

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

DECEMBER 2002 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Next Musicale Keep on your Calendar

Annual Business Meeting & Musicale

Business: Revision of By-Laws and election of Directors

**Monday January 6, 2003
7:00 pm
at Paula Tyler's house**

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The By-Laws Committee

We have been working hard on constructing new, appropriate, and legal Bylaws. The most important change is that by Texas law, a non-profit, membership organization must elect a Board of Directors. The Board then elects its own officers. Until now our membership has elected officers who as Executive Board have served as our Board of Directors, but this does not conform to Texas law.

Sue Caldwell did a magnificent job on a first draft and met with other members of the Executive Board to refine the document. A final version will be available at our annual meeting in January. Copies of the document will be on hand at 7 pm for members to review and discuss. The formal meeting will begin at 7:30 pm as usual and will take place at Paula Tyler's house.

Next Board Meeting

The December meeting of the Executive Board will be at 7:00 pm, Monday, December 2, at Paula Tyler's, 4400 Balcones Drive. You are invited!

Message from Your President

• Larry Shepley

Please watch for the next Newsletter. In it there will be important news about our Bylaws. Our present Bylaws do not reflect what we are doing, but more important they are not in agreement with legal requirements for a membership organization such as ours. We will be devoting our Annual Meeting on January 6 to this matter, and we would like you to participate. One important procedural matter has to do with the election of officers, which is usually the main agenda item of the January meeting. Of course, whatever reorganization may occur, we will still be a Society which is based on you, our Members, and which is devoted to bringing to Central Texas the most enjoyable musical theater ever written — the operas of Gilbert & Sullivan!

I have been guilty of telling people that *The Grand Duke* deserves its obscurity, but Len Gillman has complained that I am unnecessarily negative about it. After all, as Len says, to say that it is not up to the standards of, say, *The Pirates of Penzance*, is hardly much of a criticism; neither is *Cats*. Len suggested that I would be better off saying simply that *The Grand Duke* was the least successful G&S opera — “after all, one of them has to come out last.” Well, I agree that *The Grand Duke* is last, but I also agree that I shouldn't downplay a production I enjoyed as much as I did.

I have a recording of *The Grand Duke*, with all the music (but not the dialog), and I think our version is better. Brad Merrell and Art DiBianca had to reduce the length of the opera because Westminster Manor felt that a short concert version would be better for that venue. The result, however, is a nice, pleasant, lively opera, with just enough stage business — again, due to Brad and Art. I find myself humming the songs and smiling over remembered parts, much more than I ever did after listening to the full version. Len, who, let's face it, can be a somewhat severe critic, thinks that we should publish Brad and Art's version. I'll let you know if we do.

In other news, we are applying for grants and donations — please, if you have ideas, let us know. We will also be stepping up our publicity efforts, so look for us and listen for us. Would you like to help? Please contact me!

Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

Our November production of a concert version of *The Grand Duke or, The Statutory Duel*, edited and produced by Brad Merrell, Arthur DiBianca, and Larry Shepley, was a great success. Brad and Art did a wonderful job of cutting and condensing to achieve an efficient version of the very complicated plot. They had to omit some of the music, but chose very wisely and left in the best parts. Their cast of 13 singers sang well, using music and wearing a variety of identifying hats. I particularly enjoyed the performances of a visiting newcomer to our ranks, Larry Garvin. He undertook to sing the parts of the Grand Duke and also the Prince of Monte Carlo. The latter appears only in the final scenes but is a wonderful, French-accented, patter-singing character, with the catchiest song of the whole opera. Everyone did a fine job, but our former President Libby Weed distinguished herself as a loud-mouthed and unpleasant Baroness von Krakenfeldt — a real acting accomplishment!

The two performances at Westminster Manor (Monday November 4 and Thursday November 7), were well attended but not uncomfortably crowded, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Thanks to Jean Smootz, who helped out by selling tickets on November 4, and Terri Wilson, who sold tickets on November 7. I was there both days and sold a few G&S items during the intermission. President Larry Shepley was everywhere, making announcements, tending to little problems, and playing the flute (although not very much this time). Andrew Hallock was a fine Music Director, and accompanist Gloria Kim was excellent, cheerful, and reliable. Gary Hallock served as Master of Ceremony, as he does so well, explaining the action and setting the scenes. We agreed that Westminster Manor is well suited to this kind of production and that we should do this every year. Two performances seemed more comfortable than only one.

