

THE
GILBERT & SULLIVAN
SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

APRIL 2001 NEWSLETTER

• Next Meeting •

• Our monthly Musicale •

Sunday April 1, 2001, at 3 PM
At Paula Tyler's: 4400 Balcones Drive
459-4639

- Please bring munchies •

Enid Hallock is planning the program, a retrospective in honor of our 25th Anniversary, with emphasis on the performers in our first production of *The Sorcerer*.

- Musicale on Sunday May 6, 2001, 3 pm •
• Save the date •

We hope to feature cast members singing excerpts from our June 2001 production of *The Sorcerer*.

Auditions for

The Sorcerer

(to be presented June 7-17, 2001, at
Helm Fine Arts Center, St. Stephen's School)

Auditions will be held for singers/actors

Sunday 8 April — 1:00-6:00 pm

Monday 9 April — 6:00-9:00 pm

at the Carriage House at St. Edwards University,
3001 Congress Avenue (map available online at
www.stedwards.edu/map/campmap.htm)

Applicants should prepare 1-2 minutes of a classical song in English (G&S preferred). Bring sheet music; accompanist provided. To schedule an appointment time, call the G&S Austin office (512) 472-4772 or e-mail info@gilbertsullivan.org

Watch our website for details:
www.gilbertsulllivan.org

Message from your President

• Larry Shepley

Our April Musicale will be very nostalgic—and fun. Enid Hallock has assembled many of the actors and singers from our very first production of *The Sorcerer*. This took place at the Town Hall in Hancock Center and included Enid herself as Lady Sangazure. Leland Smith, in his history of our Society, currently being written, lists this production as our fourth. Enid feels, and I certainly concur, that it is appropriate, as part of our silver anniversary celebration year, to celebrate our past triumphs as we look to our future. Bring your memories (and anecdotes and photographs) to our Musicale, and Leland will be grateful for your contributions to the history.

At our last Board meeting, we spent a lot of time going over the budget for the Society and for *The Sorcerer*. As you know, our finances aren't good, but fortunately we do have a reserve. As I said in our last Newsletter, we will have to do without Brian Gaston's services after June, so that our Musicales will then be produced by our members. Our office will also be staffed, on a part-time basis with much reduced hours. Our prime objective, of course, is to maintain our standards and to continue our in-school programs.

Needless to say, we would do well if we could attract grants and donations, and one purpose of a detailed budget and detailed production and in-school plans is to support grant applications. Brian is continuing to explore several possible sources of funds; I will keep you posted, and if you in turn have suggestions, please let us know. If any of you would like to help us tackle the job of fundraising, please call 472-4772.

Finally, here is some good news for all of us whose memories are becoming (or always have been) somewhat spotty. I have several copies of the words and music to "Hail Poetry" and "Now to the banquet we press" for our end-of-Musicale choruses.



Mrs. R. D'Oyly Carte

6110

Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

We gathered on Sunday, March 4, 2001, at 3pm at Marjorie Saad's; she had generously opened her home and had her piano tuned just for us. Marjorie's parents and husband came from Lebanon, and we enjoyed the many family treasures: the furniture, the art, and the family pictures which decorated her home. Present were 24 friends and members: Sue Ricket Caldwell, Reba Gillman, John & Carolyn Gregory, Andrew Hallock, Enid Hallock, Gary Hallock, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Jeff & Kathy Rothmeier, Owen Russell, Marjorie Saad and her relatives Dale & Sandy Norton and Mildred Joseph, Martha Schumacher & Errol Olson, Larry Shepley, and Leland L. Smith. Our Stage Director for *The Sorcerer*, G'ann Boyd, was present, but General Manager Brian Gaston was performing in *Oh Henry! Musical Short Stories* at the Scottish Rite Theater. Bee Polomé came in late after participating in a taping of the Civic Orchestra (she plays the viola).

President Larry Shepley told us that to cut back on our expenses we would continue to employ General Manager Brian only through June. After that we'll call on members for help with our Musicales. Reba remarked that what we needed to do was raise money. Larry asked if anyone knew the line from *Ruddigore* illustrated by the Bab drawing in the March Newsletter. No one did. It comes from the madrigal in the finale to the first act when all sing "Spring is green, Summer's rose, Autumn's gold, Winter's grey." And Hannah sings "in the spring-time seed is sown: In the summer grass is mown: In the autumn you may reap: Winter is the time for sleep."

John Gregory asked if there was a list of members available, and several others joined the request. Larry promised that one would be made up. Larry then turned the program over to our Stage Director G'ann Boyd.

