Bene Meritis*
Award given by the UT College of Liberal Arts on
Saturday April 5 at 9:30 am in the
LBJ Auditorium at UT

• Friends of Gilbert and Sullivan •
We need your help.

Yeomen of the Guard will undoubtedly be our most expensive show ever because of costs of house rental, a large cast, and a full orchestra. *Yeomen* is a unique, wonderful, and rarely done G&S opera. But it is less well known and so we can expect a smaller paid audience.

Please help defray the anticipated deficit by making a special contribution to this show. And if you don't mind, your tax deductible donation will be acknowledged in our newsletter, playbill program, and the videotape of the show that will be made.

Robert Mellin, Executive Director

• Wish List •

A Volunteer Costume Mistress

To help organize costumes all year round; our small Concert Group performances need Victorian costumes

Volunteer Office Workers

to help with the bulk mailing and other chores

Laser Printer
TV
VCR

Call 472-4772

If you like Gilbert and Sullivan, and want to support our efforts ... Join our society for a mere \$10.

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.

➔ Please use this form to join, to renew, or for change of address (and help us keep our mailing list up-to-date). ➔



NOTICE: A date on the mailing label indicates when your membership expires.

We welcome contributions, upgrades, and dues from ALL our readers.

Many thanks to those observant members who send in renewals when they are due.

SSSS

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

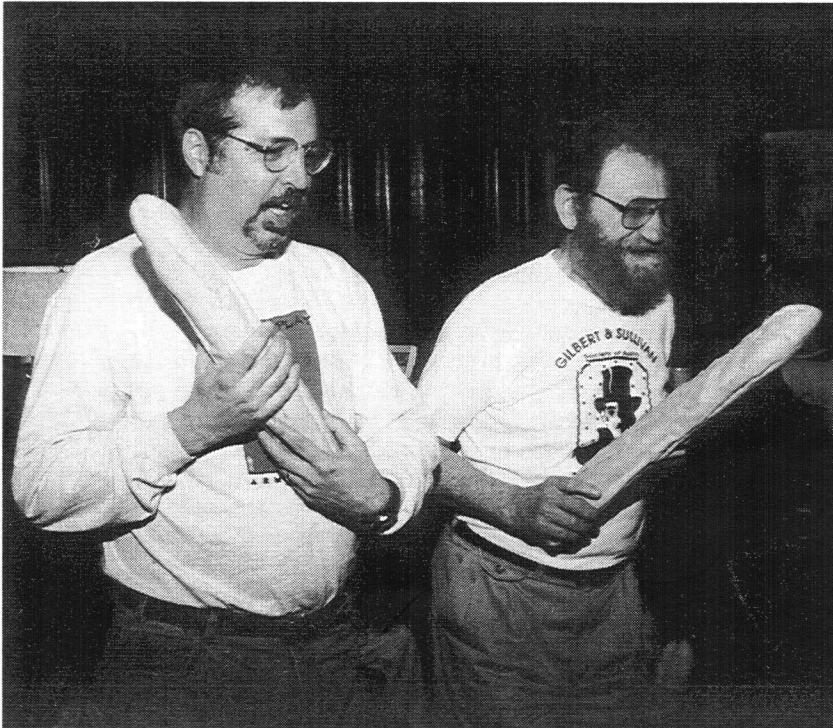
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| <input type="radio"/> Member \$10 | <input type="radio"/> I prefer to keep my identity anonymous | <input type="radio"/> I do not wish to receive the Newsletter |

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip code _____

Do you work for a company that matches contributions? Company Name: _____

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



**The Bread Dance Boys
Frank Delvy and Robert Mellin**



Linalice Carey

**Musical • March 3, 1997
Photos by Ernie Welch**



Reba Gillman, Editor

The
**& Gilbert
SULLIVAN** *Society*
OF AUSTIN

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ORGANIZATION
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**Come to our Musical
Monday, April 7, 1997 At Pearl Amster's**

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309 • Austin, Texas 78705