

THE

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

APRIL 2003 NEWSLETTER

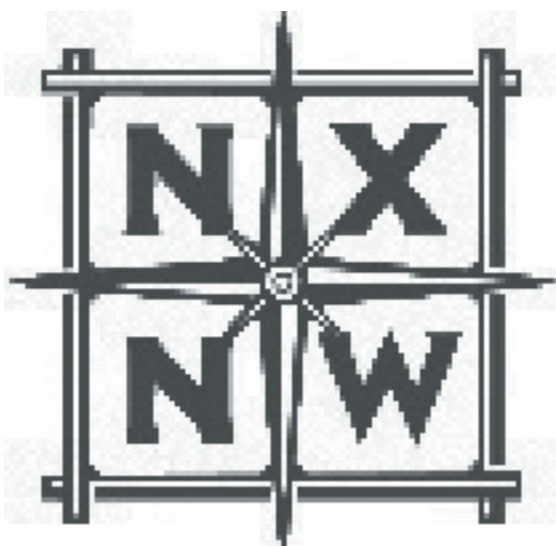
A Pirate Feast & Fun

A Benefit for
The Gilbert & Sullivan
Society of Austin

featuring scenes from
The Pirates of Penzance and Iolanthe

with

Kristin Burritt, Frank Delvy, Larry Garvin,
Harold Gilbert, Russell Gregory, Holton Johnson,
Janette Jones, Brad Merrell, Davis Tucker,
Claire Vangelisti, and Gloria Kim, Accompanist



Sunday April 6
at 6:00 pm at
North by Northwest
10010 N. Cap of Tx Hwy
Full Buffet Dinner
(cash bar)
Only \$35 per person

Call 733-1006 for reservations (Chuck Antonie)

Last Musicale • *The Pirates of Penzance*: An evening of Airy Persiflage, with Rafe MacPhail, Jr.

Reba Gillman

On Monday March 3, 2003, at 7:30 pm, 39 members and guests gathered at the home of Benny and Nancy Jay, to welcome our stage director Rafe and enjoy his knowledgeable but light-hearted comments. Present were: Chris Buggé (Jean came later), Sue Ricket Caldwell, Lucian Chimene, Frank & Donna Delvy, Arthur DiBianca & Elana Wakeman, Larry & Robin Garvin with new baby Hannah (very well behaved!), Harold Gilbert with Cheryl Youngberg & Rosemary MacIsaacs, Len & Reba Gillman, Enid Hallock, Gary Hallock, Bill & Nan Hatcher with Anne Peticolas, Rafe MacPhail, Jr., Rob McIntyre & Ali Shahpar, Robert Mellin, Brad & Laura Merrell and Nancy Jay, Martha Schumacher, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley & Wayne Saslow, Charles Smaistrle & Candice Clark, Leland L. Smith, Paula Tyler, Claire Vangelisti, Libby Weed, and Theresa Wilson & Antonio Fuentes.

President Larry Shepley opened the evening by thanking all for attending, and recounting the tremendous turnout for the auditions for our June production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. 64 people came to try out on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2. Directors Jeffrey Jones-Ragona and Rafe MacPhail, Jr., were able to set the cast, with only a few still unconfirmed players. Larry listed the cast, which appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. He then turned the evening over to Rafe.

Rafe began by expressing his pleasure at being again in Austin. He was glad that Larry was driving him around, because he did not want to drive in Austin until it was absolutely necessary. He spoke of his first directing stint with us, *The Mikado* in 1998. He said it was the highlight of his career. He recalled fondly the 1999 *Patience*, and how the roof fell in after the first weekend, leading to a performance in a small choir room, followed by the heroic and successful efforts of a dedicated team to take apart the set, piece by piece, and move the show to the gym for the three remaining performances; and his last time here in 2000 to direct the Gilbert and Sullivan masterpiece, *H.M.S. Pinafore*. And now he's back to direct *The Pirates of Penzance*, one of the most loved and most often performed G&S operas.

He went on to describe the family atmosphere in which his G&S experience had flourished. His father came to the U.S. from Scotland at the age of 12, already loving G&S, and later performed in *Pirates*. He was asked to leave the cast of *Ruddigore* when he was caught goofing around in his picture frame. When the D'Oyly Carte company came to Washington, D.C., Rafe bought 6 tickets, 2 for each of 3 operas, and took his Dad to see *Pirates*. Rafe's son, Alexander, grew up immersed in the G&S that absorbed his Dad, and knew all the songs.

Rafe went into considerable detail about Tom Lehrer, the mathematics graduate student, and later professor, who began entertaining his friends at parties with satirical verses to his own accompaniments, often modeled after well-known G&S songs. "The Elements" set to "I am the very model of a modern major general" is one we all know.

Rafe gave some of the history and described his own

experiences with *Pirates*, including a production he had directed in Atlanta. The show ran for 12 weekends in a small, cabaret theater. The first G&S-D'Oyly Carte opera was *Trial by Jury*, followed by *The Sorcerer* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and then *Pirates*. Some of the lost music from *Thespis* showed up in *Pirates*. In the 1879 production of *Pirates* at the Fifth Street Theater in New York City, two characters had names no one knows any more: Richard, the Pirate Chief, is now simply the Pirate King; Edward was the name given to the Sergeant of Police.

