

THE

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

NOVEMBER 1999 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting • Our Monthly Musicale

Monday November 1, 1999 • 7:30 pm

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

Program planned by Frank Delvy
Piano by Lord High Pianist Bob Wall
Singing by some of our December Gala stars:

Frank Delvy,
Dan Girardot,
James Hampton,
Cynthia Hill,
Janette Jones,
and a few possible Surprises.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Libby Weed

It is a pleasure to introduce to you our new office manager, Brian Cassidy. Brian will be in our office every afternoon (hours vary a bit from day to day), answering the phone and taking care of business. I think you will enjoy meeting him.

A music major, Brian enjoys singing and also plays guitar and piano. He is talented, personable, and eager to help.

Even better for us, Brian is looking forward to a career in arts administration. Like our previous office employees, he will be able to earn a little extra money in this position. But unlike most of the others, he sees this as a career development opportunity. We learned of Brian through the placement services of the University of Texas College of Fine Arts. He was one of several students who, because of their desire to move into arts administration professionally, applied for an internship with The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin. After a series of interviews with members of the board, Brian emerged as our top choice.

Brian will be working under our board, but his primary mentor is Society member and consultant to the board, Allan Longacre. By virtue of his own illustrious career in arts administration, Allan is the ideal person to lead an intern in learning about fundraising, publicity, scheduling and coordination, and all the logistics of carrying on the business of an arts organization.

Those of us on the board are delighted to have Brian "minding the store" and preparing for his career at the same time. We hope you can meet him soon at a musicale or at our December Gala.



Here we see Archibald Grosvenor, an Idyllic Poet (in *Patience*, played by James Hampton), not enjoying the attention of a Chorus of Rapturous Maidens. Oh, how Reginald Bunthorne envied Grosvenor's popularity.

Photo by Dan Smith



LG 6/10

Last Musicale

Reba Gillman - Secretary

A group of 31 people were happy to meet again at Pearl Amster's on Monday October 4, 1999, to enjoy a delightful program planned by Frank Delvy. Present were members Stacey Amorous, Pearl Amster, Byron Arnason, Lucian Chimene, Doug & Yvonne Vautier DeLay, Frank & Donna Delvy, Wyndy & Edgar Ellis, Reba Gillman, Cynthia Hill, Janette Jones, John Mast, Nancy McQueen, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerman, Bee Harris Polomé & Chuck Kraus, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Bob Sharron, Larry Shepley, David Tampke, Nell Leavell Trimble, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Libby Weed, and Theresa Wilson, and guest performers Jennifer Arndt and Andrew Coward.

President Libby welcomed us all, and began the evening with three announcements, listed separately elsewhere in this Newsletter. Reba said she had some *Patience* videos with her. Bee Polomé urged us to attend the Austin Civic Orchestra's first concert of the season on October 23rd. And Robert Mellin invited all friends of Michel Jaroschy to come to the Memorial on October 11th at the former Capitol City Playhouse (now the Fadó Irish Pub). Libby then turned the evening over to Frank, who said "It's October so I'll sing the only Halloween music in Gilbert and Sullivan." Lord High Pianist Bob Wall set the stage with the sinister accompaniment, and Frank launched into "When the night wind howls" from *Ruddigore*.

Libby told us that despite the many reasons that people preferred a fund raiser in February, rather than the busy month of December, the Board had weighed all the pros and cons, and decided to go ahead with a December Fund Raiser. Frank has agreed to direct it. He said that the theme would be "Forward to the Past," and that he was gathering as many principal players from our productions as he could, from people like Russell Gregory to Rose Taylor. They would sing excerpts from their roles, and slides would be projected from the original scenes, complete with costumes.

Frank noted that in 1990 we did *Patience* at Hyde Park Theater, and this year finished off the decade performing *Patience* last June at St. Stephen's. This served to introduce a scene from *Patience*, starting with the dialog between Bunthorne and Patience played by Frank and Cynthia Hill. Then Stacy Amorous came on as Lady Angela and joined Cynthia in the duet, "Long years ago."

Next Frank introduced the quartet he sings with, "A Class Act," with singers Jennifer Arndt, Janette Jones, Andrew Coward, and Frank. They go into the schools to perform for the children, but they will be doing some performances that are open to the public: a fund raiser for Freddy Carnes's Children of Light Players on Sunday October 17th at The Dougherty Arts Center. And on Saturday, November 6th (which just happens to be Frank's birthday), they will perform at 7:30 pm at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church on Bee Caves Road.

