

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

OCTOBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

These pictures and those on inside pages are by Cecily Johnson.  
They are from our production of *The Mikado* this past June.



Rose Taylor as Katisha with chorus of School-girls



Trey Deason as Ko-Ko with the Gentlemen of Japan

## \*\*\*\*\* Flash! \*\*\*\*\*

In order to build on the success of this year's *Mikado*, the G&S Board formally appointed **Rafe MacPhail** and **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** Artistic Directors of the Society. The Board also appointed **Natalie George** Production Manager for next summer's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. They occupy distinguished places in their community's activities, as briefly described below:

**Ralph MacPhail, Jr. (Rafe)**, is known world wide for his research into Gilbert and Sullivan affairs. He retired in May as Professor at Bridgewater College and now is free to pursue his G&S interests all year long. He and Deb Lyon were invited to run a special *Pira-Mika-Fore* session, usually produced as an ElderHostel at Incarnation Center in Connecticut, for members of a retirement community in Medford, Oregon, sponsored by Harry and David (famous among other things for their Royal Rivera Pears). Rafe reports that this was a great success, and will probably be repeated next year.

**Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** is the choir director at Saint Mary's Cathedral and the artistic director of the Capital City Men's Chorus. In addition he takes on many other stints in the

## From Your President

Dear Friends:

Many of you attended the Musicale last month at the home of the Jay's, and I hope all enjoyed it. Our next activity will be *Cox and Box* in November. Your Board will continue to plan and present musical programs such as these, and we've got some good ideas for the Spring, too.

Planning for June and July of next year is also under way. That will be the time frame for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Many of the key decisions and commitments are either already made or will soon be made. It is gratifying to see planning take place well in advance of the event.

A fund-raising program is underway under the direction of Allan Longacre. He and his committee put together a plan and schedule which was subsequently approved by the Board. The work is in progress. I am confident that we will be able to fund a very successful *Pinafore*.

Finally, I want to mention that we are selling CDs and DVDs from this summer's *Mikado*. Nancy Jay did a great job with them. You may purchase them by mailing a check to our office. The audio CDs are \$10 and the DVDs are \$20 each.

I hope each of you is enjoying the change of pace and temperatures which the Fall brings.

Best regards, *Bill Hatcher*

musical and theatrical life of Austin. He is especially proud of the recent honor of conducting the first complete performance given in Austin of the Monteverdi *Vespers* of 1610. This was a project of the Schola Cantorum, The Texas Early Music Project String Orchestra, and The Whole Noyse, a renaissance band from San Francisco. He is also going to appear as actor in *Tam O'Shanter*, a play based on a poem by Burns.

**Natalie George** works at Saint Edward's University as Lighting Designer and takes other jobs as production manager, recently for our 2005 *Mikado*. At present she is production manager of a play *American Fiesta* to open soon at the State Theater. In August she went to New York City as the Lighting Designer of *The Philomel Project: A Barbarous Pleasure*. This play, produced last year at the Blue Theater by Refraction Arts Project and very favorably received in Austin, was accepted to play at the New York International Fringe Festival in August 2005. Natalie reports that it was exciting to go to New York and be enthusiastically received. A very favorable review appeared in the *New York Times* on August 19.

## Last Musicales

Reba Gillman

The fall season started with a clang, tra la, as we gathered at the lovely home of Benny and Nancy Jay on Monday September 12th. In all 28 people were present, members and guests: Byron Arnason, Chris Buggé, Lucian Chimene, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bill & Nan Hatcher, Pat Hobbs, Nancy Jay, Cecily Johnson, Nancy McQueen, Laura Merrell with Dan and Marcus Merrell, Bee Polomé & Milt Weiss, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Bob Sharron, Andrée Sjoberg, Jean Smootz, and Theresa Wilson; with performers Brad Merrell, Arthur DiBianca, Bruce Douglas, Kristin Burritt, and June Julian; and Lord High Pianist Gloria Kim.

President Bill Hatcher opened the evening with announcements and invitations: to subscribe to Randall's program by signing up to place the G&S Society on your Randall's card to receive a small percentage of your purchases; that DVDs and CDs of the 2005 *Mikado* are now available for purchase; that we will present a concert version of *Cox and Box* in early November. Brad Merrell is working on this seldom performed opera. Sullivan wrote the music, but an interloper named Francis Cowley Burnand wrote the libretto. (The plot seems just as topsy turvy as if Gilbert were the author.) Finally, Bee Polomé invited us all to attend the free concert to be given by the Austin Civic Orchestra on Saturday, September 24th at the Bethany Lutheran Church on Slaughter Lane.

