

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

SEPTEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

## Our Next Musicale

**Monday September 12 at 7:30 PM**  
**at the home of Nancy and Benny Jay**  
**4305 Hyridge Drive**  
**343-8408**

### Please bring munchies!

Start the new Season right! Come enjoy our usual friendly musical and social evening. **Brad Merrell** is putting together a delightful program with a sea-faring theme, in preparation for our production of *Pinafore* next June. **Gloria Kim** will accompany.

Hyridge



Adirondack

Mesa

Steck

MoPac

### Directions to the Jays' House:

From MoPac, exit on Steck going west. Keep going until Steck dead ends at Adirondack. Turn right on Adirondack and follow it to Hyridge Drive. Turn left on Hyridge. The house is the third on the left. It has a circular drive, but please park in the street, not on the drive.

## From Your President

Dear Friends:

Did you see *The Mikado* in June or July? I hope so. I saw and spoke with many of you, and all seemed very pleased with the production (including me).

The show was just super — beautiful to the eye and to the ear. Everyone did a terrific job, including our Artistic Director **Ralph MacPhail (Rafe)**, our Music Director **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, and our Production Manager **Natalie George** (and don't forget our Very Talented Cast). These are the key people I worked with the most, but there were many other important people working on it, and I thanked them all in person.

The most serious matter that I can recall that was less than terrific was the temperature of the theater in the first weekend of production. This was resolved with the help of the Austin High School staff. In almost every other regard, the Austin High School Performing Arts Center was the best facility we have ever used, particularly backstage.

There were other superlatives, too. We played to our largest total attendance ever. Our reduced-price Thursdays were very popular and greatly appreciated! Every seat was filled on Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup>. In the last few desperate moments when we were trying to seat late comers I wished I hadn't taped over the restricted view seats behind the orchestra. My gosh, what a show that was. I couldn't even sit in the theater to watch the show as I customarily did. I took a seat backstage in the wings instead. I got some amused attention from the cast, who realized I was there because I couldn't find a real seat.

That particular evening both Rafe and I spoke briefly to the cast just before curtain. I told them they were about to play before the biggest audience ever to attend a G&S/Austin show. Everyone was quite excited.

We are hoping that this success will carry over to success in 2006. We will try to identify everything that contributed to the success and do it again. In that regard, we will be producing another very popular show — *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Thanks to all, *Bill Hatcher*

## The Mikado 2005 On DVD and CD

Thanks to Nancy Jay, we have high quality recordings of our production of *The Mikado*. The two-disc DVD is available for \$20, and the two-disc CD (audio only) is available for \$10. These recordings may be ordered through our website

[www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

or by calling our office at 472-4772.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Ten lucky people have won free DVDs of *The Mikado*. Everyone who filled out our survey during the run was automatically entered in the drawing. The winners will be notified shortly.

Here are photographs of *The Mikado* by Cecily Johnson. More may be found on page 4, and even more at <http://www.cecilyjohnson.com>



Yum-Yum (Christiana Cole Little) & Pooh-Bah (Sam Johnson)



Three Little Maids: Pitti-Sing (June Julian), Yum-Yum (Christiana Cole Little), & Peep-Bo (Meredith Claire Groeschel)



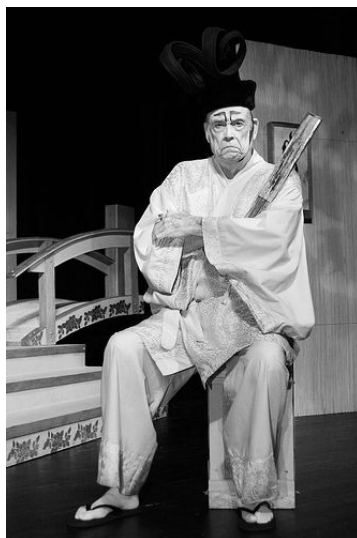
Nanki-Poo (Holton Johnson)