G'ann told us that when she works with children her goal is to make them feel comfortable on the stage, and a first step is to show them it's all right to be silly. We all then engaged in a children's counting game guaranteed to make us feel silly. Shouting out numbers and responding quickly to others left us all feeling a little demented. G'ann said that this game tells her who panics and if it's physical or mental; she then knows how to teach each person in the cast. In the next exercise each took turns saying his/her name in three different emotional states.

G'ann then told us that *The Sorcerer* is about class distinctions, which were so important in Victorian England. There are two classes of people in *The Sorcerer*, and the love potion causes everyone to get mixed up. Each class had its own defining movement. The ladies of the gentry floated and used precise, refined hand positions. The peasant women wore big, colorful skirts and bounced. Gentlemen wore tight fitting pants, which showed off their calves — signs of virility; men took every opportunity to stand with one foot upon a step to display their fine calves. Peasant men wore loose pants and bounced. We then divided into five groups and retired to different corners of the room to work on scenes, choosing which class we would portray.

When we reassembled we enjoyed a musical interlude as Leslie Salas played the Pachelbel canon on the piano. Then we took turns as each group performed its scene and the rest of us remarked on what we saw. Larry passed out sheets of words, and with Leslie at the piano, we all sang lustily the opening chorus from *The Pirates of Penzance*. "Pour, O Pour the Pirate sherry!" G'ann then asked us all to sing it again and to act out characters for the scene. Sandy Norton as a barmaid passed among the milling crowd handing out imaginary drinks. By now our circulatory systems were working well, and we sank into our seats while Gary and Andrew Hallock sang the Pirate King's lines, and we then all rose to sing "Hail, Poetry!" The familiar "Now to the banquet we press" from *Sorcerer* followed, with delicious refreshments our reward. Many thanks to Marjorie for her gracious hospitality.

News of Members

Robert Mellin will appear soon in *The Devil's Disciple*, produced by Different Stages and directed by Norman Blumensaadt. Watch the papers for the time and place.

Emma Walters has a new address:

The Heritage at Gaines Ranch
4409 Gaines Ranch Loop, Apt. 225
Austin, TX 78735

Phone: 721-3254.

July Elderhostels

For a different and delightful vacation, sign up for one of the Elderhostel sessions run by our very own Rafe MacPhail.

Cost for one week, room and board included, \$450.

Held at the charmingly rustic Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, Connecticut.

First session: July 8 through 13, titled Gilbert & Sullivan and *Patience*.

Second session: July 15 through 20, titled Gilbert & Sullivan and *Pira-Mika-Fore; or, The Big Three*.

For further information, contact Rafe either by e-mail (RmacPhai@Bridgewater.edu), by phone at 540/828-5342 (Office) or 540/828-6656 (Home & FAX), or by mail:

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Box 114 Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, VA 22812

Elderhostel, of course, also has details (see their website www.elderhostel.org).

Web Site

Please continue to watch our web site progress at
www.gilbertsullivan.org
and for more information, see our old site at
members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa

New Office

We have now moved into our new office above the Bark n Purr Pet Center at 4604 Burnet Road. Our phone number is still 472-4772, and it is best to write us at our Post Office Box:

P.O. Box 684542, Austin, Texas 78768-4542



A picture from our website: Jim Hunter as the Monarch of the Sea, from our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* last summer; backed up by Michelle Girardot, Emily Bem, and Libby Weed.



Many thanks to IBM for a generous donation.

UNITED AIRLINES

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Membership and Donor Levels

Individual	\$20	One vote
Family or Group	\$30	Two votes
Youth, aged 18 & under	\$10	One vote
Senior, aged 65 & over	\$10	One vote

Benefits of membership include a regular Society Newsletter and 10% discount on tickets. Donor levels & benefits:

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Major General	\$250–\$499
Membership; listed in programs; 2 performance tickets	
Pooh-Bah	\$500–\$999
Membership; listed in programs; 2 performance tickets;	
2 tickets to opening night reception; donor party	
Pirate King	\$1000–\$2499
Membership; listed in programs; 4 performance tickets;	
4 tickets to opening night reception; donor party	
Savoyard	\$2500 & up
Membership; listed in programs; 8 performance tickets;	
8 tickets to opening night reception; donor party	

Many Thanks to the following corporate sponsors of our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*:

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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
 P.O. Box 684542
 Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

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Please check membership category:

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- ☐ Please contact me for a donation
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 please call our office.)
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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

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Larry Shepley

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

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

The Sorcerer



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