

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER

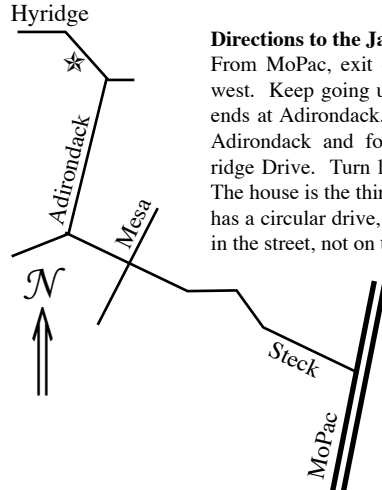
Our Next Musicale

“The Wand’ring Minstrels”

Monday May 7, 2007, at 7:30 PM
 At the home of Benny and Nancy Jay
 4305 Hyridge Drive — 343-8408

Please bring munchies

Our new and fabulous outreach program, *The Wand’ring Minstrels*, **Michael Borysow**, **David Fontenot**, **Janette Jones**, and **Eva Laskaris**, with **Lynda Oswalt** as the accompanist, will provide an evening of song and wit. It will be a delightful prelude to *Ruddigore*.



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.

Message from Your President

Dear Friends:

We have great news about Frank Delvy – his recovery from his surgery has been extremely successful and I am proud to announce that he will be able to resume his role as Despard. We are so thankful to all of you who sent your well wishes for Frank, and we all look forward to seeing him on stage in *Ruddigore*.

For a short preview of the show to come, join us for a delightful evening of music at the home of Nancy and Benny Jay on Monday, May 7. Our performers will be our fine troupe of *Wand’ring Minstrels*: **Eva Laskaris**, **Janette Jones**, **Michael Borysow**, and **David Fontenot**. We also say a fond farewell to one of our newest Board members, **Todd Galbraith**, who has had to resign his post in order to handle some pressing family matters. Todd, we wish you and your family all the best. In the meantime, we send out a big thank you to **Eva Laskaris** for stepping in to handle the logistics for the Educational Outreach program. **Allan Longacre**, our Executive Vice President, will now be the Board liaison for this and other community outreach.

One thing is always certain, and that is CHANGE. This is simply a part of life and we cannot let this stop us short in our tracks. We are always progressing and going forward to our goal of putting together another fine show. Only one month to go before we open for *Ruddigore*. Mark your calendars and purchase your tickets in advance by going to our website, www.gilbertsullivan.org. And get ready for some ghostly capers, laughter and fun!

All the best, *June Julian*

Our major production of 2007:

Ruddigore

The Texas School for the Deaf
 1102 South Congress Avenue

June 7 – June 24
 (See inside for more details)

Group Tickets for *Ruddigore*

It's time to sell those tickets to Gilbert and Sullivan's witty, tuneful musical melodrama *Ruddigore*! All G&S members, friends, and readers of this newsletter have contacts, whether members or not, with numerous groups throughout the Austin area. Please encourage those you know to participate in the group project for performances of *Ruddigore* in June. If you can't sign them up yourself, please refer them to **Pat Hobbs** (512) 259-9169 for an introduction to the project and the discount benefit to those who attend *Ruddigore* as a group (10 or more).



Our major production of 2007:

Ruddigore

Or, The Witch's Curse

The Texas School for the Deaf
1102 South Congress Avenue

Thursday June 7 (Reduced-price preview), 8 pm
Friday June 8, 8 pm

(With complimentary opening night gala)

Saturday June 9, 8 pm
Sunday June 10, 3 pm

Friday June 15, 8 pm
Saturday June 16, 8 pm
Sunday June 17, 3 pm
Friday June 22, 8 pm
Saturday June 23, 8 pm
Sunday June 24, 3 pm

Ticket Prices

Thursday

Advance: Adults \$15, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$10
Walk-up: Adults \$20, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$15

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Advance: Adults \$20, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$15
Walk-up: Adults \$25, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$15

Group sales (10 or more): Adults \$18

For advance sales, call 1-800-494-TIXS or vi

Principals

Robin Oakapple/Ruthven Murgatroyd — **Trey Deason**
Richard Dauntless — **Michael Borysow**
Sir Despard Murgatroyd — **Frank Delvy**
Old Adam Goodheart — **David Fontenot**
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd — **Russell Gregory**
Dame Hannah — **Patricia Combs**
Mad Margaret — **Janette Jones**
Rose Maybud — **Glady Marie Posch**
Zorah — **Christine Walsh**
Ruth — **Mandy Summers**

