

THE

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

## SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

APRIL 1999 NEWSLETTER

### Next Meeting • Our Monthly Musicale

Monday April 5, 1999 • 7:30 pm

At Pearl Amster's • 2304 Hartford Road • 472-7028  
Please Bring munchies!

Libby Weed is planning the program –  
We will hear music from our favorites  
Dan Girardot, Cynthia Hill, Ezra Johnson, Debra Mandel  
Jess Walters  
with Lord High Pianist Bob Wall.  
Maurie Ommerman will be taking pictures.

### *Patience*

at St. Stephen's Helm Fine Arts Theater

### RESERVE THE VERY BEST SEATS

Send in your orders and checks now to the G&S office

Reserve your place now for the  
Opening Night Gala Champagne Buffet  
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 a small service fee will be added to these prices. If you want to save the service and credit card fees please order before May 15th directly from the G&S office (checks only). Many Thanks to those who have already placed their orders.

### Message from Your President

Libby Weed • President

Do you enjoy going to a party?

Let me tell you about one of the best parties of 1999, coming on June 11. The party will take place on a warm, breezy evening (we special-order the weather) on a bluff overlooking Lake Austin. You can take a stroll and enjoy a breathtaking view of the hills before entering the Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephen's School.

Inside, you will be treated to a magnificent rendition of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride* — with that special Rafe MacPhail touch Austin enjoyed so much at last year's *Mikado* (causing the production to be named one of the "Perfect 10's" among classical offerings in 1998).

After the performance, you and your company will be treated to a sumptuous buffet, complete with champagne, and will have the opportunity to chat with the stars of the show. By this time, the Austin light show from the balcony will be truly spectacular.

There's no question that our opening night gala will be one of the great Austin party events of the year. You can secure your tickets now through the G&S office while the best seats are still available. After May 15, tickets will be available only through the ticket office.

At \$30 a seat, these tickets are quite a bargain. For that amount, you will get one of this year's premiere stage performances (that alone being well worth the price), a champagne buffet, a visit with the cast of the show, and a great evening in a beautiful setting. What more could you ask?

See you at the party!

### Have a look at our Web Site

Thanks to Bill Hatcher  
for providing and maintaining this site  
[members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa](http://members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa)

*Patience* deserves to be far better known. It is a delightful satire on the Aesthetic Movement, with languid lilies and even more languid poets. Directed by the winning team from last year's *Mikado*, Stage Director **Ralph MacPail, Jr.**, and Music Director **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**.

### Special Thanks To

**Edgar and Wyndy Ellis**, who have volunteered to underwrite printing the libretto for *Patience*.

**Carol and Sam Fredericks** who have just upgraded their membership to the rank of Pooh-Bah.

**Mr. and Mrs. Willard M. Hanzlik**, Major General.

Grand Dukes (since December 1998):

**Gary and Genie Hendrix**

**Cynthia Hill**

**William and Esther McCormick**

**Lucy Shoe Meritt**

**Robert and Anna Miller**

**Mr. and Mrs. Alec Rhodes**

**Patricia Wedel**

And the many who have renewed their memberships.

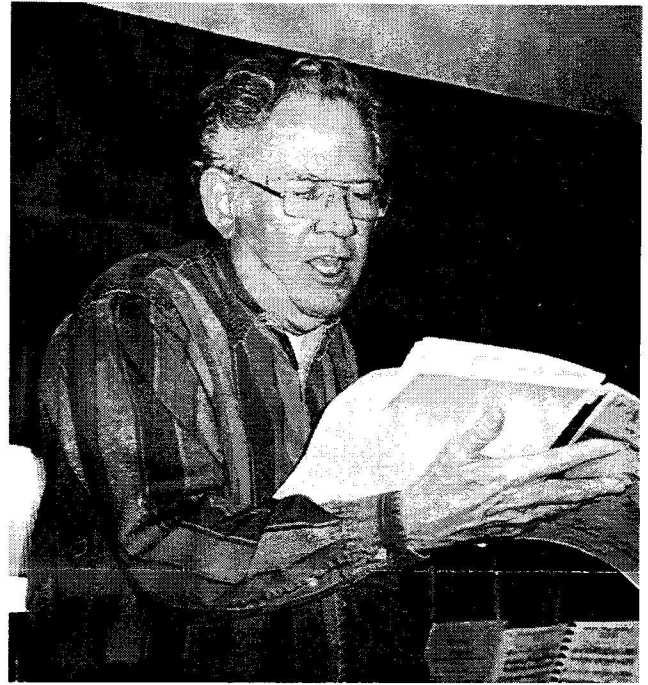
### News of Members

**Lucy Shoe Meritt** received yet another professional honor on March 3, 1999. At a meeting of the Austin Society of the Archaeological Institute of America she was awarded the Centennial Medal of the American Academy in Rome. Lucy was a Fellow of the Academy in 1936-37 and a Research Fellow in 1949-50. The letter from the President of the Academy states that this medal is given in recognition of her scholarly achievement and her support of the Academy and its ideals and principles. It is in fact Lucy's continuing activity in the world of her professional and other interests that makes her such a valued member of our Society.

**Larry Shepley** is doing fine after his recent heart surgery. His computer skills are put to good use for the Society, not least the production of this Newsletter. Thank you, Larry!