Rafe then talked about some of the nonsense the operas have inspired. He mentioned a German translation of *Pirates*, and played a Campbell Soup commercial, a take-off of G&S, done on the radio by Martyn Green. It was called "Campbell's Chowder" and lasted 60 seconds. Rafe also played "I am the very model of a modern college president," written by Sylvia Fine and sung by Danny Kaye. He played us excerpts from a translation of *Pirates* into Esperanto, and told us that the Papp production of *Pirates* restored parts of the opera that had been omitted in earlier productions. Throughout his talk Rafe provided some illustrations, passing photos through the audience, and playing an audio tape (ably assisted by Brad Merrell).

Rafe then returned us to Larry, who thanked him, and announced the April 6th Gala Fund Raiser at North by Northwest Restaurant (see page 1). Larry Garvin, our visiting law professor, came forward to play the piano as Frank Delvy sang the Pirate King's introduction; we all rose and sang a capella "Hail Poetry," with Larry G. conducting. Larry G. returned to the piano to play "Now to the banquet we press," as we all sang lustily.

Repairing to the usual delicious spread brought by our members and laid out in the kitchen, we also enjoyed samples from Larry Shepley's well stocked wine cellar. I can testify that the Harvey's Old Bottled Sherry Bristol Cream Bottled 1979 was excellent. We thank the Jays for their generous hospitality. We enjoyed the presence of Nancy, but Benny was far away in Beijing on business.

Contributors to Pirates 2003

(Please add your name to this growing list!)

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé, Larry Shepley**

Individual: **Reba & Len Gillman**

Jean & Ed Smootz

Corporate, Government, and Foundation:

The Still Water Foundation of Austin

Priority Copy

Eyes of Texas Laser Center

Cedra Corporation

Westminster Manor



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



News

Reba Gillman

On March 3, 2003, two months after **Bee Harris Polomé** married **Milt Weiss**, she underwent surgery for lung cancer and is now recuperating. She does not want visits or phone calls but might appreciate cards from friends; cards may be mailed to:

Bee Polomé
3403 Loyola Lane
Austin, Texas 78723

I neglected to mention that **Andrew Hallock** was the music director and **Pamela Stout** the pianist in the delightful *Die Fledermaus* at St. Edward's last January.

Rafe MacPhail, Jr., will again be part of two Elderhostel programs at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT: **Gilbert & Sullivan: Trial by Jury and The Sorcerer** (July 13–18); **Gilbert & Sullivan: Pira-Mika-Fore, The Big Three** (July 27–August 1). For further information, call toll-free 1-877-426-8056 Monday–Friday 9am–9pm eastern time.



Rafe MacPhail and Chuck Antonie at auditions for *Pirates* at Genesis Presbyterian Church.

Photo by
Larry Shepley

Cast of Pirates

Larry Shepley • President

We had an outstanding turnout for auditions the first week-end in March. 64 people showed up to try for the 34 places in the cast. I'm so glad I did not have to choose from these talented performers. Rafe MacPhail and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona had the enjoyable task of choosing the best and the enviable chore of deciding not to select some great singers and actors. Here are the results:

Major-General Stanley	Jim Hunter
The Pirate King	Frank Delvy
Samuel (<i>his Lieutenant</i>)	Tom Lawshae
Frederic (<i>the Pirate Apprentice</i>)	Holton Johnson
Sergeant of Police	Russell Gregory
Mabel	Claire Vangelisti
Edith	June Julian
Kate	Kristina Horacek
Isabel	Jeanette Franz
Ruth (<i>a Pirate Maid of all Work</i>)	Janette Jones

Chorus of Pirates, Police, and General Stanley's Daughters:

Nancy Arnold, Sean Arnold, Cheryl Boeck, Kristin Burritt, Cecily Cano, Barrett Davis, Trey Deason, Harold Gilbert, Meredith Groeschel, Ashley Harris, Amanda Hatfield, Amy Kelley, Eva Laskaris, Boyd Lawrence, Chelsea Manasser, Randall McIntyre, Robert McIntyre, Emma McNairy, Brad Merrell, Fola Osifekun, Kert Peterson, Michael Phillips, Derek Smootz, Mandy Summers

Rehearsals have already started. Just after the first, I got an e-mail message from Jeffrey which included: "you guys are going to be blown away by the sound these guys make I could weep for joy." I was at the auditions, listening through the heating ducts, and I know that Jeffrey's enthusiasm is well founded!

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]

Board of Directors

President	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Executive Vice-President	Brad Merrell	257-1742
Secretary	Libby Weed	837-5441
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	391-8400
Historian	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Directors	Chuck Antonie	733-1006
	Chris Buggé	345-9551
	Reba Gillman	327-2277
	Steve Schwartzman	453-2334
	Paula Tyler	459-4639

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

A Pirate Feast & Fun

Benefit for The Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Sunday April 6, 2003 — See page 1

Next Musicale

Monday September 8, 2003 — Save the Date

Iolanthe

Concert performance, coming in October, 2003

***The Pirates of
Penzance***

**Thursday June 12 through Sunday June 29
at the Helm Fine Arts Center, St. Stephen's School
Watch for announcements.**

.....

Next meeting of the Board of Directors
7:00 pm Monday April 7 at Paula Tyler's



PO Box 684542
Austin TX 78768-4542
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 2054
AUSTIN, TEXAS