Chorus & Ghosts

Stephanie Blackwood • Daniel Brookshire • Art DiBianca
Andy Fleming • Janet Forman • Taylor Garrison • Meagan Higgins
Angela Irving • Alicia Jumonville • Bob Kieras • Mark Long
John Lopez • Jordan Smith • Ann Moeller • Christy Munger
Rain Nox • Erin Pivek • Ariel Rios • Mark Rodman
Derek Smootz • Katherine Wiggins • Jay Young



News of Members

Society member Dr. **Frank DiBianca** (father of our Database Manager **Arthur DiBianca**) was recently presented with the Marconi Science Award by Unico National for his industrial and academic work in the field of medical imaging. Unico National is an Italian American service organization with chapters throughout the U.S.

The Pirates of Penzance

Report by Reba Gillman

Some local G&S members joined the enthusiastic audience at the Paramount Theatre to enjoy the Carl Rosa Opera touring company production of *The Pirates of Penzance* on Thursday April 12. (*Pirates* also played on Friday, April 13.) This company tours from Great Britain and promises to present a traditional version of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, including material from original D'Oyly Carte productions which was later deleted. (It has been said there usually were good reasons for the deletions.)

It was a rollicking and fast moving production with an excellent orchestra, good singers, interesting costuming, active choreography and never a dull moment. There were, however, for this viewer, a few confusing moments and sometimes a faked feeling that certain particular action was done solely for audience approval. As a long-time loyal Austin G&S Society member I was particularly struck by the enthusiastic audience response and the almost completely sold-out house on both nights. If the Paramount can sell out two nights, why can't we?

It is of interest to note that the next stop on this U.S. tour was for our neighboring G&S Society of North Louisiana in Shreveport, LA. That one-night presentation was enhanced by the curtain-raiser *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*, written by W.S. Gilbert, and directed by our Artistic Director, Ralph MacPhail, Jr. According to the *Shreveport Times* both shows were favorably received.

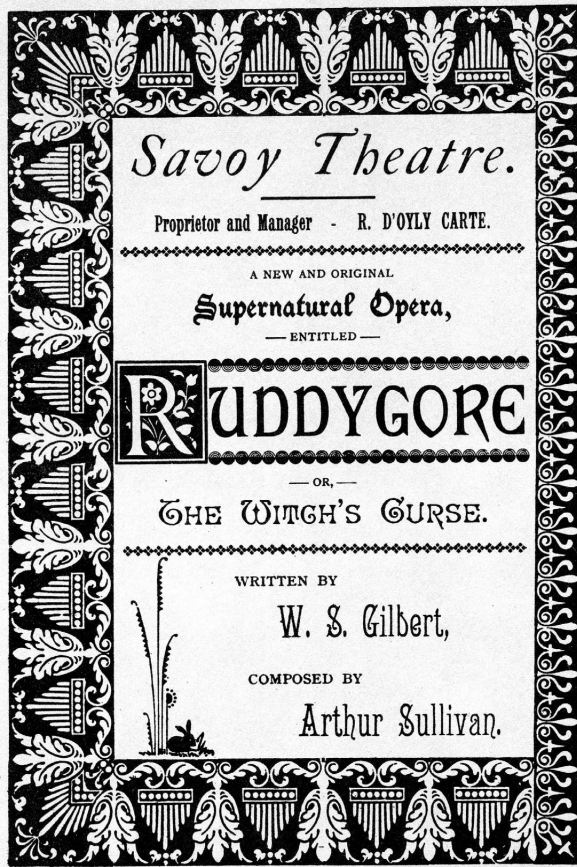
The Capital City Men's Chorus

The **Capital City Men's Chorus**, with Artistic Director **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, will present a concert *Which Way Do You Swing?* on Sunday, May 6 at 4 pm at Central Presbyterian Church, 8th and Brazos, with special guests the David Chenu Quartet and Dianne Donovan. For information visit ccmcaustin.org or call 477-SING.

