

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

APRIL 2002 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

• Next Meeting and Musicale •

Monday April 1, 2002, at 7:30 pm

At Paula Tyler's: 4400 Balcones Drive;
459-4639

Songs Your Grandmother Sang

Leslie Salas will regale us with her program of golden oldies (from her grandmother's collection) with Faith DeBow at the Piano.

Please bring munchies

Looking ahead

We are hoping to hold our final Musicale of the season at the Armstrong Music School on Sunday May 5 at 3:00 pm. If this does not work out the Musicale will take place on Monday May 6 at 7:30 pm at Paula Tyler's. Look for the announcement in the May Newsletter.

Next Board Meeting
7:00 pm, Monday April 8 at Paula's

Message from Your President

• Larry Shepley

One of the privileges of being President is taking credit for good things that happen whether I had anything to do with them or not (such as the sun rising). *Princess Ida*, however, as a do-it-yourself opera, was my idea originally (Leland Smith had been pushing us to do it as a full-fledged version for some time), but of course the directors, Art DiBianca, Gary Hallock, and Brad Merrell, with Derek Smootz, really deserve most of the credit. In any case, it was a rousing success, and do-it-yourself programs should be repeated. Barbara Lee of Westminster Manor was most helpful, both in arranging for Harris Bell Hall and during the performance. I'd call it a sell-out, but we didn't charge admission; in any case, it was standing room only!

In the future, I propose that we charge a small admission fee (but not to members!). There are costs involved, but mainly there is work. It's such fun, though, that I think we'll have lots of volunteers to do future shows. Jeanne Stillman did a great job on piano, and thanks, too, to Lynda Oswalt, Dona Brooks, and Leslie Salas (who sang *Princess Ida*) for their help as rehearsal accompanists. Rehearsals were at the home of Chris & Gary Hallock, and Anita Krampitz was an important consultant. Everyone in the company especially is appreciative of Andrew Hallock's superb job as Music Director. Also see Reba's writeup.

In other news, the Board firmed up our dates for this summer's major production. It will be *Trial by Jury*, preceded by little-known scenes from Gilbert & Sullivan, or Gilbert or Sullivan without the other. The grand opening will be Friday June 14, with shows for that one weekend only. We will be playing at the Helm Fine Arts Center of St. Stephen's School. Auditions were Saturday March 23. Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, G'ann Boyd, and Cheryl Borden will repeat their successful collaboration, which started with *The Sorcerer*.

The Board also began thinking ahead to 2003, when we will put on *The Pirates of Penzance*. As you know, *Pirates* is expensive to do right — and Rafe MacPhail will return to Austin to make sure we do it right! We even began thinking about 2005, when the Long Center will be open, with dreams of a production of *The Mikado* which all Austin will be talking about for years (at least until our next, even better presentation!).

Closer to home, time-wise, I want to thank Jennifer Burleson for keeping our web page current. Elsewhere in this Newsletter there is an article about *Pirates in School*, but I can't thank Jean & Derek Smootz enough for their hard work in organizing it. *Pirates in School* is an example of what we do for the youngest members of our community, and it is only part of how The Society has become part of the Austin arts scene in the past quarter century. If I sound a bit like a booster, it is because I really like what we're doing, and I hope I showed my enthusiasm when I

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Melissa & Lady Psyche — Photo by Steve Schwartzman

26/10

Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

The Musicale at Westminster Manor on Monday, March 4th was a smashing success. Harris Bell Hall was jam packed; extra chairs were brought in and some people even sat on the floor. Members we never see at Musicales mingled with the regulars and the crowd of Westminster residents. The concert version of *Princess Ida* was a delight, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Gary Hallock provided a historical display next to the stage area, and Jean Smootz set up a great sales area out in the hall (lobby) for G&S memorabilia (History, T-shirts, videos, etc.), complete with decorative pictures. Directors Arthur DiBianca, Gary Hallock, and Brad Merrell, with Derek Smootz, did a fine job of condensing the three acts. Andrew Hallock was the authoritative conductor, and narrator Gary Hallock made everything clear. Jeanne Stillman was the pianist, and President Larry Shepley played along on his flute, adding a pleasant melodic touch to the proceedings. In addition he served as host and welcomed the guests and introduced the show.

The 13 performers sat on the "stage," rising when called upon to sing or speak. Dialog, solos, and choruses mingled to tell the story and present the music. The characters were mainly identified by their hats, which proved to be a wonderful idea, especially since most of the audience could really only see the singers from their waists up (no risers). The exception to this was "This helmet I suppose," for which Arac was clad in rather splendid armor, which he suitably removed line by line, as he sang. There was one intermission midway in the program, which gave people a chance to stretch their legs and look over the merchandise in the lobby. At the end of the show we were all invited to partake of thie cookies and punch provided by Westminster Manor.

