

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER

COMING ATTRACTIONS!!!

Save the date

Monday, May 8, 2006 at 7:30 PM

Our next Musicale will be a grand affair held at the lovely home of Nancy and Benny Jay, on Monday, May 8th at 7:30 PM. June Julian is working with Janette Jones on exciting plans for an evening to highlight our upcoming production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, with solo performances by some of our favorite performers, and Sing-A-Long group participation. More details will appear in the May Newsletter. Meanwhile, do plan to attend!

Program — An Evening of Musical Merriment

<i>The Hippopotamus</i>	Flanders & Swann	Russell & Jerry
<i>A Wonderful Guy</i>	Rodgers & Hammerstein (<i>South Pacific</i>)	Jerry & Paula
<i>When I, Good Friends</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan (<i>Trial by Jury</i>)	Russell & Jerry
<i>The Rose</i>	McBroom	Jerry & Paula
<i>When I Was a Lad</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan (<i>H.M.S. Pinafore</i>)	Russell & Jerry
<i>Fiddle, Fiddle</i>	Anderson	Jerry & Paula
<i>Oh, Better Far to Live and Die</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan (<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>)	Russell & Jerry
<i>Every Time I Feel the Spirit</i>	Spiritual	Jerry & Paula
<i>When a Felon's Not Engaged</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan (<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>)	Russell & Jerry
<i>Medley</i>	Rodgers & Hammerstein (<i>The Sound of Music</i>)	Jerry & Paula
<i>I Stole the Prince</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan (<i>The Gondoliers</i>)	Russell & Jerry
<i>Italien</i>	Muskowski	Jerry & Paula
<i>Tit Willow, Tit Willow</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan (<i>The Mikado</i>)	Russell & Jerry
<i>Memory</i>	Webber (<i>Cats</i>)	Paula & Jerry
<i>A More Humane Mikado</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan (<i>The Mikado</i>)	Russell & Jerry
<i>Instrumental Piece</i>		Jerry & Paula
<i>The Warthog</i>	Flanders & Swann	Russell & Jerry
<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i> (abridged)	Gershwin	Jerry & Paula
<i>If I Were a Rich Man</i>	Bock & Harnick (<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>)	Russell & Jerry

From Your President

Dear Friends:

What is it that permeates the theater and theater-goers during a captivating performance? I've heard it called "magic", as in "go out on stage and make the magic."

A few weeks ago our own dear Russell Gregory and his friends Paula and Jerry Stephens performed in the "Evening of Musical Merriment," and they spun a magical thread that was captivating and enthralling. The entertainment was very fine and contained beauty, warmth and humor. The beauty was the splendid talent that animated the material. The warmth was the appreciation of the large and friendly crowd, and humor was in the witty words set to song. See the program at left and more remarks on page 2.

There really was something special that Russell, Paula, and Jerry wove that night. Something that made you realize how much you enjoy music. Something that made you forget "the duties of the day" (*Gondoliers*). Something ephemeral. Something worthwhile.

That evening "the air was filled with amatory numbers" (*Sorcerer*). Hail Poetry. Hail, all hail, divine emolient. (*Penzance*)

Thank you Russell, Paula, Jerry, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., and the Society members who brought the idea of this evening to reality.

Fond regards, *Bill Hatcher*

CELEBRATION

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin is 30 years old!

Ann Coltman, who was a member in the first years of the Society and is now on our Board of Directors, is teeming with ideas for a grand festival. She is pursuing early members, some of whom left Austin long ago, with the hope of getting some of them to come back to Austin for a party. Current thinking is to plan a Bang-Up Event for the fall. Ann is thinking of so many ways to celebrate that she needs time to organize.

Ann is also hoping to update our very popular *A History of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, Texas, Inc. 1976-2001* by Leland L. Smith.

If YOU have ideas or information please call or email Ann at 394-0852 or annbev@freenet.de.

An Evening of Musical Merriment

With Russell Gregory
and

Dallas Piano Duo Jerry & Paula Stephens

Report by *Reba Gillman*

A delightful evening was enjoyed by a full house at the First Presbyterian Church at 8001 Mesa Drive at 8 PM on Saturday, March 4, 2006. Russell set the stage for each of his songs with interesting and appropriate hats and shoes; the simple clothing in between added spice and variety. He was accompanied by Jerry & Paula Stephens. His offerings were chiefly well known Gilbert & Sullivan, with two songs by the more contemporary British comics, Flanders & Swann. He finished off with "If I were a rich man" from *Fiddler on the Roof*, and a Western song encore to satisfy some of his admirers. His style and voice were superb, and we all know about his amazing facial expressions. Each G&S piece was introduced with light-hearted comments from our Artistic Director and G&S Authority, Ralph MacPhail, Jr. In between the songs, the Piano Duo exhibited astonishing facility as they played a variety of pieces, many from well known Broadway musicals.

Afterwards performers and audience gathered in the lobby for cookies and punch, and friendly conversation. The church is a very welcoming performance space, home to a number of musical programs; it generously included this Evening of Merriment in its schedule. Our program was a great success: We made money to support our 30th anniversary production of *Pinafore*, and a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to Allan Longacre, who worked long and hard to produce this event. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped smooth along the evening: Ann Coltman with daughter Penny, Cecily & Sam Johnson, June Julian, Barbara Longacre, Nancy McQueen, and Libby Weed with husband and all around helper, Michael.



Natalie Does It Again!

