

The

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN



Ruthven Murgatroyd (Trey Deason), Rose Maybud (Glenn-Marie Posch), Richard Dauntless (Michael Borysow)

OUR NEXT MUSICAL

Sunday, September 16, 2007, 3:00 pm

Harris Bell Hall, Westminster Manor
4100 Jackson Ave.

Pirates and Peers

Produced by **June Julian**
Martha Dudgeon, Accompanist

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of musical selections from **The Pirates of Penzance** and other musical delights from composers whose music was influenced by Gilbert & Sullivan. **Patricia Combs, Frank Delvy, Art DiBianca, Andy Fleming, Sam Johnson, Janette Jones, June Julian, Eva Laskaris, Christy Munger, Ariel Rios, and Glenn-Marie Posch** will entertain you in song.

Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

President's Message

Dear Friends:

We hope you all enjoyed this summer's production of **Ruddigore**. I must admit that before the Society produced this show, I had not ever seen this Gilbert & Sullivan production on stage. I can honestly say now that after a run of 10 successful shows, it has become one of my favorites, and I hope one of yours as well. We extend our thanks once again to Ralph MacPhail, Jr. and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona for their collaborative efforts and to all the performers, orchestra, stage crew, volunteers, board members, etc., who contributed much to making this a fine show.

As we look forward to a new season, I am proud to announce the addition of two new Board members: Eva Laskaris and David Little. Both were instrumental in helping us with publicizing **Ruddigore**, and I cannot think of two better people to be a part of our team. Thank you both and welcome!

Sadly, I must also announce that Larry Shepley has resigned from the Board due to family and health reasons. Larry has served the Board in many capacities, namely as our grants writer, newsletter layout designer, and also as President of the Society in past years. He will be sorely missed! Additionally, Allan Longacre, our Executive Vice President, has had to step down from this position due to his recent heart surgery.

He will remain on our Board, however, and continue to provide us with guidance on grants and other fundraising ideas. We wish you speedy recovery, Allan! Stepping up to take Allan's place as Executive Vice President is Nanci Jay, who is also our Office Manager and resident videographer. She will continue in her former capacities as well as other

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President's Message, continued

responsibilities, namely, the new layout for our newsletter, as you will see here. Nanci, we appreciate your dedication and creative energy. Thank you for all you do!

So if you had not already heard, *The Pirates of Penzance* will be our mainstage production in June 2008. Watch for auditions announcements on our website and through email. If you are not already on our email list, please let us know by writing to us at info@gilbertsullivan.org.

Last, but not least, you are cordially invited to attend our next musicale on Sunday, September 16 at 3pm. This will be held at Harris Bell Hall in Westminster Manor, and will feature some of our singers from the recent production of *Ruddigore*. Join us for a sneak preview of the delightful music from *The Pirates of Penzance*; plus, we will explore a variety of musical theatre numbers by composers influenced by Gilbert & Sullivan. You especially won't want to miss the musical medley finale! We look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks,
June Julian, President

NEWS OF MEMBERS

by Reba Gillman

Claire Vangelisti has exciting news. She has accepted a tenure-track job teaching at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and has already left Austin. She says the visual and performing arts at ULM are in a large growth spurt. They have just started a professional opera company and opened their first season this summer with two shows. The faculty members are generally very well-qualified and very committed to teaching. Although Claire is sad to leave Austin and her many good friends, plus its many opportunities to perform, this seemed like an excellent stepping stone in her academic career. She is committed to a number of performances in Austin this year, so we will have many chances to enjoy her singing, and to say goodbye.

Chris Buggé enjoyed an unusual vacation this year. He took his boys, Colin, Travis and Domenic, to England for a month to visit his family, and to take a grand cruise through the Mediterranean exposed to that historic environment. They visited Spain and Portugal, Cadiz and Madeira, dressed for dinner every night, and learned the routines of luxurious travel. We regret that because this trip overlapped with our production of *Ruddigore* we missed Chris's cheery British presence. There was no one to lead us in singing "God Save the Queen."

Frank Delvy turned in a fine performance as Sir Despard in our summer production of *Ruddigore*, following a dramatic cancer scare. We were all delighted at the success of surgery to remove his cancerous kidney and his rapid recovery. Now totally free of any cancer, Frank is back at work in the City water conservation program, where he performs day after day before literally thousands of children. This year he plays Drippio the Jester. Frank would like to thank everyone who kept him in their thoughts and prayers during his illness.

