

The

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN



## SAVE THE DATE

Frederic's Birthday, Friday, February 29, 2008

For some ridiculous reason, to which, however, I have no desire to be disloyal,

Some person in authority, — I don't know who — very likely the Astronomer Royal,

Has decided that, although for such a beastly month as February, twenty-eight days as a rule are plenty,

One year in every four his days shall be reckoned as nine-and-twenty.

Through some singular coincidence -- I shouldn't be surprised if were owing to the agency of an ill-natured fairy --

You are the victim of this clumsy arrangement, having been born in leap year, on the twenty-ninth of February;

And so, by a simple arithmetical process, you'll easily discover

That, tho' you've lived twenty-one years, yet, if we go by birthdays, you're only five and a little bit over.

As Frederic attains the age of 21, he thinks he is out of his indentures to the Pirates of Penzance. But "A paradox, a paradox, A most ingenious paradox!" Frederic was apprenticed to the pirates until his 21st Birthday, and Ruth and the Pirate King appeal to his sense of duty.

The year 2008 is a leap year, and Friday February 29th is Leap Day. By now Frederic has passed his 21st birthday by a good many years, but we can't let this opportunity pass. Fun! Fun! Plan to help us celebrate.

More Specific Information Available Later.

## President's Message

Dear Friends:

Having lived in Austin since 1998, I have had the wonderful opportunity to see and experience the growth of this town through the eyes of the arts world. From theatre, to music, to film, etc., one has merely to utter the words "South by Southwest," "Austin Film Festival," "Austin City Limits," the list goes on and on, and it is evident that these "homegrown" events have taken us from statewide recognition to international acclaim.

With this growth, Austin has earned a reputation for quality and diversity. Not only is this reflected in the arts, but also in the people that keep the arts wheel rolling. Even with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society's stance on traditional Victorian theatre, we have one of the most diverse groups on the scene, not only through the performers on stage but also through our administrative heads that help put all this together, and the audiences that come out for our shows.

By the time you receive this newsletter, perhaps you will have decided on what costume to wear for Halloween, and where you will go for your next Thanksgiving feast. And you may also notice that despite "traditions," every year brings a new group of people to add to your circle of friends.

I like to think of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society in that way — an on-going tradition that continues to grow its circle of friends; a place known for quality and diversity, much like its hometown of Austin. And of course, it wouldn't be complete without costumes and a feast!

To our current members and patrons, we thank you for all your years of support and patronage. Let's continue sharing the joys of Gilbert & Sullivan! Bring your family and friends and join us on February 29, 2008 for Frederic's birthday bash. And keep an eye out for *Pirates* in June, 2008!

Yours truly,  
June Julian, President

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

by Reba Gillman

**Bill Hatcher** is retiring from his job with the Veteran's Administration at the end of October. He has been planning ahead, and will start a part-time job as bookkeeper for the University Baptist Church. In preparation for this step (and to offer free assistance to his own church, Abiding Love Lutheran Church) Bill began taking accounting courses at ACC last January. As Bill moves into this new life he says he is turning an Avocation into a Vocation.

**Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, our Music Director, continues his busy professional life. The opening performance of his new group Musica Ecclesiae went very well. He sang for a recording of the Brazilian Requiem Mass (which he had performed for the Brazilian Embassy in Washington). And coming up is a performance with the Texas Early Music Project of music of Renaissance France.

Our sopranos **June Julian** and **Claire Vangelisti** will perform on Friday, February 8 (8 PM) and Sunday, February 10 (3 PM) with the Austin Chamber Ensemble. Save the dates! More information later.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin production of **Ruddigore** was honored to receive two nominations for the ACOT B. Iden Payne Awards: **Glary Marie Posch** as Outstanding Lead Actress in Music Theater; and **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** as Outstanding Music Director. These two were chosen as Outstanding, but we feel that reflects the excellence of the entire show, and we're very proud.



**Ruddigore, Summer 2007. Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd (Trey Deason), Mad Magaret (Janette Jones) (also on right), and Sir Despard (Frank Delvy), photos by Benny Jay**

## LAST MUSICALE

by Reba Gillman

On Sunday afternoon September 16th we opened our Gilbert and Sullivan season in the Harris Bell Hall at Westminster Manor with a delightful program, produced by June Julian. The large and appreciative audience included many residents of Westminster Manor, and a number of Society members who cannot attend evening events. We regret that some other regularly attending members were not able to come to a Sunday afternoon program. Many thanks to Westminster Manor for allowing us to use their friendly space. We especially enjoyed the resulting mix of residents and Society members, both new and old.

