
The

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING and MUSICAL

Monday January 14, 2008, at 7:30 PM
Note change in date
Harris Bell Hall, Westminster Manor
4100 Jackson Avenue

Calling All Members!!! Come elect our Board for 2008!! Support the hardworking Directors who make sure our Society continues to operate on all cylinders!!!! And enjoy another sing-a-long supervised by some of the members of our Board of Directors.

Please Bring Munchies

The nominating committee Libby Weed, Chair, Nanci Jay, and Bill Hatcher, have done their work, and present the following twelve candidates for the Board of Directors for 2008:

Returning Board Members, Byron Arnason, Reba Gillman, Pat Hobbs, Nanci Jay, June Julian, Eva Laskaris, David Little, Allan Longacre, Nancy McQueen, Libby Weed, and Dave Wieckowski; and new member Jean Smootz. Many of you will recognize that Jean is a returning former Director, and we're delighted to have her. Eva Laskaris and David Little came on the Board last summer and have contributed much with energy and ideas. Eva has taken charge of our Educational/Community outreach program, "Wand'ring Minstrels." David has undertaken the tremendous job of bringing our Website up-to-date, and keeping it there. (Check it out at www.gilbertsullivan.org.) We are fortunate that all these directors are willing to keep working for the Society.

This Musicale is open to the public, and especially to the residents of Westminster Manor. However, only paid-up members of the Society will be eligible to vote. Check your standing! Pay your dues!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

With all the exciting events coming up – the January Business Meeting and Sing-Along, Frederic's Birthday party, auditions for *The Pirates of Penzance* and the show itself in June 2008 – we have been quite busy gearing up for the next few months ahead of us.

Thanks to one of our newest Board members, David Little, our website has been revamped and is a delight to peruse. Visit www.gilbertsullivan.org and see the latest news, get updates on events and other special offers. For those of you who have been inquiring about our *Ruddigore* DVDs, they are now available for purchase. Thanks to Nanci and Benny Jay for always doing such a fine job with the filming and production of the DVDs. Contact our office by phone or email to order your copy.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin wishes you all the very best this Holiday Season and looks forward to sharing the joy and humour of Gilbert & Sullivan with you in 2008.

Yours truly,
June Julian

Karen Kuykendall

by Reba Gillman

With all of Austin we sorrow at the passing of a shining star. At 69 Karen Kuykendall died too soon. As we read the obituaries and eulogies we learn the full extent of her talent and generosity. And like many others we remember our own special connection. In December 1997, when our Executive Director, Robert Mellin, organized a Fund Raising Gala at Saint Stephen's School, he invited Karen to perform. Many of us remember with delight her uproariously funny version of "I've got a little list," Koko's song from *The Mikado*. We are honored that she was a supportive, dues-paying member of our Society.

WAND'RING MINSTREL NEWS

In the past few months, the Wand'ring Minstrels have visited several private functions, including one at the Austin Chapter of the English Speaking Union, an international charity founded in 1918 to promote "international understanding and friendship through the use of the English language." **Frank Delvy** and **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** (with Donna Delvy as page turner!) brought fun and laughter with the Major General's patter song from *The Pirates of Penzance* and other G&S favorites. Thank you to their President, **Martha Bonner Miller**, for inviting us to perform for their receptive and delightful group. We thoroughly enjoyed it!

If you are interested in booking the Wand'ring Minstrels for an upcoming event or educational program, please contact **Eva Laskaris** at (512) 350-4935, or email us at info@gilbertsullivan.org.

News of Members

Glary Marie Posch appeared in *Kismet* on November 1, 2, and 3 as a "saucy and fabulous" Lalume. The production by the CyFair College Lyric Opera was held in Cypress, Texas, near Houston.

Ralph MacPhail, Jr., our busy peripatetic Artistic Director, is pleased to have been invited to direct *The Mikado* in April, 2008, for the Virginia Commonwealth University Opera Theatre in Richmond, VA. This project has special interest for Rafe, since Virginia Commonwealth University is where he obtained his Master of Fine Arts degree in the early 1970's, based on his then new but growing scholarship in the works of Gilbert and Sullivan.