Joe York was not so lucky. He died of cancer of the liver on August 14, 2007. He was only 50 years old. Joe was not a member of our Society, but he played the Pirate King in our joint production with Live Oak Theater of *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1991. Joe was a tremendously talented actor and singer, and an unforgettable figure in the Austin Theater community. Even though he had moved to New York City in the year 2000, he will be deeply mourned by all who ever witnessed a performance by him. A memorial is planned for September 8th, at 8 PM in Zilker Hillside Theater.

Note: We are all growing older, as news of the ill-health and deaths of our members attests. **Russell Gregory**, **Allan Longacre**, and **Larry Shepley** report heart-related problems. A few of our founding members have informed me of the death on July 15th, of **Joe Nanus**, whom a few of you may remember. He played the part of Bob Becket, in the initial production of *HMS Pinafore* at Zach Scott Theater in 1976, and sang in the chorus of our production of *The Pirates of Penzance* at Zach Scott in 1977.



RALPH MacPHAIL, Jr.

**Box 114 Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia 22812-1599**

July 25, 2007

To Valued Friends and Colleagues in the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin,

Alice and I are settled back in our home in Bridgewater, have almost caught up with the mail, have had several visits with our grandson and his parents, and are now preparing for the G&S elderhostels in Connecticut this fall.

But I often reflect on our time (yours and mine) in Austin during May and June, and I'm filled with gratification and delight. *Ruddigore*, as I've said over and over, has always been one of my very favorite Savoy operas, and this summer I finally had a chance to really explore it in the best possible way: through production with a wonderful musical collaborator, cast, orchestra, crew, and many behind-the-scenes support people serving in the theatre, around the board table, and with their checkbooks.

And what a production! For the "black sheep" of the Savoy canon, it was certainly a lot of fun for all concerned, wasn't it?

I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Jeffrey Jones-Ragona on this wonderful show, just as I'm grateful that so many talented people in and around Austin (and further afield!) who were willing to invest their time, gas money, and talents into *Ruddigore* by joining the cast. The instrumentalists Jeffrey assembled certainly supported the on-stage activities beautifully.

I'm also grateful to Natalie for assembling a pleasant and efficient stage staff that supported the production "in many various ways," as Dick Deadeye sings.

Then there was that friendly and personable front-of-house staff—long-time and enthusiastic supporters of The Cause who made our audiences feel so welcome.

I'm sure it was a memorable "maiden-voyage" for GSSA President June Julian, supported by Allan Longacre and a hard-working Board of Directors. I hope they feel that their time and energy and faith in the people they assembled for the *Ruddigore* was worthwhile. I know that they are as grateful as I am to the many people who made financial investments in the enterprise.

Theatrical production, I think, is a process that hasn't changed appreciably over the years. Computers come in handy for various tasks, of course, but Theatre is still the product of *people* with a variety of different talents and gifts, working together with common and noble goals. Enjoyment of the process and of each other is a delightful byproduct.

I'm very pleased to have the opportunity of participating in the process with all of you, and congratulate you on a memorable *Ruddigore*.

Finally, Alice joins me in thanking many of you for your personal kindnesses while we were in Texas this summer. How blessed we are to be a part of the Society!

Yours sincerely,

Jeffrey Jones–Ragona

Music Director

Our Music Director is a very busy man. He performs as a tenor and a conductor for many events. Last June Jeffrey left town the day after our last performance of **Ruddigore** to sing in a Bach Festival (in Oregon, I think). On September 5th he'll perform in Washington, DC for the Brazilian Consulate, singing Brazilian classical music as part of an ensemble called **AmericAntigua**. On Saturday, September 8 at the First Presbyterian Church here in Austin He'll sing with the Texas Early Music Project in a concert of Renaissance music from Poland.

And on Saturday, September 29 at the Cathedral of Saint Mary at 10th Street and Brazos, Jeffrey will lead a new group he has just founded called **Musica Ecclesiae**. They will sing Monteverdi's **Vespers of 1610**, with Claire Vangelisti as one of the soloists. For tickets call 472-4540; discounts available for groups of 10 or more.

