

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

MAY 2001 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

• Next Meeting •

• Our Monthly Musicale •

• Sunday May 6, 2001 • at 2:00 pm •

(Note the early time!)

At the Armstrong Community Music School
901 Barton Springs Road
Please bring munchies

Come meet the cast of *The Sorcerer* and hear Director G'ann Boyd talk about the production. This will be the last Musicale of the season.

Parking is available in the lot next to Tri-Cyclist Shop; in the Church of Christ lot off of Bouldin Avenue; and street parking along Dawson Road, north of Barton Springs Road.

Looking Ahead

There will be no musicale in June; instead attend one of the performances of *The Sorcerer*, at the Helm fine Arts Center at St. Stephen's School. The opening night and Gala on Friday, June 8th, is especially recommended.

In September 2001 a new season begins. After trying the Sunday afternoon Musicales this year, we plan to return to Monday nights for next year. Because of Labor Day on the first Monday of the month, our first musicale will take place on

Monday, September 10, 2001, at 7:30 pm,
Place to be announced.

OPEN HOUSE

Please come to our **Open House**, Friday May 11, 2001, 5:00-7:00 pm, at our office at 4604 Burnet Road above the Bark N Purr Pet Center; use the outdoor stairs on the left. Refreshments will be served, and that will be a good time to buy tickets for *Sorcerer*!

Message from Your President

• Larry Shepley

I really enjoyed last month's Musicale. Enid Hallock assembled an enthusiastic company, who represented the cast of our first *Sorcerer* in 1977. In those days it was our membership which provided the singers and actors, and it is in putting on G&S operas where the greatest enjoyment lies.

As I've said previously, Musicales in the future will be organized by you-all (with the Board of Directors), rather than relying on a General Manager. One idea I have is to present an opera by our members, complete with at least part of an orchestra. One or two Musicales will be rehearsals, followed by a Musicale for the opera itself! *Trial by Jury* is ideal, although so is *Pirates* (since we'll be doing *Pirates* in the summer of 2002). Look for further developments of this scheme.

Meanwhile, plans for *The Sorcerer* this summer are progressing. We still lack a Music Director — in fact, auditions this past month were conducted without a pianist. The turnout was good, though, and the singers and actors proved that they could perform a *cappella*, but we want to wait to finalize the cast until we find the person to lead the music. Our standards are high, and I am confident that *The Sorcerer* will prove to be a hit, particularly with G'ann Boyd as stage director.

At our Board meeting last month, we finalized budgets for the Society and for *Sorcerer*. We put quite some effort into making them as frugal as is consistent with top-notch productions. By putting our finances on a sound basis, I hope to attract more corporate and foundational support (and of course it is always a good idea to run our Society as carefully as possible).

Brian Gaston had several positive reports at the meeting. Our in-school program is scheduled for three schools. **PlayFest** provided a good financial return for a great show that was seen by about 1000 elementary students, with many enthusiastic participants. In addition, Brian and the Board drew up a list of jobs for which volunteers will be solicited, so watch out!

Ongoing projects include putting together an office manual, planning for the opening night gala, and of course, encouraging contributions. This last project is proceeding along several fronts, and we will be acknowledging some quite generous supporters in our Newsletter and in the Playbill for *Sorcerer*.

Finally, Leland Smith asked the Board to formally approve his History of the Society, which will be a fund-raising publication available in time for *The Sorcerer*. We of course were glad to do so, since even his first draft is well-written and accurate. The final publication will have some choice photographs, some delectable anecdotes, and some amusing comments from our members. Look for it.

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Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

On Sunday, April 1, 2001 at 3 pm, 27 people gathered at Paula Tyler's house to enjoy a retrospective program in honor of The Society's 25th year. Present were members Sue Caldwell, Len & Reba Gillman, Bruce & Enid Hallock, Andrew Hallock, Gary & Chris Hallock, D. Allen Lawshae, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerman, JoAnn Reeves, Jim Robinson, Owen Russell with guests C.U. & Helge Neumann visiting from Germany, Rosemary Russell-Vines, Larry Shepley, Katharine Shields, Andree Sjoberg, Leland Smith, Paula Tyler, Dorothy Wasserman, and Libby Weed, and guest pianist Felicity Coltman and her friends Dave & Ros Gutman.