The Company

King Hildebrand
Hilarion (*his Son*)
Cyril } (*Hilarion's friends*)
Florian }
King Gama
Arac } (*his sons*)
Guron }
Scynthius }
Princess Ida (*Gama's Daughter*)
Lady Blanche (*Professor of Abstract Science*)
Lady Psyche (*Professor of Humanities*)
Melissa (*Lady Blanche's Daughter*)
Sacharissa

Arthur DiBianca
Holton Johnson
Brad Merrell
Bill Hatcher
Harold Gilbert
Derek Smootz
Mark Briody
Errol Olson
Leslie Salas
Libby Weed
Enid Hallock
Janette Jones
Clydene Freeman

Choruses sung by all

Music

"Search throughout the panorama" Chorus & Florian
"Ida was a twelve-month old" Hilarion
"We are warriors three, sons of Gama, Rex"
Arac, Guron, Scynthius, & Chorus
"If you give me your attention" Gama
"For a month to dwell In a dungeon cell"
Arac, Guron, Scynthius, & Chorus
"We've taken sev'ral easy flights" Chorus of girls

"Oh, goddess wise That lovest light" Princess Ida
"Gently, gently, Evidently We are safe so far"
Cyril, Hilarion and Florian

Intermission

"A Lady fair, of lineage high" Lady Psyche with
Cyril, Hilarion & Florian
"The woman of the wisest wit" Psyche, Melissa,
Cyril, Hilarion, & Florian
"Would you know the kind of maid" Cyril
"Stand forth, ye three" Finale to Act II
sung by all except King Gama
"Death to the invader!" Chorus & Melissa
"Whene'er I spoke Sarcastic joke" Gama & girls
"When anger spreads his wing" Chorus of girls & soldiers
"This helmet, I suppose" Arac, Guron, Scynthius, & Chorus
"This is our duty plain" Chorus during fight, girls & men
"With joy abiding" Finale to Act III
sung by all except King Gama

Gary announced that in keeping with the Society tradition we would end by singing "Hail Poetry" from *The Pirates of Penzance*, and "Now to the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer*. The Company sang lustily, and some of us in the audience rose to sing with them, feeling a little conspicuous.



Photo by Maurice Ommerman — Note the hats

July Elderhostels with Rafe in Ivoryton, Connecticut

Rafe MacPhail isn't coming to Austin this year, so why don't you join an Elderhostel course and visit him. He says he misses us all and would be delighted to see any Austin folk.

Offered this year are:

1) Gilbert & Sullivan and *The Gondoliers*, July 14–19. This is a "reunion" course, with some of the participants returning year after year, but newcomers are always welcome.

2) Gilbert & Sullivan and *Pira-Mika-Fore: The Big Three*, July 28–August 2. This is the ideal course for the newcomer to Ivoryton.

Held at the charmingly rustic Incarnation Center, with walking trails in the woods, a lovely lake with swimming and boating, and total immersion in G&S. Cost for one week, room and board included, \$492. For registration and other information, see page 175 of the Elderhostel Catalog for Summer 2002 (available in most public libraries) or see www.elderhostel.org. Other information from Ralph MacPhail, Jr., RMacPhai@Bridgewater.edu or Box 114 Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA 22812-1599.

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submitted our application for funding to the Austin Arts Commission. Their decision will be at the end of the summer, but since the money they have to allocate is based on the hotel bed-tax, the current downturn in hotel occupancy means they may have less than in previous years. But I'm optimistic.

We need help getting money from other sources. If you have ideas, please call me.

The Board also voted to initiate an adopt-a-portion-of-the-show program. Look for a list of how you, too, can adopt part of our production this summer and be immortalized in the Playbill.



Princess Ida & Lady Psyche — Photo by Steve Schwartzman

Taxes

We have been telling people that only part of their annual dues is tax-deductible, since you can't deduct that part of the dues for which you receive benefits. Loel Graber pointed out that IRS publication 526 (which you can see by going to www.irs.gov) provides that if the basic membership dues are less than \$75 (which ours certainly are!), then you can disregard certain benefits, including token items (such as our Newsletter, presumably). If you have questions, better ask a tax consultant, but we are no longer telling people they can only deduct part of the dues when they take deductions. Our phrase now is that your contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

Pirates in School

Our in-school program is called *Pirates in School*, for it tells the story of a troupe of stage people which is presenting a short version of *The Pirates of Penzance* — suitable for elementary school children. The program recently played at Brentwood Christian School and at Spicewood Elementary School. The company includes **Janette Jones** (who generously also provides rehearsal space), **Jeanne Stillman** (who is the accompanist), and **Lara Britton, Craig Feser, Eric Peabody, and Davis Tucker**. **Derek and Jean Smootz** organize and schedule this group. We do charge enough so that we don't lose money, but if a school cannot pay, we reduce the price, possibly drastically. Our object is not to make a profit but to spread the joys of G&S. There are some performances still to come, and more are sought. If you have schools which you feel would benefit (and frankly, all would!), please call Jean or Derek at **259-2373**, or contact them at jsmootz@texas.net.



Adopt-A-Show

Here is your chance to adopt a portion of our *Trial by Jury* production this summer. Your name will be listed prominently in the Playbill, and our gratitude will be effusive:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| At the \$75 level: | • A Chorus Member |
| At the \$250 level: | • A Principal Performer |
| At the \$300 level: | • Steinway piano |
| | • Percussion |
| | • Security/parking |
| | • A Technician |
| At the \$500 level: | • Costumer |
| | • Souvenir Libretto |
| | • Accompanist |

If you wish to help us with a special gift, please call our office at **472-4772** or e-mail us at info@gilbertsullivan.org.

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**: **Patron** (\$50-\$99), **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

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of
Gilbert & Sullivan through

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Reba Gillman

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Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.



Janette Jones
Libby Weed
Clydene Freeman
Larry Shepley
Jeanne Stillman
Jean Smootz
Andrew Hallock

Photo by
Steve Schwartzman

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