They sang "Only you have the power to move me," from *Starlight Express* by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Janette sang "I dreamed a dream in days gone by" from *Les Misérables*. Tenor

Andrew Coward sang from the show *Chess* about an international chess match during the cold war, an anthem telling of the Russian contender's love for his homeland.

Cynthia brought us back to G&S with Elsie's poignant "'Tis done, I am a bride," from *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Then back to "A Class Act" singing, as two couples, "Love changes everything" by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Frank jogged our memories with a reprise of his role in *South Pacific* at Capitol City Playhouse, singing "One dream in my heart." Donna, Pearl, and Reba remembered that show well. Stacey Amorous sang us a clever and peppy number, "The Crossword Puzzle Song" from *Starting Here, Starting Now*, a musical review that Stacey said had many good tunes, but just didn't make the big time.

As a preview of what's coming in June 2000, Frank and Janette sang "Things are seldom what they seem," from *H.M.S. Pinafore*. But then in a complete departure, Frank sang the first song he had had a record of as a kid, "High Noon" from the movie by that name, written by Dimitri Tiomkin and Ned Washington. Singing more of this team's work, Frank thoroughly enjoyed himself with "Rawhide," and "The gunfight at OK Corral." And of course, if Frank was having fun, so was the audience. He said he had had a good time putting the program together, and thanked all the performers.

Finally, to thank Lucy Meritt for putting up with all the non-G&S songs, Frank sang her favorite "Rising early in the morning," from *The Gondoliers*. It's another one of Gilbert's fast paced tongue twisters, and Frank just tossed it off. Andrew and Frank led us with the Priate King's introduction, and we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry" (*Pirates*), and "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*). Thereafter the happy throng gathered in the dining room to sample the goodies and chat. Thank you Pearl, for your hospitality!

News of Members Is My Face Red Division

In the October 1999 Newsletter, Reba Gillman, Secretary and Editor, committed two serious gaffes in her writeup of the September Musicale. First, she used only one R in the word occurred. But worse than that, she stated that Frank sang the Major General's patter song "When I was a lad." As husband and severest critic Len remarked — Not to be confused with the First Lord of the Admiralty's song "I am the very model of a modern Major General."

Have a look at our Web Site

Thanks to Bill Hatcher
for providing and maintaining this site
members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yvonne DeLay has taken on the job of Volunteer Coordinator, and already has 9 volunteers making phone calls and helping with the Newsletter mailout. Please call Yvonne at 794-5839 if you would like to get involved.

The Nominating Committee consists of **Bill Hatcher**, Chair, **Theresa Wilson**, and **Bob Wall**. If you would like to make suggestions for the slate of officers to be elected at the January Annual Meeting, please call Bill at 892-3722. The nominees will be announced in the January Newsletter.

Allan Longacre is conducting an organizational audit of The Society with the goal of helping us find ways to make things work better. Feel free to call him at 301-5611.

NOW AVAILABLE

Patience CD of our show

Made in June 1999

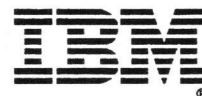
\$12 each; add \$5 if you want it mailed.

This video is not the one we hoped to make,
but it might be enjoyed by cast and friends.

Call The Society Office at 472-4772
to order, and to arrange to pick it up.

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

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Many thanks to IBM for a generous donation.

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
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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

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G&S Office:

M, W, F 2:30-6 pm; Tues 12:30-6 pm; Thu. 3:30-6 pm.
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Arts Intern

Newsletter Editor

Layout

Brian Cassidy

Reba Gillman

Larry Shepley

Our web site: members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa

Forward to the Past

Our Annual Gala Holiday All-Star Revue, Champagne Buffet, and Fund Raiser

Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephen's School
Sunday, December 5, 1999

Champagne Buffet 7 pm
Entertainment 8 pm

Frank Delvy, Director, with Lord High Pianist Bob Wall

Featuring G&S stars from the past 25 years, including

Stacey Amorous, Frank Delvy, Dan Girardot, Russell Gregory, James Hampton,
Cynthia Hill, Janette Jones, Allen Lawshae, Corey Rooney, and Rose Taylor

Tickets (\$30) on sale in November

Save the date; mark your calendar

THE
**GILBERT
&
SULLIVAN**

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