Enid Hallock planned the program and asked Sue Caldwell to announce it. President Larry Shepley turned matters over to Sue at once, who told us that because pianist Felicity Coltman had a conflicting engagement we needed to start our program immediately. Sue said that a century to the day after the first performance of *The Sorcerer*, in London on November 17, 1877, the Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society opened its first production of *The Sorcerer*. Enid was able to bring together the pianist, Felicity Coltman, and nearly all of the leads from that production, including Jim Robinson as Alexis, Katharine Shields as Aline, Allen Lawshae as John Wellington Wells, Enid as Lady Sangazure, Rosemary Russell-Vines as Constance, and Gary Hallock as the Notary, plus Sue herself as chorus member. The role of Dr. Daly will be sung by Andrew Hallock, Gary's son, who was not even born in 1977. To reflect that fact Gary has revised Dr. Daly's recitative. And Andrew started things off, singing "Time was, when Love and I were well acquainted."

Next Sue told us, Aline is in love with Alexis and sings of her love in "Oh, happy young heart!" sung by Katharine Shields. Alexis believes that love should be pure and noble, and explains this to Aline with Jim Robinson singing "For Love Alone." Alexis wants the whole village to share in pure love, as he and Aline do, so he brings in the famous sorcerer, John Wellington Wells, who introduces himself in "My name is John Wellington Wells, I'm a dealer in magic and spells," sung by Allen Lawshae. The sorcerer casts a spell on the tea that Dr. Daly is about to serve to the villagers; it becomes a love potion that will cause unmarried persons who drink it to fall asleep, and then to fall in love with the first person they see when they wake up. Allen sang "The incantation" assisted by all the singers as chorus. The villagers drink the tea, and Jim and Katharine as Alexis and Aline sing "Oh love, true love!" The potion begins to take effect as the drowsy villagers sing "Oh marvellous illusion! oh terrible surprise! What is this strange confusion That veils my aching eyes?"

As the villagers wake up in the second act, of course each falls in love with the wrong person. Sir Marmaduke falls for Mrs. Partlet, and Lady Sangazure for Mr. Wells. Rosemary Russell-Vines as Constance sings "Dear friends, take pity on my lot ... when I saw this plain old man, Away my old affection ran — I found I lov'd him madly!" Convinced that this is all true love, Alexis demands that Aline drink the potion, so that he can be sure her love will never stray from him. She protests that she has already pledged her troth, but Alexis scornfully rejects this in "It is not Love," sung by Jim. So of course, Aline drinks the

potion, and awakes to see Dr. Daly, whom she immediately adores. Alexis enters and accuses her of being faithless, but somehow Dr. Daly realizes it was Alexis's fault that she drank the potion. Alexis then pleads with Mr. Wells to set things right. He does, by surrendering to the forces of evil and disappearing in a flash. All return to their rightful partners, and proceed to Alexis and Aline's betrothal party, singing "Now to the banquet we press," assisted by the audience. Because Andrew's mother arrived late and missed his opening song, he now repeated it, singing the original words "so everyone can see what a genius my Dad is." It was noted that not only did Felicity serve as "the orchestra" for our 1977 production of *The Sorcerer*, she also played for the Zachary Scott Theater production of *H.M.S. Pin-afore* in 1976 — the production that inspired the formation of The G&S Society of Austin.

Amid a shower of Thanks, Felicity left for her other engagement. President Larry took over to remark that at the last Board meeting we had discussed our faltering finances and that to save money we would no longer hire a General Manager, after the end of June. Among other things this would mean that members will be asked to plan the Musicales, as Enid had this one. Reba said we had gone over the budget in detail. We need people to write letters to corporations requesting contributions. We do OK on our productions but we need money to pay salaries, rent, and other ongoing expenses. Jim Robinson announced that he is still on the Board of the Houston G&S Society. They are planning an All-Out production of *The Pirates of Penzance* to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. It will open on Friday, July 20th and run for two weekends. It promises to be wonderful and Jim urged us all to go. Finally we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry" with Len Gillman at the piano, after a Pirate King lead-in sung by Allen, assisted by Andrew and others. As usual a good time was had by all as we chatted and munched the goodies provided by our members.

Note: This program was video taped. Copies can be made available at a nominal fee. If you're interested please call the office 472-4772.



Membership List

Arthur DiBianca has been working to clean up and update our Membership List. Meanwhile, if you notice any errors in the label on your Newsletter, please let us know via postcard to

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

or by phone at 472-4772 (please leave a message).