President June Julian welcomed us and gave us a brief history of each performer -- a few old timers, and several very new from the chorus of our recent Ruddigore. She explained that the Pirates part of the program would present choice excerpts from The Pirates of Penzance, and the Peers section would present pieces by composers of 20th century shows, which were in some way influenced by the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Frank Delvy then took over as master of ceremonies. With the easy assurance of a well-trained and seasoned performer, he quickly set the stage, and gave us a feel for the dramatic history of our Society.

All sang well, and some performed superbly. But for me the highlights were two performances in the Peers section. Frank and Donna Delvy presented Tom Lehrer's "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park," making very clever use of Frank's devoted but non-performing wife. And the new-comer Christy Munger sang Kander and Ebb's "All That Jazz" in a style totally removed from our Gilbert and Sullivan shows. Love it or hate it, you had to recognize a sample from a new generation.

After all joined in singing "Hail Poetry" and "Now to the Banquet we press," a friendly social time followed as we sampled the light refreshments provided by the Board of Directors.



# Pirates and Peers

Sunday, September 16

3 P.M. at Harris Bell Hall

Westminster Manor, 4100 Jackson Avenue ♦ Austin, Texas



PRODUCED BY June Julian  
ACCOMPANIED BY Martha Dudgeon

**Performers:** Patricia Combs, Frank Delvy, Arthur DiBianca, Andy Fleming, Sam Johnson, Janette Jones, June Julian, Christy Munger, Ariel Rios and Glay Marie Posch.

## Program

### I. PIRATES

#### Pirate King

Pirate King – Sam Johnson

Pirates – Ensemble Men

#### When Frederic was a Little Lad

Ruth – Janette Jones

#### Oh is there not one maiden breast

Frederic – Ariel Rios

#### Poor Wand'ring One

Mabel – Glay-Marie Posch

Her sisters – Ensemble Women

#### Major General's Song

Major General – Arthur DiBianca

Pirates & Daughters – Ensemble

#### Paradox trio

Pirate King – Sam Johnson

Ruth – Janette Jones

Frederic – Andy Fleming

#### When the Foeman Bares His Steel

Sergeant of Police – Frank Delvy

Mabel – Glay-Marie Posch

Edith – Patricia Combs

Major General – Arthur DiBianca

and Ensemble

### II. PEERS

#### "Bali Hai" from *South Pacific*

by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein

Patricia Combs

#### "I Could Have Danced All Night"

from *My Fair Lady*

by Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe

Glay-Marie Posch

#### "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park"

by Tom Lehrer

Frank & Donna Delvy

#### "Summertime" from *Porgy & Bess*

by Ira Gershwin & DuBose Heyward

June Julian

#### "All that Jazz" from *Chicago*

by John Kander & Ebb

Christy Munger

#### "The Elements," by Tom Lehrer

Andy Fleming, with Frank Delvy, Janette Jones,

June Julian and Ensemble

Parody arrangement by June Julian

#### CLOSING

#### "Hail Poetry"

from *The Pirates of Penzance*

#### "Now to the Banquet We Press"

from *The Sorcerer*

*Light refreshments will be served after the performance.*

This performance is brought to you by

### THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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, the National Endowment for the Arts, and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.





## WAND'RING MINSTRELS

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin's Wand'ring Minstrels are the ambassadors for the Society to the Central Texas community. Their programs serve as an educational outreach tool that provides an introduction to the genre that is distinctively Gilbert & Sullivan. Programs range from a lively recital of Gilbert & Sullivan's most popular tunes to interactive, mini-productions of the Society's full summer productions. The Wand'ring Minstrels are available for private parties, school shows, and corporate events. For bookings or additional information, please contact Eva Laskaris at 512-986-4411, or email [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:info@gilbertsullivan.org).