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Artistic Director

Rafe is also a busy man, although now retired. For instance he recently enjoyed doing a magic show for a family church group in Virginia. Coming up are the two Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Elderhostels at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, Connecticut. They are: September 23-28, **Gilbert & Sullivan and Patience**; and October 7-12, **Gilbert & Sullivan and Pira-Mika-Fore, or The Big Three**. In other years several of our members have enjoyed participating in one of these Elderhostels and it is not too late to enroll this year. Contact Ralph MacPhail, Jr., at (540) 478-4335; or RMacPhail@Bridgewater.edu; or at Box 114 Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA 22812-1599.

Contributors to Ruddigore 2007

We wish to express our thanks to the following donors, whose generous support helped to make **Ruddigore** a resounding success!

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We are grateful to our media sponsors News8 Austin and KMFA 89.5



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.



Leland L. Smith

We report with sorrow that Leland Smith, 81, born May 14, 1926, died August 8, 2007, in Austin, Texas, of cancer. Leland joined our Society when he retired to Austin in 1996. We knew him as Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry at UT Medical Branch at Galveston, a conservative gentleman who loved opera and Gilbert & Sullivan. He served for several years on our Board of Directors, and made a major contribution to the Society when he got together the History, celebrating our 25th year, in 2001. He came to all our events, and was often spotted at ALO performances. He was a modest man and I think none of us had any idea of his distinguished career as a Biochemist until we read the obituary which appeared in the Austin American–Statesman on August 11, 2007. There we learned that he was a tireless researcher and held 22 patents. “Many of his drugs that he perfected are still in use today and those include TA (Triamcinolone Acetone), Tetracycline, Streptomycin among others.” The Gilbert & Sullivan Society will miss him.

RUDDIGORE, OUR SUMMER PRODUCTION OF 2007



Dame Hannah (Patricia Combs),
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd (Russell
Gregory)



Richard Dauntless (Michael Borysow) and the Bridesmaids.
More photos are available at www.gilbertsullivan.org.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month." The "Member" (who is randomly selected) is entitled to receive a CD of our 2005 *Mikado*, or 2006 *HMS Pinafore*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

Jim Robinson

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

WAND'RING MINSTRELS

Our new outreach program for schools, businesses, and community organizations is a 40 minute – tight, short, and delightfully funny – introduction to G&S. If you are interested in bringing the **Wand'ring Minstrels** to your school or community organization, or would like to be involved in this program, please contact Eva Laskaris at (512) 350-4935, or by email at ecl4472@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

We encourage you to join our Society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal 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", or call to join (512) 472-4772 (GSSA).

Please check a membership category:

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

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 • Educational/Community Outreach Programs • Musicales • Musical Scholarships • Monthly Newsletters • Holiday Season Shows

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The Society holds nonprofit 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.

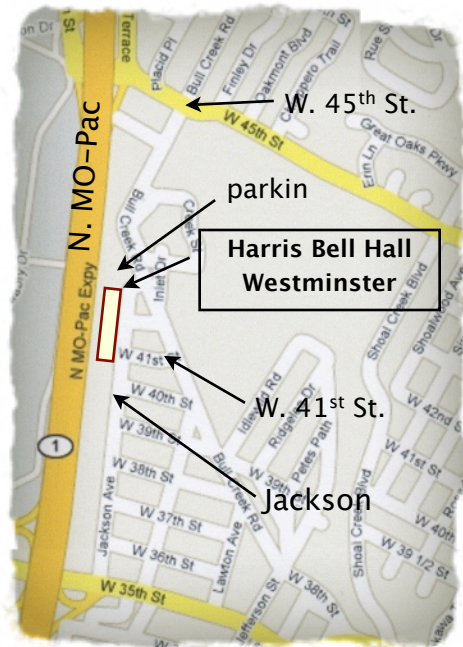


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Directions to:

Pirates & Peers Musicale

September 16, 3:00pm
4100 Jackson Ave.

Parking is available at the
North entrance.
Please enter through the
Health Care Center.

COMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES!

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
AND MUSICAL**
JANUARY 7, 2008

The Pirates of Penzance

or the Slave of Duty

June 2008

The
Gilbert & Sullivan Society
OF AUSTIN
P. O. Box 684542
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September 2007