### Thanks to Volunteers

**Arthur DiBianca and Doug & Yvonne DeLay**



Allen Lawshae: "When I first put this uniform on"  
From *Patience*

Photo by Libby Weed

### NOW AVAILABLE

The Mikado Video and CD of our show

Made in June 1998

Also Available • Videos from our productions of

Gondoliers • Pirates • Yeomen

All sell for \$25 each

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

We thank the following corporate sponsors of our production of

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## Last Musicales

Reba Gillman • Secretary

On March 1, 1999, there were 35 people at Pearl Amster's to enjoy Gilbert & Sullivan, etc., with an emphasis on our coming show *Patience*. The program was planned by Libby Weed. Present were MEMBERS Pearl Amster, Byron Arnason, Lucian Chimene, Doug & Yvonne Vautier DeLay, Terri Finch-Koinuma, Reba Gillman, Enid Hallock with son Gary, Bill Hatcher, Patricia Lane, Allen Lawshae & Kay Novak with guest Jennifer LaFleur, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Joan Pearsall with guest Carla Cerisa, Gary Preuss, Joyce Protzman with guests Soo Hwa Im and Selim Akkurt, Owen Russell, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Bob Sharron, Leland L. Smith, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed, Benné Willerman, and Theresa Wilson; and PERFORMING GUESTS Jenifer Thyssen and Alfredo Colman.

As we gathered, Bob Wall sat at the piano playing through the overture to *Patience*. When he finished with a flourish, President Libby greeted old friends and new. Allen Lawshae introduced his guest Jennifer LaFleur, who was appearing with him in *The Taming of the Shrew* produced by the Sam Bass Community Theater in Round Rock. Joyce Protzman introduced her guests, Selim Akkurt from Ankara, Turkey, and Soo Hwa Im from Osaka, Japan. Neither of them knew anything at all about Gilbert & Sullivan, so Allen gave a short background statement. Libby passed out programs, with Act One devoted to *Patience*. Allen started off the music singing "When I first put this uniform on" which introduces Colonel Calverley of the Dragoon Guards. Changing character and skipping to Act Two, Allen and Enid Hallock sang the catchy duet "So go to him and say to him," in which Lady Jane encourages the fleshly poet Bunthorne to tell his rival (Grosvenor, an idyllic poet) to be more ordinary and stop attracting all the girls.

Returning to Act One, Bill Hatcher then took on the role of Bunthorne to sing "Am I alone and unobserved?" in which Bunthorne confesses he's an aesthetic sham, and proceeds to explain how he does it. "If you're anxious for to shine in the high aesthetic line as a man of culture rare, You must get up all the germs of the transcendental terms, and plant them ev'rywhere. You must lie upon the daisies and discourse in novel phrases of your complicated state of mind, The meaning doesn't matter if it's only idle chatter of a transcendental kind." Enid, as Lady Jane, sang "Sad is that woman's lot," from Act Two, the lament

of an aging woman: "Silvered is the raven hair, Spreading is the parting straight, Mottled the complexion fair, Halting is the youthful gait, Hollow is the laughter free, Spectacled the limpid eye, Little will be left of me In the coming bye and bye!"

We moved on to announcements. Robert Mellin, whom we have hired to raise money for our production, reminded us that the opening night Gala for *Patience* will take place on Friday June 11th at the Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephen's. Tickets are only \$30; order now by check directly from the G&S office. Robert passed out a flyer with the information. He also said he was seeking sponsors for the show — personal, corporate, or small business. He reported that a couple of new members had volunteered to underwrite the printing of the libretto for *Patience*: Many Thanks to Edgar and Wyndy Ellis!

Libby announced that the Austin Civic Orchestra would present the annual Pearl Amster Concerto Festival on Sunday March 13 at 7:30 pm in Bates Recital Hall on the UT campus. This program in honor of our member Pearl Amster, will feature the youthful musicians (aged 8 to 18) who have won the concerto competition. Pearl passed out informative flyers, and Libby urged all to attend.

Shifting gears across the sea to Ireland, and in honor of Saint Patrick's day coming up, our favorite Irish tenor Bob Sharron stepped up to sing "I'll take you home again, Kathleen." Well, he's really not Irish at all, and it turns out this Irish ballad was written by a German composer. Next Bob sang the old favorite "Danny Boy." Libby announced that since we did not have our annual financial report ready at our January meeting, we were providing copies now on the table in the living room for anyone to pick up. She then introduced our guest performer Jenifer Thyssen, who sang a delightful excerpt from *The Tales of Hoffman* by Offenbach: "The Doll's Song." Alfredo Colman provided the piano accompaniment. Reba remarked that Offenbach was a well-established composer of popular light opera in the late 1880's. In fact the original production of the G&S *Trial by Jury*, was intended as an after-piece for Offenbach's *La Périchole*. Surprisingly, *Trial* turned out to be a rival hit on its own.

Allen gave us the Pirate King's lead-in and we all sang lustily the familiar "Hail Poetry" (*Pirates*). This was immediately followed by "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*), and as Jess said in his stentorian tones "Let's eat!:"

## 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 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
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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.

## 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**  
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**Musical Scholarships**  
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**Holiday Season Show**

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Our web site:

[members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa](http://members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa)

*Patience,*

or, Bunthorne's Bride



*Come to the Party!*



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Friday, June 11, at 8:00 pm, Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephen's School  
Tickets only \$30

See the show, partake of the Champagne Buffet, and meet the Cast  
Mail your checks to the G&S Office now

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