FREDERIC'S BIRTHDAY

SAVE THE DATE

2008 is Leap Year, and, as most of you know, that means it's time to celebrate Frederic's Birthday. This leap year, Frederic's birthday bash and fund-raising gala brings us a unique opportunity to hear many of your favorite Gilbert & Sullivan characters as they gather from far and wide to celebrate the paradoxical birthday of one of Gilbert & Sullivan's most beloved characters – that reformed pirate, Frederic, from *The Pirates of Penzance*. With the talents of artistic director **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.** and music director **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, **Holton Johnson** as Frederic and many others, it's bound to be a delightful party.

Frederic's Birthday Bash will be held at 7:30 PM on Friday, February 29 at the Austin Women's Club, 708 San Antonio Street. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 each in advance or for \$30 at the door. Look for more information in the February Newsletter.

THE MIKADO

The Carl Rosa Opera Company's internationally proclaimed production of *The Mikado* will appear at the Paramount Theatre at 8 PM on Saturday, April 12, and 2 PM Sunday April 13. It features the elaborate and breath-taking costumes from the movie *Topsy Turvy*. Purchase tickets on line, or call (866) 4GET TIX (443-8849). These will be sold out performances.

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:

Darrell Word

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

Deadline for including material in the February Newsletter is January 15, 2008.

Russell Gregory, Claire Vangelisti, and Frank Delvy in our 2006 production of *HMS Pinafore*.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar

December 14 through December 24. in the Austin Convention Center

Austin Circle of Theaters (ACOT) ran a booth, where we displayed a handsome, large card publicizing our activities. We also participated with over 50 other local theater, dance, film, and other arts organizations, in their GiftTIX program. For \$25 you could purchase a ticket to any participating event, which you could choose. When presented to a theater the ticket will be accepted, and the theater will apply to ACOT and receive \$25. We were delighted to be part of this community opportunity.

First Night Austin 2008

On Monday, December 31, 2007 HEB sponsored a New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts at the Austin City Hall Chambers. 301 West 2nd Street. Urging community participation in this family oriented, no alcohol event, HEB showed significant support of the important place the arts hold in our lives.

Our Society is honored that an important part of the program was supplied by our friends and members. The Austin Chamber Ensemble, founded and managed by **Martha MacDonald** (who plays the clarinet in our performance orchestra), provides the program "Moonstruck by Midnight." The performers are **June Julian** and **Claire Vangelisti**, Sopranos, and **Martha Dudgeon**, Piano.

Take notice that in February 2008, we will have another opportunity to hear this group perform: at 8 PM on Friday, February 8 at the First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive; and at 3 PM on Sunday, February 10 at the University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio Street.

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 • Patrica Wedel • Michael & Libby Weed • M. Wayne Wilson • Cleve H. Tandy Foundation



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



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.



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)

Name _____

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State _____

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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

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org



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

Artistic Director
Music Director

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Board of Directors

June Julian	President	627-3482
Nanci Jay	Executive Vice President, Layout	343-8408
Nancy McQueen	Secretary	258-2149
Dave Wieckowski	Treasurer	542-0446
Reba Gillman	Newsletter Editor	327-2277
Eva Laskaris	Educational/Community Outreach	350-4935
David Little	Web Master	970-5883
Byron Arnason		(801) 558-8041
Pat Hobbs		259-9169
Allan Longacre		301-5611
Libby Weed		837-5441
	Database Manager	Arthur DiBianca

The Pirates of Penzance

or the Slave of Duty

June 2008

COME TO OUR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND MUSICALE

7:30 pm on **MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008**

at **Harris Bell Hall,**

Westminster Bell Hall

See p. 1 for more information

Auditions for *Pirates of Penzance*

Coming up

Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2, 2008


See February Newsletter for
More Information

BIG BASH COME CELEBRATE

Frederic's Birthday

7:30 pm on Friday, February 29, 2008

See page 2 for information

The
 **Gilbert**
SULLIVAN *Society*
OF AUSTIN
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Month?
See inside!

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January 2008