

THE

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

MARCH 1999 NEWSLETTER

• Next Meeting - Our monthly Musicale •

- Monday March 2, 1999 • at 7:30 pm •
 - At Pearl Amster's • 2304 Hartford Road • 472-7028 •
- Please bring munchies.

• Libby Weed is planning the program •
Among other goodies she promises some music from *Patience*. Volunteers who would like to sing should call Libby at 837-5441. (G&S preferred.)

PATIENCE

at St. Stephen's Helm Fine Arts Theater

RESERVE THE VERY BEST SEATS

It's not too soon to send in your orders and checks to the
G&S office

Reserve your place now for the Opening Night Gala
Champagne Buffet on Friday June 11

Tickets still only \$30

for the show,

the Champagne Buffet, and the Reception with the
Cast.



Reserve seats now for other performances:

Tickets still \$20, \$16, and \$12.

Children under 16 half price at all shows.

Friday June 11, Saturday June 12,

Thursday June 17, Friday June 18, Saturday June 19,
at 8 pm

Matinées Sunday June 13 and 20

at 3 pm.



Ticket prices remain the same but this year we will have to
pass on the service fees to our customers. So if you want to
save the service and credit card fees please order early,
directly from the G&S office (checks only).

PATIENCE is not so well known, but it is a delightful
opera by the inimitable Gilbert and Sullivan who gave us
the classics: *Pinafore*, *Pirates*, and *Mikado*. It will
be directed by the winning team from last year's *Mikado*:
Stage Director Ralph MacPhail Jr., and Music
Director Jeffrey Jones-Ragona.

Message from Your President Libby Weed

Over the past several months, you have seen references in
this newsletter to our search for an executive director. The
search reached at least a temporary halt in late January, when
the board made a decision to hire Michael McKelvey as our
production manager and rearrange the way we conduct some
of our business.

Michael is well known to many G&S members and fans.
He played the role of Giuseppe Palmieri, one of the dashing
gondolier leads in our 1995 production of *The Gondoliers*.
He directed our December Gala Fund Raiser in 1997.
As a member of the faculty of St. Stephen's School, he has
coordinated efforts between the school's theater and our
Society during recent productions. We have enjoyed his
resonant baritone at a number of musicales, including our
Valentine soiree in early February.

Michael will be working closely with our directors, Rafe
MacPhail and Jeffrey Jones, and making sure that everything
runs smoothly with the theater. He is involved now in
engaging the best people he can find to design and build sets
and costumes. He will arrange and manage details for
auditions and rehearsals, and he will coordinate publicity
efforts. He will be sure we have our props, music, and
tickets. As production manager, he will make sure the show
goes on.

Our board members will take care of other matters that
are essential to mounting a production. Robert Mellin will
be our fund raiser, securing corporate and business donations
and advertisements and seeking grants to support our efforts.
Art DiBianca will maintain and update our data base; he and
Robert will work with our office employee to keep things
moving in the office. Dave Wieckowski will manage our
books and make sure the bills are paid. Reba Gillman, in
addition to producing our monthly newsletter with Larry
Shepley, will be in charge of lobby sales. Larry will also
produce the playbill for the show and - if we find a sponsor -
prepare the libretto.

The rest of us will pitch in in various ways to be sure
that we have a wonderful opening night buffet, a well-
stocked concession stand, and a harmonious working
relationship with the show's cast. We would love to have a
sturdy crew of volunteers to help with the myriad tasks of
producing a major opera, so call our office and give us your
name if you would like to be a part of the effort.

Welcome aboard to Michael McKelvey!



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Last Musicale Reba Gillman • Secretary

On February 1, 1999 38 people gathered in a Valentine mood at Pearl Amster's for an evening of love songs from Gilbert & Sullivan. Present were NEW MEMBERS Steve & Eve Schwartzman, and not so new but attending a Musicale for the first time Edgar & Wyndy Ellis; MEMBERS Stacey Amorous, Pearl Amster, Lucian Chimene, Frank Delvy, Arthur DiBianca, Terri Finch-Koinuma, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, John & Carolyn Gregory, Enid Hallock, Kim Hallock, Janette Jones, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Bee Harris Polomé & Chuck Kraus, Corey Rooney, Owen Russell, Bob Sharron, Larry Shepley, Katharine Shields, Andrée Sjoberg, Leland L. Smith, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall - Welcome Back! Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed with her mother Dorothy Summerlin, David Wieckowski, and Theresa Wilson; PERFORMING GUESTS Cynthia Hill and Leslie Salas, and later in the evening Michael McKelvey.

President Libby Weed welcomed all and reminded us that Russell Gregory had been featured a while back on Winston Bode's new KVET radio program. Libby, herself, appeared in an unrehearsed interview which aired on Sunday, January 31st - unfortunately at 6 am, although the program is taped in the afternoon on the preceding Monday. Winston is eager to give us all the publicity he can and this last program played up the gold stripes Chief Justice Rehnquist has added to his official robe, after attending a Washington D.C. performance of *Iolanthe*. Libby also wished to correct the confusion we created in our last Newsletter. Jess Walters will perform on Sunday February 28 in the scholarship benefit concert for Mu Phi Epsilon, the international professional music fraternity. [See notice elsewhere in this newsletter]

Libby passed out programs for the evening's entertainment, which she and Art DiBianca had planned, and invited Frank Delvy and Janette Jones to start things off. Frank said he was glad to have the opportunity to sing the song from *Yeomen of the Guard*, which he loves but never gets to sing because it's not in his part: "She shall not quit thy sight: From morn to afternoon - " with Janette playing the part of Phoebe. Corey Rooney sang Josephine's dramatic aria "The hours creep on apace," from *Pinafore*, followed by the duet "Prithee, pretty maiden" from *Patience*, with Art singing the part of Grosvenor. Next the ever-adaptable Frank sang the tenor part of Fairfax in the trio "A man who would woo a fair maid" from *Yeomen*, with Janette and Cynthia Hill singing their parts of Phoebe and Elsie Maynard.