Gilbert & Sullivan Elderhostels

Sign up now for one of the July Elderhostel sessions in Connecticut 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: there are walking trails in the woods, a lovely lake with swimming and boating, and total immersion in G&S.

First session: July 8 through 13, concentrates on *Patience*.

Second session: July 15 through 20, concentrates on *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 and FAX), or by mail:

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Box 114 — Bridgewater College

Bridgewater, VA 22812

Or look up the Elderhostel website at

www.elderhostel.org.

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

Armstrong Moving & Storage; Austin American-Statesman; Audio Systems; Beckett-Blackerby; Capital City Men's Chorus; Güeros; LCRA Employees' United Charities; Thistle Café; Wells Fargo; William Gammon Insurance; Wilson & Goldrick Realtors; Wordsmith.

Special Thanks to

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UNITED AIRLINES

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Tickets for *The Sorcerer*

Opening Night Grand Gala & Champagne Buffet
8:00 pm Friday June 8 — \$30

Other performances are \$20 (half price for young persons 17 & under). Call our office for discounts for groups of ten or more.

Performances will be

Saturday June 9 (8:00 pm)

Sunday June 10 (3:00 pm)

Thursday June 14 (8:00 pm)

Friday June 15 (8:00 pm)

Saturday June 16 (8:00 pm)

Sunday June 17 (3:00 pm).

There will be a half-price Preview on Thursday June 7 at 8:00 pm. Starting May 1, we will be selling tickets to *The Sorcerer* both through our office (call 472-4772) and through our internet site

<http://www.gilbertsullivan.org>

(but please, don't request tickets before May 1, since we are still putting together the infrastructure for sales). This year, the seats will be reserved.

Actually, the Open House on May 11 (see invitation on page 1) will be a good time to buy tickets!

Be Part of History!

Contribute to Leland Smith's History of The G&S Society in honor of our 25th Anniversary. He especially needs pictures, comments, reminiscences, and anecdotes from our early years.

Please call Leland at 327-6813. The deadline for contributions is Friday, May 11, 2001.

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)

Name (as you want it to appear) _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

What company do you work for? _____

Please check membership category:

☐ Individual: \$20

☐ Family/Group: \$30

☐ Youth (18 & under): \$10

☐ Senior (65 & over): \$10

Membership benefits include our Newsletter & 10% discount on tickets.

☐ My donation of _____ is enclosed.
(For levels & privileges, see below.)

☐ I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.

☐ I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider contributing to The Society at one of the following **Donor Levels**: **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249); **Major General** (\$250-\$499); **Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999); **Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499); **Savoyard** (\$2500 & up). Donors receive various benefits, including membership, listing in programs, and other benefits. Please call our office for further information.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

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G&S Office

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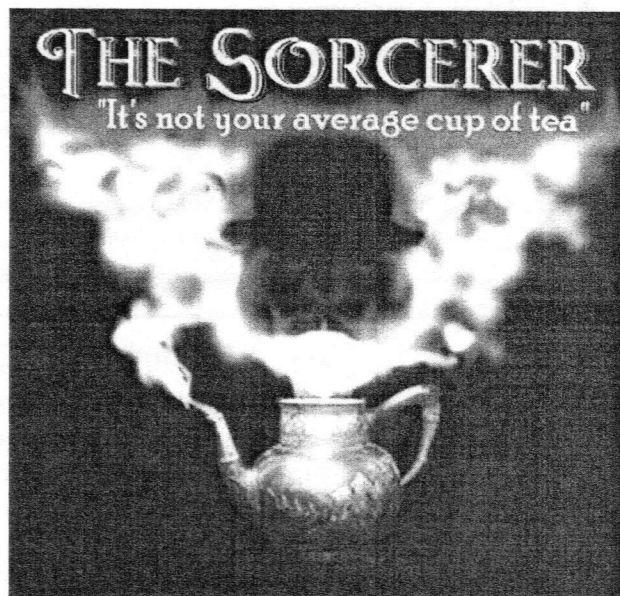
Reba Gillman

Layout

Larry Shepley

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org



Coming June 7-17, 2001

Helm Fine Arts Center, St. Stephen's School

For tickets (available on May 1)

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or visit our website <http://www.gilbertsullivan.org>

THE
GILBERT
&
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SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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