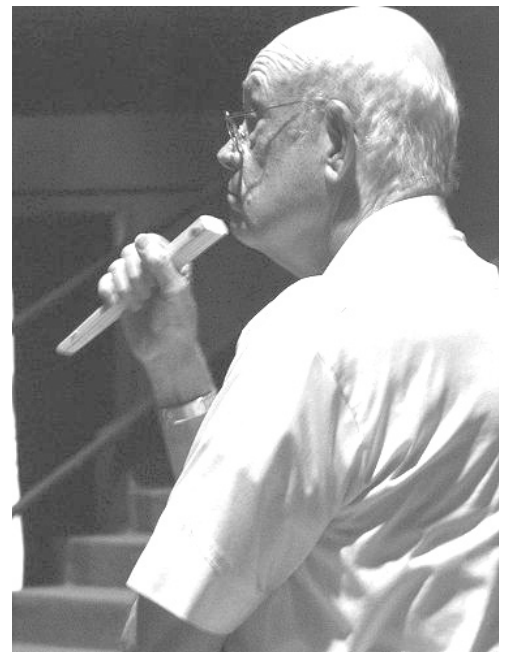
Natalie George & Pitti-Sing (June Julian)



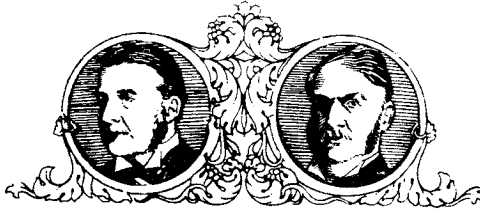
Katisha (Rose Taylor) & Ko-Ko (Trey Deason)



The Mikado (Russell Gregory)



The Mikado (Russell Gregory)



**RALPH MacPHAIL, Jr.**

Box 114 Bridgewater College  
Bridgewater, Virginia 22812-1599

July 3, 2005

**Dear Members of the *Mikado* Company and  
Members of the Board of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin,**

I've spent the past several days trying to express gratitude to all of you for your devotion to our cause this summer. I was so pleased with the way the show was received, because I was so pleased with the way it ran. As I told you earlier this evening, it was a remarkably consistent series of performances of a complex show involving lots of music and dialogue and business.

I'll resist the temptation to name names, because the success of this summer is attributable to so many, working together in harmony and love. It is *very* gratifying to work with this society!

Alice and I are so grateful for our friendships with you. We wish to express again our gratitude for your many acts of kindness and hospitality extended toward us, and we look forward to returning next summer for another adventure with you and the Savoy operas.

Thank you again for the lovely gifts; I shall treasure the framed poster, and think of you frequently as I press the lovely writing implements into use.

Alice joins me in sending warmest regards to you all, and our renewed thanks for a lovely *Mikado*.

*May all good fortune prosper you,  
May you have health and riches too,  
May you succeed in all you do!  
Long life to you!*

Yours sincerely,

## News of Members

President **Bill Hatcher** reports on a pleasant six-day hiking trip along the Continental Divide in Colorado. The views were magnificent. Bill has undertaken this expedition with two old buddies every summer for the last 15 years.

Former President **Larry Shepley** spent seven days on a Danube river cruise in Europe. They stopped to visit many central European cities, including Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, and Melk, with light classical music along the way.

**Patricia Kaplan**, was a faithful volunteer during the run of *The Mikado* (backstage she sewed up deteriorating costumes, and in the lobby she sold T-shirts and other goodies). In August she spent a busy week at the Incarnation Center ElderHostel in Connecticut listening to Rafe MacPhail's *Pira-Mika-Fore*, watching G&S videos, and soaking up the wealth of diverse information Rafe has spent his life collecting. She enthusiastically recommends the experience.

**Andrew Hallock** (Enid's oldest grandson, and our occasional Music Director) came home to Austin for the summer, but has now returned to The Hague in the Netherlands, where he is pursuing a two-year program in early music. Andrew works hard wherever he is, and has now added an interest in constructing instruments to his repertory.

**June Julian**'s company, Pinkstone Productions, LLC, gave a delightful concert on August 21<sup>st</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church of Austin, with singers **June, Claire Vangelisti, Xavier Jaramillo, Stephen Ruduski, Emma McNairy, Meredith Groeschel, Janet Forman, Stephanie Blackwood, Kate Harrod, Sara Jacobi, and Madeline Elizondo**, several of whom are well-known G&S performers. It was a fast-paced "Musical Drama in the Afternoon."

**Rafe MacPhail** will return to Connecticut October 2-7 to run another *Pira-Mika-Fore* session, sponsored this time by Incarnation Center. This is your chance! For information call Reba Gillman at 327-2277. Now that he has retired from teaching, Rafe will be kept busy doing the G&S activities that he loves.

## Deaths

With sorrow we report the death of **Emma Walters** on June 13. At the age of 99 she had lived a long and interesting life. Her son, Emil, came to the Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> opening Gala performance of *The Mikado*, which we dedicated to Jess and Emma Walters. At a later date we will inform you all of plans to honor **Jess** with a Chair in the Long Center and how to make your contributions.

