

THE

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

MAY 1999 NEWSLETTER

## Next Meeting • Our Monthly Musicale

Monday May 3, 1999 • 7:30 pm

At Paula Tyler's • 4400 Balcones Drive • 459-4639

At the corner of Shinoak & Balcones

Between 35<sup>th</sup> Street & Perry Lane (45<sup>th</sup> Street)

Please Bring munchies!

Program: Getting acquainted with

*Patience*

*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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

*Patience* may be one of the Gilbert & Sullivan operas you don't know as well as others. How would you like to get an inside view before you attend the production in June — a peek at some of the principal characters and an outline of the plot?

Come to the Musicale at Paula Tyler's house at 7:30 pm Monday, May 3. Music director Jeffrey Jones-Ragona has graciously agreed not to hold rehearsals that evening to allow these sterling performers to give us a sneak preview of some of the highlights of the show. You'll hear *Patience* herself, Cynthia Hill, and a number of leading cast members in a quick synopsis of the action.

See you May 3!

## *Patience* — CASTING

ROSE TAYLOR, FRANK DELVY,  
CYNTHIA HILL, and other favorites,  
old and new, will play in  
*Patience*

We are proud to announce that some new to our Society shows and some veterans have been cast in our production of *Patience*, opening on June 11<sup>th</sup>. **Cynthia Hill**, who was Elsie in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, will play the title role of *Patience*. The ever popular **Frank Delvy** returns to play Reginald Bunthorne, a Fleshly Poet. Austin's favorite mezzo-soprano, UT voice professor **Rose Taylor**, will play Lady Jane. Tenor and UT voice professor **Leonard Johnson** will play the Duke of Dunstable. Other Society favorites include **Janette Jones**, **Corey Rooney**, **Stacey Amorous**, **Larry Oubré**, and **Katharine Shields**; newcomer **James Hampton** will play Archibald Grosvenor, an Idyllic Poet.

Others cast are **Claire Vangelisti** and **Joshua Phillips**, and chorus members **Nancy Arnold**, **Sarah Jane Daley**, **Teresa Kim**, **Lisa Shenk**, **Sarah Stevens**, **Cecily Cano**, **Erin Sheehy**, **Laura Walberg**, **Andrea Woodbury**, **Charles Flores**, **James Meany**, **Lee Moore**, **Ed Renauer**, **Andrew Hallock**, **Greg Jay**, **Mark Long**, **Steven Long**, **Dan Smith**, and **Davis Tucker**. Watch for other possible additions.

## Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

Despite a dramatic, emergency change of venue, 52 people gathered for our Musicale on Monday April 5, 1999. Friday night April 2<sup>nd</sup> word came that Pearl Amster was in the hospital; a hurried call to Paula Tyler brought the assurance that we could move the Musicale to her house. The show must go on! All recent Musicale attendees were called. [Except John Mast; we didn't have a number for you, sorry!] Present were MEMBERS Byron Arnason, Lucian Chimene with guest Kathryn Enright from the mid-Hudson valley in N.Y., Doug & Yvonne Vautier DeLay, Arthur DiBianca, Wyndy & Edgar Ellis, Terri Finch-Koinuma, Sheila & Doug Glenn with Topher, Reba Gillman, Ann & Dan Girardot with Michael, Marie & Michelle, Cynthia Hill, Joyce & George John, Ezra Johnson & Debra Mandel, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt with her cousin Marty Grundy from Cleveland, Maurie Ommerman taking pictures, Bee Harris Polomé & Chuck Krauss, Gary Preuss, Joyce Protzman with guests Sang Seup Lee from Korea and Selim Akkurt from Turkey, Owen Russell, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Bob Sharron, Larry Shepley, Andrée Sjoborg, Leland L. Smith, Paula Tyler, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed with her niece Sarah Summerlin from Tennessee, Benné Willerman with Kari Wangenstein; and GUESTS Chris Davis the new G&S Office Manager, and Nell Levell Trimble. At the very end members John & Carolyn Gregory came by after attending a wonderful choral concert elsewhere.

Libby welcomed us all, and Joyce brought us up to date on Pearl: In the wee hours of Thursday, Pearl had suffered a blood clot on her foot, with swelling and intense pain. She called EMS, and crawled to the door to let them in. As they took her off to the hospital she managed to set her alarm. After surgery and rest in intensive care, Pearl came home on Monday, and was now lying in bed doing crossword puzzles.