The Wand'ring Minstrels

We are proud and happy to be able to present our new out-reach program, which will be available to perform for schools, businesses, and community organizations. A 45 minute presentation, giving a tight, short version of *Pinafore*, followed by some material from *Ruddigore*, will include a question and answer session for performances in schools. The cast includes: **Michael Borysow, David Fontenot, Janette Jones, and Eva Laskaris**. **Todd Galbraith** did a magnificent job on this before he had to leave us due to pressing family concerns. **Eva Laskaris** is now in charge of the project, and the bookings will be managed by **Allan Longacre**. We need help in lining up contacts for bookings, so any suggestions are very welcome. Please pass them on to Allan at

301-5611 or alongacre@austin.rr.com.



A copy of the opening night playbill — the spelling was changed to *Ruddigore* to cater to Victorian sensibilities.

Member of the Month

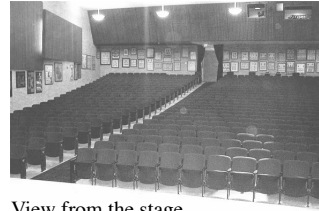
All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month". The Member of the Month (who is randomly selected) is entitled to receive a CD of our 2005 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

Eugene & Betty Ripperger

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

Texas School for the Deaf R.L. Davis Auditorium Newly Renovated

We will be presenting *Ruddigore* in a newly renovated auditorium. Centrally located, the R.L. Davis Auditorium of the Texas School for the Deaf boasts several expanded facilities, including a beautiful lobby, public washrooms, and cast dressing rooms. Reba Gillman and Larry Shepley were recently given a tour by Jim Johnston (he and Larry took the pictures below). One note: Because this auditorium is larger than our usual venues (and a bit more costly, too), we have decided not to have Thursday performances, except for the reduced price pre-opening show. The auditorium will be an excellent venue for a delightful opera!



View from the stage



The new lobby



Jim Johnston showing off the lobby to Reba Gillman

Relive *H.M.S. Pinafore*!

Nancy Jay's excellent DVD's and CD's of our 2006 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* are available at \$20 and \$15 respectively. Please call our office 472-4772 or visit our website www.gilbertsullivan.org to order your copies.

An outstanding Gift for any occasion!

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)

Please check a membership category.

- ☐ **Individual** (\$20-\$29)
- ☐ **Family/Group** (\$30-\$49)
- ☐ **Patron** (\$50-\$99)
- ☐ **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249)
- ☐ **Major General** (\$250-\$499)
- ☐ **Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999)
- ☐ **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: ☐

Name & Address:

Phone(s): _____

E-mail address: _____

Employer: _____

Does your company match donations? _____

☐ I'd like to volunteer. I'm interested in: _____

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
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]

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. 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
Web Master

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
Arthur DiBianca
Cecily Johnson

Board of Directors

June Julian	President	627-3482
Allan Longacre	Executive Vice President	301-5611
Nancy McQueen	Secretary	258-2149
Dave Wieckowski	Treasurer	542-0446
Byron Arnason		801-558-8041
Reba Gillman	Newsletter Editor	327-2277
Pat Hobbs	Group Sales	259-9169
Nancy Jay	Office Manager	343-8408
Larry Shepley	Grants Writer, Layout	327-1511
Libby Weed	Volunteer Coordinator	837-5441

Come to Our **Musicale**
Monday May 7

for a delightful prelude to

Ruddigore

along with material from *H.M.S. Pinafore*

presented by

The Wand'ring Minstrels

Please see page 1 for details on the Musicale
and page 2 for information on **The Wand'ring Minstrels**.

Our Grand Production, June 7 - 24, 2007:

Ruddigore
Or, The Witch's Curse

A Gilbert & Sullivan send-up of Victorian Melodrama—
with Wicked Baronets, a Damsel in Distress, a Jolly Jack-
Tar, a Virtuous Maiden, and an entire gallery of Ghostly
Ancestors that comes to life at midnight! And lots of
Sullivan's sparkling music! Plus a Family Curse.

The
Gilbert & SULLIVAN
OF AUSTIN *Society*

PO Box 684542
Austin TX 78768-4542

Return Service Requested

Are you the Member of the Month?
See inside!

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Top line of mailing label is date when your membership expires



May 2007