Another long-time member, **Robert Miller**, of Miller Blueprint, died in August. He and his wife were old-time residents of Austin who remembered local G&S performances from before our existence.




Pooh-Bah (**Sam Johnson**) with chorus and three maids (**June Julian, Christiana Cole Little, & Meredith Claire Groeschel**)



Lord Low Attendant to Ko-Ko and The Mikado (**Jareb Blackford**)



Katisha (**Rose Taylor**)



*B. N. Pictures*  
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### NOTICE

In July the Society moved into a very nice new office, and Jean Smootz has been working hard to organize our hitherto disorderly collection of G&S materials. We are now physically located at 6901 North Lamar, Suite 139. Going north on Lamar this is on the right just before you come to Airport Blvd. The phone remains 472-4772, and U.S. mail should continue to be sent to PO Box 684542, Austin TX 78768-4542.

### Randall's/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### G&S Videos, DVDs, CDs & Memorabilia

Call our office or write us to order our delightful merchandise: T-shirts, librettos, DVDs, CDs, and videos; all at reasonable prices. Phone 472-4772.

### Member of the Month

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month" (who is randomly selected). The Member of the Month is entitled to receive a CD of our 1998 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for April is:

**Dr. & Mrs. Stanton A. Taylor**

Congratulations! Please call our office (472-4772) to let us know where we should send your CD.

### Contributors to *The Mikado* 2005

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé • Lawrence Shepley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Michael & Libby Weed.** Contributors: **Anonymous • Richard & Jennifer Arndt • Ken & Emily Ashworth • Mr. & Mrs. John C. Besperka • Larry & Becky Brenner • Chris Buggé • John Dailey • Marion DeFord • Betty B. Evans • Charlotte & William Flynn • Len & Reba Gillman • Loel Graber • Russell Gregory • William P. & Naomi Haight • Bruce & Enid Hallock • Betty R. Hatcher • James A. Hitt • Karen & Bob King • Edward Kluth • George & Nancy McQueen • James S. Moore • Mr. & Mrs. James Plugge • Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts • Charles & Diane Radin • James Robinson • Dorothy A. Rutishauser • Lawrence Shepley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Earl R. Hunt & Susan C. Spruance • Still Water Foundation, Inc. • Cleve H. Tandy Foundation • Jean Tolman • Paula Tyler • Bill & Mary Weaver • Michael & Libby Weed • Westminster Manor • Eve & John Williams • John & Betty Wood.** We wish to thank especially the following individuals for their continuing support: **Byron Arnason • Marion DeFord • Russell Gregory • Andrew, Enid, & Gary Hallock • Kristine M. Olson • Allen Lawshae • Barbara Lee • Randall McIntyre • Rosemary Russell-Vines • Cynthia Ryan & Valerie Ryan in memory of James C. Ryan • Katharine Shields • Patricia Spurr • Rose Taylor • Steve & Louise Weinberg.**



*The Mikado* was funded in part by the City of Austin under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission and supported by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



## 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 a membership category. Membership benefits include our Newsletter and 10% discount on tickets.

- ☐ Individual: \$20 or more  
☐ Family/Group: \$30 or more  
☐ Donation only (no membership)  
☐ I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider becoming a member 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). Donor members receive additional benefits. Please call our office or visit our website ([www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)) 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  
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Monthly Newsletters • Holiday Season Shows**

G&S Office: **6901 N. Lamar Blvd. #139, Austin, TX 78752**

Mail Address: **P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542**

Phone: (512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]



The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. We are pleased to receive funding from the City of Austin under the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas commission on the Arts.



## Board of Directors

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	<b>Brad Merrell</b>	257-1742
	<b>Larry Shepley</b>	327-1511

Newsletter Editor

**Reba Gillman**

Layout

**Larry Shepley**

Our web site: [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

E-mail: [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:info@gilbertsullivan.org)

## Musicale

Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the home of Nancy & Benny Jay, 4305 Hyridge Drive; see page 1 for details.

Watch for the announcement for our concert version of

### *Cox and Box*

in late October or early November. Brad Merrell is producing and directing this show.

## FLASH

It has been decided! The next big show (in June 2006) will be

### *H.M.S. Pinafore*



For he might have been a Roosian, A French, or Turk, or Proosian, Or perhaps Italian!



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