In a non-G&S interlude Leslie Salas sang "Can't help loving that man of mine" from *Showboat* by Jerome Kern, and Terri Finch-Koinuma sang "You must love me" from *Evita*, by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Returning to Gilbert & Sullivan, Frank and Cynthia sang "I have a song to sing, O!" reprising their roles in our 1997 production of *Yeomen*. Frank told us that the well-known D'Oyly Carte patter singer, John Reed, had used this as the title for a recording, and a one-man show at the Savoy Theater. He also told us that when Sullivan had trouble finding a tune for this piece he asked Gilbert to hum the tune he had had in mind when he wrote the words. Impressed with the seriousness of the situation Gilbert said "No one asks me to sing!" and did hum an old sea chantey he had

heard the sailors sing on his yacht. Saying "Probably the only reason I was asked to sing for this Valentine program is my name," Stacey Amorous sang "When a merry maiden marries" from *The Gondoliers*.

Libby introduced Michael McKelvey, whom we have hired to be the production manager for our June production of *Patience*. He joined Frank in singing "Lily's Eyes" a duet from *The Secret Garden*, words by Marsha Norman and music by Lucy Simon. Michael then sang the Pirate King's lead in "Although our dark career Sometimes involves the crime of stealing ..." followed by "Hail Poetry", for which we all stood to sing lustily with Michael directing. After that we went right into "Now to the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer* and wound up a happy evening in the dining room, chatting and munching.



"A man who would woo a fair maid" • Cynthia Hill, Frank Delvy and Janette Jones
The Yeomen of the Guard • Photo by Libby Weed

MANY THANKS to

Rick Anderson of Armstrong Moving & Storage
the official movers for our G&S Society
who have agreed to store our beautiful Mikado sets in their
new warehouse so we'll be able to use them for our next
production of *The Mikado*

The sets are available for rent to other Gilbert &
Sullivan groups
Know any one who might be interested?
Spread the word! Call 472-4772

Patience • AUDITIONS

Auditions for our June 1999 show will be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, March 27 and 28. Time and place to be announced.

For information or to schedule an audition call 339-1205.

Patience will run Friday June 11 through Sunday June 20, 1999, at St. Stephen's Helm Fine Arts Theater. See announcement on page 1.

Society News

Welcome to our new office manager, **Christopher Davis**. Chris is a computer-knowledgeable student in the field of advertising at UT.

Welcome also to three Board Directors at Large, appointed or reappointed at our January Board meeting. We are happy that **Paula Tyler** and **Arthur DiBianca** will continue on the Board, and that **Doug DeLay** will join them as a new member.

News of Members (mostly medical)

Harold Gilbert reports that he suffered a mild heart attack in December. He says this served as a wake-up call; he is now taking good care of himself and doing very well.

Larry Shepley is to undergo heart surgery this week (February 16 or so) to repair a faulty valve. He reports ruefully that he has been told that afterward he must follow healthful eating habits and a sensible exercise regime.



Jess Walters

Austin's Favorite Bass-Baritone

IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1999 4:00 P.M.

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2203 SAN ANTONIO, AUSTIN

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT
AND RECEPTION
WILL INCLUDE SOPRANO KAY PAYTON

*Sponsored by the Austin Alumni Chapter of
Mu Phi Epsilon
International Professional Music Fraternity*

NOW AVAILABLE

The Mikado Video and CD of our show
Made in June 1998
\$25 each

Call the Society Office at 472-4772, to order or inquire
about previously placed orders.

New or renewal membership form

We encourage you to join our society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal date on the top right corner of the mailing label. If expired or near expiration, your membership needs to be updated! To correct your address, renew your membership, or become a member, complete this form, and mail it to us at:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
2026 Guadalupe, #309
Austin, Texas 78705 Phone: 472-4772

Name (as you want it to appear) _____
Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
What company do you work for? _____

Please check one:

- ☐ Member: \$10-\$24
- ☐ Patron: \$25-\$49
- ☐ Lord High Patron: \$50-\$99
- ☐ Grand Duke: \$100-\$249
- ☐ Major General: \$250-\$499
- ☐ Pooh-Bah: \$500-\$999
- ☐ Savoyard: \$1,000 and over
- ☐ I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.

We thank the following corporate sponsors of our production of

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been dedicated
to spreading the joys of Gilbert & Sullivan
through performances and in-school programs.

What we do

Annual Grand Production
School Outreach Concerts
Free Monthly Musicales
Musical Scholarships
Monthly Newsletter
Holiday Season Show

Executive Board

President	Libby Weed	837-5441
Executive Vice-President	Larry Shepley	327-1511
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Director at Large	Arthur DiBianca	707-2809
Director at Large	Doug DeLay	794-5839
Newsletter Editor		Reba Gillman
Layout		Larry Shepley
Office Manager		Christopher Davis

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<http://members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa/home.html>

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