Libby introduced Dan Girardot, who said that he and his family were going to provide a potpourri of nice little things. Dan remarked that he had never sung anything but G&S for us until now. Marie began with a little Bach on her violin. Michael and Dan sang "Bring him home" from *Les Misérables* (music by Claude-Michel Schönberg, lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer); Dan gave us a very dramatic "Trouble in River City" from *The Music Man* (Meredith Willson); and the whole family rose to sing together "So Long, Farewell, Aufwiedersehen" from *The Sound of Music* by Rodgers & Hammerstein. Then off they went to Michael's baseball practice.

Debra Mandel and Eric Johnson then took the stage. Debra thanked the G&S Society for introducing her to her future husband — they met rehearsing in last June's *Mikado*. They are planning a July wedding, and will move to San Antonio. Debra sang a dramatic gypsy song from Robert Stoltz's operetta *Vienna in Silk*; Ezra reeled off a rapid "I am the model of a modern Major General," from *Pirates*; and together they sang a spirited "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" from *The Mikado*.

Cynthia Hill, who will make a charming *Patience*, then sang "I cannot tell what this love may be," and "Love is a plaintive song" from *Patience*. Jess Walters came forward to sing for

Pearl, at her request, "Bright is the ring of the words," by Vaughn Williams. And Gary Preuss, who was in the chorus of our *Gondoliers*, sang "Love changes everything," from *Aspects of Love* by Andrew Lloyd Weber.

At this point we gave a special rousing hand to Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, who had played his way through whatever was handed him, usually without any rehearsal, and in one case transposing, which he claims is not his thing. Libby thanked him for accompanying virtually all the auditions, as well. Bob Wall is a true gem, and best of all he always looks as though he's having fun!

Libby said she wished directors Rafe MacPhail and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona could have been with us, but since that wasn't possible she asked Robert Mellin to give us a quick rundown on some of the *Patience* casting [see announcement on page 1]. Robert was especially jubilant that the wonderful Rose Taylor will play the part of Lady Jane. He also couldn't keep from us the news that he is in a show — "Guess what!" That wasn't hard, since he was wearing a handsome new T-shirt for *Fiddler on the Roof*. He had been invited to play the Rabbi in the Austin Musical Theater production coming up at the Paramount Theater. They will do 16 performances in 12 days from May 4 through 16th. Obviously he hopes we'll all go see it, but he nobly said "If you go to only one show this year, let it be *Patience*!"

Art DiBianca sang the Pirate King's opening lines, and we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry!" (*Pirates*), followed by "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*); then on to the good nibbles and happy conversation. Thank you gracious emergency hostess, Paula Tyler! And to Pearl: Get well soon; we love you!



### 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)

### NOW AVAILABLE

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or inquire about previously placed orders.

### News of Rafe MacPhail

In February Rafe gave a talk at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art as part of a celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Blue Hill Troupe; topic: Gilbert, Sullivan, and D'Oyly Carte. This led to an invitation to return to take part in a symposium on April 11; topic: G&S in the New Millennium: the Pros and Cons of Updating (part of a celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the New York G&S Players). In addition Rafe has been invited to speak at the Buxton (England) G&S International Festival in late July, which will be a week after he conducts two elderhostels in Connecticut. And, of course, he will be in Austin for the rehearsals and production of our *Patience* in June. He is certainly an Eminent Figure, and much in demand.

### Theater News of Members

**Arthur DiBianca** has been playing in *Golem* at the Dougherty Arts Center Alley, March 25 - April 17.

**Sheila Glenn** will be appearing in *Good Grief* at the John Henry Faulk Living Theater, April 16 - May 16th.

**Allen Lawshae** has been playing in *American Realism* by Ken Johnson, at the Dougherty Arts Center. It will return for another run the last three weeks of May.

**Michael McKelvey** is appearing in *My Fair Lady* through May 16 at the newly reopened State Theater.

**Robert Mellin** will be playing in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Paramount, May 4 - 16.



Cynthia Hill, Patience, and Frank Delvy, Bunthorne, who will be in our production of *Patience* this summer. Photo by Libby Weed

Many Thanks to the following corporate sponsors of our production of *Patience*

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### MEMBERS

If you want to be listed in the Playbill for *Patience*, please check your mailing label for expiration date. If your membership has expired,

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AT ONCE!!!

## 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  
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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.

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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!*



Reserve your place now for the Opening Night Gala Champagne Buffet  
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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