

THE

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

JUNE 1999 NEWSLETTER

## Next Meeting • Our Monthly Musicale Last of the Season

Monday June 7, 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 by Robert Mellin

*My Fair Lady* meets the *Fiddler on the Roof*

For two weeks these two musicals—very different, but each a classic—played side by side on Congress Avenue, *Fiddler* at the Paramount, and *My Fair Lady* in the new, revamped State Theater. Robert Mellin, playing the Rabbi in *Fiddler*, mingled night after night in the common space with the cast of *My Fair Lady*. This inspired him to invite members of each show to perform at our June Musicale, which should be interesting and even fantastic. What a way to finish off the season! Come and see for yourself!

.....

Coming Event • Save the date

Next Musicale • Tuesday, September 7, 1999

(Tuesday because of Labor Day and other conflicts)

## *Patience*

At St. Stephen's Helm Fine Arts Theater

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Call Star Tickets at 869-SHOW (7469)

For information: 472-4772

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR ALL SHOWS

Reserve your place now for the

Opening Night Gala Champagne Buffet

Friday June 11 • 8 pm • Tickets \$30

for the show, the Champagne Buffet, and the

Reception with the Cast

Reserve seats now for other performances:

Tickets \$20, \$16, and \$12, plus small service charge

Children under 16 half price at all shows

Friday & Saturday, June 11 & 12

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

Matinées Sunday June 13 and 20; at 3 pm

Note: Tickets are being mailed to those who have already ordered. If you haven't received yours please call the G&S office at 472-4772.

## Cast of *Patience*

Colonel Calverley

Major Murgatroyd

Lieut. The Duke of Dunstable

Reginald Bunthorne

Archibald Grosvenor

Mr. Bunthorne's Solicitor

The Lady Angela

The Lady Saphir

The Lady Ella

The Lady Arianna

The Lady Jane

*Patience*

Larry Oubre

Joshua Phillips

Leonard Johnson

Frank Delvy

James Hampton

Arthur DiBianca

Stacey Amorous

Corey Rooney

Claire Vangelisti

Janette Jones

Rose Taylor

Cynthia Hill

## Chorus of Maidens

Nancy Arnold, Cecily Cano, Sarajane Dailey, Teresa Kim,  
Erin Sheehy, Lisa Shenk, Katharine Shields, Sarah Stevens,  
Laura Walberg, Andrea Woodbury

## Chorus of Officers of Dragoon Guards

Charles Flores, Andrew Hallock, Greg Jay, Mark Long,  
Steven Long, James R. Meny, Lee Moore, Dan Smith

Understudies: *Patience*

*Lady Jane*

Reginald Bunthorne

Corey Rooney

Janette Jones

Arthur DiBianca

Staff:

Stage Director

Music Director

Asst. to the Director

Production Director

Stage Manager

Costumer

Dialect Coach

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Arthur DiBianca

Michael McKelvey

Tayneshia Jefferson

Pam Anson

Yvonne DeLay

## More Honors for *The Mikado*

Our production last summer of *The Mikado* has been nominated for the Austin Theater Critics Table Awards in three categories: Best Musical Show, Best Director of a Musical (Ralph MacPhail, Jr.), and Best Lead Actress in a Musical (Amy Baker Stinson). Winners will be announced in June.

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## Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

On Monday, May 3, 1999 we gathered at Paula Tyler's house to hear cast members from *Patience* sing some of the highlights and explain the story. Present were MEMBERS Lucian Chimene, Doug & Yvonne Vautier DeLay, Frank & Donna Delvy, Arthur DiBianca, Wyndy & Edgar Ellis, Reba & Len Gillman, Loel Graber, Bill Hatcher, Cynthia Hill, Janette Jones, Norman & Emilia Martin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Bee Harris Polomé & Chuck Krauss, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, Rose Taylor & Russ Prickett, Paula Tyler, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Libby Weed, and Theresa Wilson, and GUEST James Hampton, who sings the part of Grosvenor — a total of 30 people.

Libby welcomed us, thanked Paula for her gracious hospitality, and asked if anyone had been listening to KMFA that afternoon. Thanks to Arthur DiBianca's suggestion, we had provided Rich Upton (KMFA afternoon program) with a *Mikado* CD to play on the air, and ten copies of the CD to give away to listeners who could answer trivia questions like, "What were the first names of Gilbert and Sullivan?" Upton mentioned our production of *Patience* and gave the performance dates at the Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephen's. He will do this on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons, which will be good publicity for our show. Libby then turned things over to Frank Delvy, the emcee for the program.

Frank began by telling us of the very successful in-school performance at Sanchez Elementary School last week. With Bob Wall accompanying, Frank, Dan Girardot, Amy Stinson, and Janette Jones sang excerpts mainly from *Pirates*, for the very enthusiastic third and fourth graders, who also learned "They sail the ocean blue" from *Pinafore*. Fifth and Sixth graders also attended, but Frank said they were more self-conscious.

To introduce the evening's program Frank told us that in 1881 the production of *Patience* moved into the new Savoy Theatre, built by D'Oyly Carte especially to house the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and equipped with the latest technical effects. *Patience* thus became the first theatrical production in England to be electrically lighted. He also told us that although the opera was written to satirize the æsthetic movement, which was sweeping England, the character of Bunthorne was not modeled on any one æsthetic, but drew from Whistler and Swinburne and others.