Brad Merrell then took over the program, based on a sailing theme in honor of our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* next June. He said some non-G&S music would be offered as well as the tried and true. To start, Bruce Douglas sang "The Sailor's Song" written in English by Joseph Haydn when he first went to England. June Julian sang "Au bord de l'eau" by Fauré. Brad sang "I shipped d'ya see," from *Ruddigore* (sung by Richard Dauntless, a man o' war's-man). And Arthur DiBianca undertook a sequence from *The Grand Duke*, "Why, who is this approaching?" including audience participation

\* \* \* \* \*

## News of Members

**Nancy McQueen** signed up for the extra session of *Pira-Mika-Fore* which was to be run by **Rafe MacPhail** and **Deb Lyon** at Incarnation Center in Connecticut the first week in October. She was very disappointed to learn that it had been cancelled. Since it was not an ElderHostel offering it did not benefit from their nationwide publicity, and too few people registered.

**Len and Reba Gillman** made a long-awaited jaunt to Connecticut to see their first great grandchild. **Charlotte Hope Gillman-Boggs**, aged just under 6 months, was well worth the visit! Seeing other relatives (son, grandson, brother) was a bonus — the frosting on the cake.

**Rafe MacPhail** reports the joyous news that he and **Alice** will become Grandparents in January. He says he is lobbying to name the baby boy Seymour Schwenk MacPhail, but he suspects that his son **Alexander** and Alexander's wife **Karin** have other plans.

as chorus, and featuring the Duke of Monte Carlo singing about his "beeuteeful daughter." Bruce Douglas then sang a Schubert sea song "Der Schiffer," composed when Schubert was about 20. Gloria Kim performed the virtuoso piano part with élan. And Kristin Burritt sang "Poor wand'ring one," the coloratura aria from *Pirates*. Gloria Kim finished off this section beautifully, playing the Chopin Nocturne, Opus 9.

To start the *Pinafore* section Brad asked us all to sing along in the sailor's chorus, "We sail the ocean blue, And our saucy ship's a beauty; We are sober men and true, And attentive to our duty." Brad sang "I am the captain of the Pinafore," with choral assistance from us all. Switching roles, Brad assumed the part of Ralph (pronounced Rafe, as you surely remember) to sing the duet with June as Josephine, "Refrain audacious tar, your suit from pressing." (It must be noted that Gilbert was as unrelenting a punster as our own Gary Hallock.) A new Josephine appeared, as Kristin Burritt sang "Sorry her lot." Art then announced that he would try to sing the part of Sir Joseph from memory "but no matter what happens you must all come in when you're supposed to," and launched into a fine "When I was a lad." "A British tar is a soaring soul," sung by Art, Brad, and Bruce, concluded the program. Art sang the Pirate King's lead-in, and we all rose to sing a lusty "Hail Poetry" followed by a vigorous "Now to the banquet we press."

We then adjourned to friendly conversation and delicious refreshments. Brad made the delectable, but sinfully rich cheese cake. Many thanks to the warm welcome from our hosts, Benny and Nancy Jay.



Russell Gregory as The Mikado

### The Mikado 2005 On DVD and CD

Thanks to Nancy Jay, we have high quality recordings of our 2005 production of *The Mikado*. The two-disc DVD is available for \$20, and the two-disc CD (audio only) is available for \$10. Please include a \$2.00 shipping fee per item ordered. These recordings may be ordered through our website

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

or by calling our office at 472-4772.



"Now, some bridegrooms would be depressed by this sort of thing!" Holton Johnson as Nanki-Poo and Meredith Groeschel, June Julian, and Christiana Little as the Three Little Maids.

#### 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.

#### 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 October is:

**Robert Ruliffson**

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.**



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Cultural Arts Division

## 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)

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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.



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Arthur DiBianca  
as Pish-Tush

## *Cox and Box*

Our concert version is now in the works, coming early in November or December. Watch for dates in the November Newsletter.

No October performances to announce allowed some leeway in publishing the October Newsletter. The November Newsletter will appear in a more timely fashion.

Coming:

## *H.M.S. Pinafore*

**our big production in  
June 2006**



Trey Deason  
as Ko-Ko

*The*  
**& Gilbert  
SULLIVAN**  
OF AUSTIN  
*Society*

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October 2005