Congratulations to **Natalie George**, our production manager for *H.M.S. Pinafore*, who is returning from another exciting trip to New York City. She went as Tour Manager and Lighting Designer for the show, *Not Clown*, put on in Austin by Physical Plant Theatre. A thoughtful and interesting, favorable review appeared in the *New York Times* on March 20th. The play is described as "a crafty piece of meta-theater" with a plot that is "an elaborate allegorical joke, albeit a very dark one with political overtones." Obviously it is more than a century apart from the playful Victorian works of Gilbert and Sullivan, and yet perhaps a legitimate sequel in our time. We must honor Natalie for her skilled involvement with such widely different kinds of theater.

H.M.S. Pinafore *The Company*

Stage Director & Choreographer	Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Music Director & Conductor	Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
Production Manager & Publicity Director	Natalie George
Stage Manager	Monica Kurtz
The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. (<i>First Lord of the Admiralty</i>)	Russell Gregory
Captain Corcoran (<i>Commanding H.M.S. Pinafore</i>)	Frank Delvy
Ralph Rackstraw (<i>Able Seaman</i>)	Holton Johnson
Dick Deadeye (<i>Able Seaman</i>)	David Fontenot
Bob Bobstay (<i>Boatswain</i>)	Alan Pochi
Bob Becket (<i>Boatswain's Mate — Carpenter</i>)	(To be announced)
Tom Tucker (<i>Midshipmite</i>)	Brian Wieckowski
Josephine (<i>The Captain's Daughter</i>)	Claire Vangelisti
Hebe (<i>Sir Joseph's First Cousin</i>)	Heidi Hargrove
Mrs. Cripps (Little Buttercup) (<i>a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman</i>)	Janette Jones

*First Lord's Sisters, his Cousins, his Aunts,
Sailors, Marines, etc.*

**Rachel Albrecht • Jenna Beaird • Stephanie Blackwood
Michael Borgsow • Jasmine Crist • Arthur DiBianca
Andy Fleming • Lauren Ford • Amy Kelley
Morgan LaBin • Mark Long • John Lopez
Jennifer McKenna • Paul Nixon • Kert Petersen
Rachel Plitt • Austin Powell • Penny Wendtlandt
Katherine Wiggins • Natalie Wilemon • Jay Young**

NOTE: We welcome back some of our tried and true performers, most notably **Janette Jones** and **Frank Delvy**. They have not trod the boards with us for several years. And of course we will be delighted to hear **Russell Gregory**, **Holton Johnson**, and **Claire Vangelisti** again. Last year, high school student **Taylor Garrison** was the youngest singing member of the cast for *The Mikado*. She was chosen to sing in the chorus this year but had to withdraw. She is applying to the prestigious Interlaken School and has been told she must attend their summer session. Way to go, Taylor!

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 2005 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

Harold Gilbert

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 • Mrs. D.J. Sibley • 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.



This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



Contributors to *H.M.S. Pinafore* 2006

Richard & Jennifer Arndt • Ken & Emily Ashworth • Marilyn Babcock • Jim & Eleanor Cochran • Peter & Felicity Coltman • Marion DeFord • Loel Graber • James A. Hitt • Brent & Una Jacob • Edward Kluth • Elaine Martens • Norman & Emilia Martin • P. S. Neff • James Plugge • Bee Harris Polomé & Milt Weiss • Eugene & Betty Ripperger • Dorothy Rutishauser • Jane Dunn Sibley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Becky Stewart • Bernadette Tasher • The Voloch Family • Libby & Michael Weed • John Wood

Orchestra sponsored by Reba & Leonard Gillman



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Thank You IBM

Stephanie Blackwood, who has appeared in several of our productions, provided the essential contact which allowed us to receive from IBM a very generous donation of a computer with monitor and a laser printer. This equipment was sorely needed, and we are immensely grateful to IBM for this gift.

Thank You

We gratefully wish to acknowledge the following donors: In honor of Bee Polomé: Peter & Felicity Coltman, Marilyn Babcock, Jean & Ed Smootz, Libby & Michael Weed. In honor of Bruce Hallock: Libby & Michael Weed. Please accept our most sincere thanks!

We also wish to thank especially the following individuals for their continuing support: Byron Arnason • Marion DeFord • Russell Gregory • Andrew, Chris, & 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 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

or by calling our office at 472-4772. Please also ask about our many other recordings, tee-shirts, and other memorabilia celebrating our 30 years of bringing G&S to Central Texas.

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.

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 with your check, payable to "GSSA":

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
P.O. Box 684542
Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

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- Pirate King (\$1000-\$2499)
- Savoyard (\$2500 & up)

We are proud to list our members in our programs,, but if you would prefer NOT to be listed in our programs, please check here:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of G&S through
**Annual Grand Productions • G&S in School
Musicales • Musical Scholarships
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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.



Artistic Director
Music Director
Database Manager

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
Arthur DiBianca

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	June Julian	301-7316
	Jean Smootz	259-2373



Our Artistic Director Rafe MacPhail's notes almost always have a clever illustration; this is the latest, by Dan Tremblay.

Coming

H.M.S. Pinafore

will be our production in 2006
in celebration of our 30th Anniversary

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays
June 15 – July 2, 2006
Crockett High School
5601 Manchaca Road

Have you ever seen *H.M.S. Pinafore*?

What, never?

Well, hardly ever!

The
Gilbert & SULLIVAN Society
OF AUSTIN

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Austin TX 78768-4542

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See inside!

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April 2006