Since the chorus was not present the twenty lovesick maidens and the dashing military dragoon guards would not be represented tonight. Instead Frank as Bunthorne, and Cynthia Hill as Patience, opened the scene with some of the clever dialog, followed by Bunthorne's song confessing "I am an æsthetic sham!" Then pressing Janette Jones into service as "Lady Angela du jour," Lord High Substitute for all missing female parts, Janette and Cynthia gave us the ensuing dialog and led into the charming duet "Long years ago, fourteen maybe." As Patience pondered her ignorance of love, the ennobling and unselfish passion, and vowed to fall in love at once — with a stranger — in came Grosvenor, an idyllic poet, played by James Hampton. Together they sang "Prithee, pretty maiden". It turned out that Grosvenor was the lovely baby Patience had played with years ago, but their happiness at finding each other was rudely ended

by Patience, who said that since love had to be unselfish she could not love the perfect Grosvenor.

On to Act II, with Rose Taylor as Lady Jane singing "Sad is that woman's lot." She alone has remained faithful to Bunthorne, but all the other lovesick maidens are now flocking around the new poet Grosvenor (James Hampton). He enters and recites a poem at the maidens' request, "Gentle Jane was as good as gold, She always did as she was told ...." Then to illustrate how hopeless it is to love him he sings "A magnet hung in a hardware shop." Following this Patience confesses to Grosvenor that although she loves Bunthorne because it is her duty, she is miserable with him. Then to convince Bunthorne that she knows what love is, she sings "Love is a plaintive song, Sung by a suff'ring maid, Telling a tale of wrong, Telling of hope betrayed." Patience leaves weeping and Bunthorne returns, followed by Lady Jane (who apparently never lets him out of her sight). She offers to help him and they sing a snappy duet about what Bunthorne should say to his rival Grosvenor, "So go to him and say to him." The result is that Bunthorne threatens Grosvenor with a curse if he does not change completely and become absolutely commonplace. Grosvenor yields cheerfully; at last he has a reasonable pretext for such a change: "I do it on compulsion!" and they sing the duet "When I go out of door." At this point Frank said "We'll leave before the end. We won't give it away, so you'll come see the show."

Frank then said that since we had in the room the only two living Lord Chancellors (*Iolanthe*) in Austin they should sing the Nightmare Song together. Len Gillman came forward, and off they went, singing "When you're lying awake with a dismal headache, and repose is taboo'd by anxiety," at a very good clip. After that Loel Graber sang the Pirate King's introduction, and we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry" (*Pirates*), followed by "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*). Chairs were quickly folded or moved back, the food beckoned, and a good time was had by all.

### 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)



Jess Walters and Bob Wall

Photo by Maurie Ommerman

## Ralph MacPhail, Jr., Now a Texan!

When our Stage Director/Choreographer, on whose shoulders rests the success of our grand production, *Patience*, checked in at his airline last Wednesday, he discovered that his driver's license had expired over six months earlier. On arrival in Austin, he and Robert Mellin went right away to the DPS, where Rafe quickly passed the renewal written test in spite of a bit of jet lag (he is, after all, an excellent driver). However, the actual driving test proved a bit more troublesome, since Robert's car wasn't yet a Texan itself, having just been purchased out of state (actually Robert had the Texas plates, but no screws to attach them). A temporary setback, it seemed, and Larry Shepley drove Rafe, now rested, to the DPS the next day, only to learn that driving tests are administered only twice a day, and not at the time they had arrived. The third time was the charm, however, with Bob Wall now doing the escorting, and Rafe passed — though not with flying colors ("only Archibald Grosvenor is the 'All-Right,'" sighed Rafe). An adventure, as it turned out, worthy Bab Ballad if not full operatic treatment, but Rafe is now a Texan!

## More News of Rafe MacPhail

For several summers our favorite director and G&S authority has been conducting Elderhostels, in Connecticut, on his favorite subject, and this year is no exception. The two programs are held at the Incarnation Center, Ivoryton, CT. Rafe will share the responsibility with Deborah Lyon, a musical stalwart of the Connecticut G&S Society. The first session, July 11-17, will feature lectures, readings, group singing, and video and audio recordings, and will conclude, for those inclined to perform, with a concert version of *Iolanthe*. The following session, July 18-24, will concentrate on The Big Three — *Pinafore*, *Pirates*, and *Mikado* — with less emphasis on performance, though there will be a last-night concert (again, by those so inclined). Those familiar with Elderhostel will know that tuition (\$397 for each session) includes room and board (Sunday dinner to Saturday breakfast), and that eligibility begins at age 55 (a younger spouse or adult companion may attend with an age-eligible participant). More information may be obtained from Reba Gillman (327-2277) or Rafe himself. Copies of a newsletter "The Ivoryton Savoyard" are available: Call Reba. This can be a truly unusual vacation!

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

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## News of Members

**Katharine Shields**, long-time member and performer, has been very active in the Austin Lyric Opera. She sings in the chorus and is a faithful worker for the A.L.O. Guild, the volunteer organization for the opera, of which she is now President-Elect. In that capacity she had the honor to attend the Joint Conference of Opera America and Opera Guild International, held May 5-9, in Vancouver, B.C. She attended panel discussions and workshops on a variety of opera and volunteer related activities. One evening was devoted to the performance of two one-act operas (by Bartok and Schönberg) put on by the Vancouver Opera, the host group. Opera America meets once a year and will hold its next session in Houston in May 2000; Opera Guild International meets every 18 months. Their next session will be in Austin, hosted by ALO, in November, 2000. Meanwhile we can all enjoy Katharine in our June production of *Patience*.

**Amy Baker Stinson** will sing a recital at 8:00 pm on Sunday, June 27, at the State Theater. Admission is free, but all donations are gratefully accepted and will help defray Amy's travel to Europe in July to sing Despina in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* at the Austrian-American Mozart Academy in Salzburg.

## 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

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- ☐ Grand Duke: \$100-\$249
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- ☐ 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**  
**School Outreach Concerts**  
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**Musical Scholarships**  
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**Holiday Season Show**

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Our web site:

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*Patience,*

or, Bunthorne's Bride



*Come to the Party!*



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