**HMS Pinafore, Summer 2006**

**Marine (Dave Wieckowski) and Tom Tucker (Brian Wieckowski)**



### Contributors to Ruddigore 2007

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

Charles Antonie • Richard L. Black • Stanley G. Bullard • Barbara Buttrey • Lucian Chimene • Candice Clark • David & Patricia Davidson • Marion Wier DeFord • Douglas & Yvonne Vautier DeLay • Frank DiBianca • Jewell Ellis • Charlotte Flynn in memory of Bill Flynn • Carol Whitcraft Fredericks • Len & Reba Gillman • David & Roslyn Gutman • Cecil Hale • William & Naomi Haight • The Hallock Family, Enid, Chris & Gary • Tom & Barbara Hamff • James A. & Mary Hitt • Dudley & Mari Houghton • Earl Richard Hunt • Benny & Nanci Jay • Blain & Debbie Keith • Layton B. Keith, Jr. • Donald & Mary Lindholm • Norman & Emilia Martin • Col. George & Nancy McQueen • Ms. Mary Metz, MBE • Austin H. & Irene Phelps • Diana Phillips • William & Susan Reid • Ida C. Scott • Ernest & Lenoir Seelhorst • Katharine Shields • Andrée Sjoberg • Susan Spruance • Patricia Spurr • Becky Blake Stewart • Eileen Crain Sullivan • Jill Thomas • William R. Trutna • Mary & William Weaver • Patricia Wedel • Michael & Libby Weed • M. Wayne Wilson • Cleve H. Tandy Foundation



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This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award by the National Endowment for the Arts which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



### Can You Help Run This Society?

Our Annual Business meeting is coming up on January 7th, 2008, and it's time to get things in order for the coming year. The Board has appointed three people to the Nominating Committee: Libby Weed, Chair, Nanci Jay, and Bill Hatcher. They are doing the important work of exploring the field of people who might be interested in using their time and energy to help run our Gilbert & Sullivan Society. If you have any ideas or suggestions (including volunteering your own abilities and interest), please let us hear from you. Contact Libby Weed at 837-5441, Nanci Jay at 343-8408, or Bill Hatcher at 892-3722. The ultimate goal is to provide a solid list of nominees to be elected to the Board of Directors in January, but another goal is to begin to list the people who may develop into good candidates, even if they're not quite ready now.

### NEWSLETTER

As you may have noticed our Newsletter schedule is becoming somewhat erratic, as we try different ideas. We are now thinking that combining some months and producing six newsletters a year may be more realistic than striving for ten. The schedule proposed for this year is September; October/November; December/January; February (to report the results of elections and other annual business); March/April; and May/June. If you have any material for the next newsletter please get it to Reba by November 26 (327-2277; or [rgillman@austin.rr.com](mailto:rgillman@austin.rr.com)).

### Beryl Admire Nation

It is sad to announce the passing of another strong and talented person, the mother of Nanci Jay.

A loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, she lived in Azle, Texas. She volunteered with the Harris Northwest Hospital Auxiliary staff, and for many years owned and operated an insurance business. We extend our deepest sympathy to Nanci and her family.

### 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:

#### Ken & Emily Ashworth

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

### 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:

- ☐ 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)

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Does your company match donations? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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  
Musicales  
Musical Scholarships  
Newsletters  
Holiday Season Shows**

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

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

Phone: (512) **472-4772** (GSA-GSSA)

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

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



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This Society holds nonprofit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Artistic Director  
Music Director  
Database Manager  
Web Master

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

### Board of Directors

<b>June Julian</b>	President	627-3482
<b>Nanci Jay</b>	Executive Vice President	343-8408
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<b>David Little</b>		970-5883
<b>Allan Longacre</b>		301-5611
<b>Libby Weed</b>		837-5441

See page 1 for information on

### Our Next Musicale!

### *Frederic's Birthday*

Friday, February 29, 2008



### Auditions for *Pirates of Penzance*

Coming up

Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2,  
2008



### COMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES!

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND MUSICALE MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008

### *The Pirates of Penzance or the Slave of Duty*

June 2008

The

**Gilbert  
& SULLIVAN Society**  
OF AUSTIN

P. O. Box 684542

Austin, TX 78768-4542

**Return Service Requested**

Are you the Member of the  
Month?  
See inside!



Top line of mailing label is date when your membership expires.

Oct/Nov 2007