Finally, it should be said that we actually cleared a modest profit on this production. Residents of Westminster Manor were admitted free, but others were charged \$5.00 admission. Costs were low, and the three producers contributed to support the event.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin presents
A concert production, edited and produced by
Brad Merrell, Arthur DiBianca, and Larry Shepley
November 4th and 7th, 2002
Westminster Manor, Harris Bell Hall

W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's

The Grand Duke or, The Statutory Duel

Dramatis Personæ

Rudolph , <i>Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpennig</i>	Larry Garvin
Ernest Dummkopf , <i>A Theatrical Manager</i>	Brad Merrell
Ludwig , <i>His Leading Comedian</i>	Arthur DiBianca
Dr Tannhäuser , <i>A Notary</i>	Richard Ketcham
The Prince of Monte Carlo	Larry Garvin
Herald	Gary Hallock
The Baroness von Krakenfeldt , <i>betrothed to Rudolph</i>	Libby Weed
Julia Jellicoe , <i>an English Comédienne</i>	Christine Walsh
Lisa , <i>A Soubrette</i>	Leslie Salas
Princess of Monte Carlo , <i>betrothed to Rudolph</i>	Dana McDougal

Chorus of Chamberlains, Nobles, Actors, Actresses, etc.

Christine Walsh, Libby Weed, Leslie Salas,
Dana McDougal, Brad Merrell, Richard Ketcham,
Mike Kelly, Gary Hallock, Enid Hallock, Robin Garvin,
Larry Garvin, Arthur DiBianca, Barbara Buttrey

Music Director, Andrew Hallock
Accompanist, Gloria Kim
Flautist, Larry Shepley

G&S Mugs

Tastefully designed with the G&S Logo. Only \$10. Call our office or write us for one of these handsome mugs (lead-free and microwave and dishwasher safe).



Randalls/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

Please register your Randall's Remarkable Card —Randalls will donate 1% of your bill to us (and up to two other charitable groups, if you wish). To register, visit the customer counter and use our name and number:

Gilbert and Sullivan Society 10090

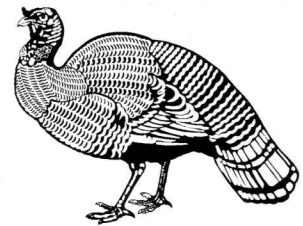
This is an easy and cost-free (to you!) way to help us out.

President **Larry Shepley** starts things off at *The Grand Duke*, November, 2002, as **Robin Garvin** and **Libby Weed** wonder why he's wearing a jester's hat.



Larry Garvin as the Prince of Monte Carlo discusses matters with **Art BiBianca** as Ludwig. **Dana McDougal**, the Princess of Monte Carlo, and **Christine Walsh**, Julia Jellico, have vested interests in their conversation. From our production of *The Grand Duke*, November, 2002.


*Happy
Thanksgiving
Y'All*



Help Us Sell Ads

Look around at the places where you do business. Would any of them be willing to place a business card-sized ad in this Newsletter? (This announcement is that size, in a space 2" x 3.5".) We will place up to four such ads per issue, at the introductory charge of \$20 per ad. Call our office at 472-4772, or send an e-mail to

info@gilbertsullivan.org.



The Gilbert & Sullivan
Society of Austin

Trial by Jury ...And More

Video now available. Only
\$20 (or \$22 if you wish it mailed.)

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

Annual Grand Productions

Pirates in School

Musicales

Musical Scholarships

Monthly Newsletters

Holiday Season Shows

G&S Office

4604 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756

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

(512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]

Executive Board

President	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Executive Vice-President	Libby Weed	837-5441
Production Vice-President	Sue Ricket Caldwell	343-7700
Publicity Vice-President	Charles Antonie	733-1006
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	391-8400
Historian & Parliamentarian	Jean Smootz	259-2373
Director at Large	Paula Tyler	459-4639
Director at Large	Chris Buggé	345-9551
Director at Large	Arthur DiBianca	707-2809

Newsletter Editor

Reba Gillman

Layout

Larry Shepley

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.

G&S Society Season Schedule for 2002-2003

Annual Business Meeting

(with Music)

Monday January 6, 2003, 7:30 pm

Fundraising Gala

February 2003

G&S Gems with Rafe MacPhail

March 2003

Executive Board Meetings

Monthly, dates to be announced

The Pirates of Penzance

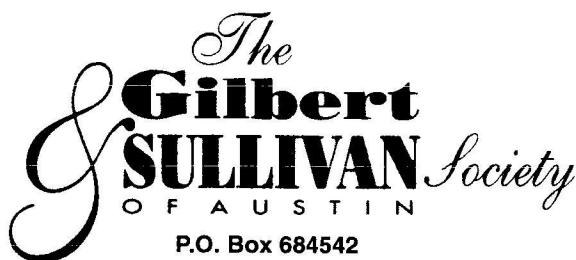
June 2003

Helm Theater, St. Stephen's School



TEXAS
COMMISSION
ON THE ARTS

The Pirates of Penzance is funded in
part by the City of Austin under the aus-
pices of the Austin Arts Commission.



P.O. Box 684542
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December 2002