

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Libby Weed

Looking back on 2018, I have enjoyable memories of many Gilbert & Sullivan Austin highlights:

- ♪ The year began with a rollicking "G&S Karaoke" afternoon, with Robert Schneider leading us in several sing-along choruses and Janette Jones and June Julian coordinating the karaoke performances. To top it off, intrepid board members presented some scenes from *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Iolanthe*, and *Ruddigore*.
- ♪ In March we had two packed houses at the Worley Barton Theater for magnificent performances of *Trial by Jury*, a perennial favorite.
- ♪ We traveled to Georgetown in May for a performance of "G&S Radio Mystery Theater" in the atrium of the Georgetown Public Library. That fascinating show, another of Janette and June's collaborations, whetted the appetite of everyone in attendance for the summer show.
- ♪ *Ruddigore* was a shining success in the summer, with strong reviews, happy and enthusiastic audiences, five B. Iden Payne nominations, and a Bippy winner in **Corinna Browning** as outstanding lead actress in a musical. Numerous folks have told us it was our best show yet.
- ♪ September brought a first for G&S Austin, as we presented a concert version of *Patience* that was set not in Victorian England but right here in Austin. None of the music was changed, and the plot was just as disparaging to vanity and self-importance. But some interesting dialogue twists brought the story home to 2018 Austin in a hilarious way. The audience ate it up!

And looking forward to 2019, I am filled with excitement about the events planned for this year. Read in the next column about the January 8 musicale, and on page 3 about the March concert production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, May's "Iolanthe's Fractured Fairy Tales," and the summer grand production of *Iolanthe*. Note that we are taking a little side trip to the Bastrop Opera House for a sweet show on Valentine's Day (see page 2). There is more to come, but you may rest assured that our plans are to bring our audiences again and again to say, "This is the best one yet!"

Warm winter regards,

Libby Weed



Sunday, January 6, 2 pm

Genesis Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
1507 Wilshire Blvd. (see map, page 4)

The best way to start out the New Year is singing Gilbert & Sullivan!

Yes, it's our version of "open G&S no-mic" and business meeting. We want you to participate in the joy of singing some of the best songs ever written.

If you've got a favorite G&S song, we want to hear you sing it! Please email your requested song title to **Janette Jones** at janette@gilbertsullivan.org. The amazing **Jeanne Sasaki** will be our accompanist.

And to add to the musical fun, our multi-talented and charismatic Wand'ring Minstrels director, **Robert Schneider**, will be there to lead the audience in a sing-along.

Of course, we will begin with the ever-important election of the Board of Directors for 2019 (see article on page 3).

We look forward to seeing you all and celebrating another joyous year of G&S! As usual, please bring munchies to share.

In This Issue

Another "Lost Lyric" from <i>Iolanthe</i>	p. 2
"A Time for Love; or, Somewhere in Bastrop"	p. 2
Corinna Browning Wins a Bippy!	p. 3
Notice of Elections	p. 3
Coming Attractions	p. 3
Wand'ring Minstrels	p. 3

Another “Lost Lyric” from *Iolanthe*

by Ralph MacPhail, Jr.



Last issue's column closed with the “lost lyric,” which was probably for Sergeant Willis in Act II of *Iolanthe*. I write “probably” because, other than Gilbert's attribution of the song as being “From *Iolanthe*” in his collection of lyrics, *Songs of a Savoyard*, there seems to be no corroborative detail proving that it was ever sent to Sullivan for setting to music.

There is another “lost lyric” from Gilbert's “Fairy Opera,” but its history is better known—including the fact that it was actually performed on stage.

In both the London and New York premières of *Iolanthe* in 1882, and following the show-stopping trio “If you go in,” Strephon had a solo that was quickly cut and is little-known today. We will recall that Strephon has been, in Act II, sent to Parliament by the Fairy Queen after being insulted by The Lord Chancellor at the end of the previous act. Strephon, a lowly shepherd in Act I, is now member of the House of Lords—a Peer of the Realm!—and enters and sings the following lyric:

RECITATIVE

My bill has now been read a second time:
His ready vote no Member now refuses;
In verity I wield a power sublime,
And one that I can turn to mighty uses!
What joy to carry, in the very teeth
Of Ministry, Cross-Bench, and Opposition,
Some rather urgent measures—quite beneath
The ken of patriot and politician!

SONG

Fold your flapping wings,
Soaring Legislature!
Stoop to little things--
Stoop to Human Nature!
Never need to roam,
Members patriotic,
Let's begin at home--
Crime is no exotic!
Bitter is your bane--
Terrible your trials--
Dingy Drury Lane!
Soapless Seven Dials!
Take a tipsy lout
Gathered from the gutter--
Hustle him about--
Strap him to a shutter:
What am I but he,
Washed at hours stated--
Fed on filagree--
Clothed and educated?
He's a mark of scorn--
I might be another,
If I had been born
Of a tipsy mother!
Take a wretched thief
Through the city sneaking,

Pocket handkerchief
Ever, ever seeking;
What is he but I
Robbed of all my chances--
Picking pockets by
Force of circumstances?
I might be as bad--
As unlucky, rather--
If I'd only had
Fagin for a father!

Dickens was one of Gilbert's favorite authors; in fact, the librettist once admitted that he never traveled without a volume of Dickens in his luggage. Gilbert probably took great delight in his reference to *Oliver Twist*—and equal delight in referring to the irony of station in life being a product of birth and “force of circumstances” (a theme he had also treated in *H.M.S. Pinafore*—and elsewhere—but not as trenchantly as here).

Alas, some critics thought that the song was too serious for a light opera—it certainly was a change-of-pace from the ebullient trio that preceded it. But the argument that may have won Gilbert over was that it didn't further the plot, and delayed the very moving emotional climax of his story.

And while the song has been restored occasionally in more recent productions, it remains relatively unknown. (We will not perform it in our production this coming summer.)



A Time
for Love;
or,
Somewhere
in Bastrop

Experience love and time travel in Bastrop,
to the music of Gilbert & Sullivan!

Billy Johnson is a local barista and sometime singer-actor living in Bastrop, Texas. He hears about an audition for the Gilbert & Sullivan show, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and signs up to audition. On audition day, a theatre prop falls mysteriously from overhead and knocks Billy into an altered state. In his subconscious mind, he has traveled back in time to 1940s Bastrop! Now he is a part of the Connelly Opera Troupe traveling through Texas and has been engaged to perform in a westernized version of *The Mikado*, where the Sheriff (a.k.a Big Joe), Rancher Bob, Judge MacCullagh, and other unseemly characters have it out for Billy. Drama ensues when Big Joe learns of Billy's affections for his ward, Emma Adams. Find out how this topsy-turvy plot unfolds as Billy navigates his way around the complexities of his predicament!

Valentine Dinner Show at Bastrop Opera House

711 Spring Street, Bastrop, TX 78602

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Visit www.bastropoperahouse.com/upcoming-productions for more info.

Corinna Browning Wins a Bippy!

Congratulations to **Corinna Browning**, who won the B. Iden Payne Award for Lead Actress in Musical Theatre for her performance as Rose Maybud in our June production of *Ruddigore*. She was previously nominated for Outstanding Featured Actress for her role as Casilda in GSA's 2016 production of *The Gondoliers*.



(l-r) Andy Fleming, Corinna Browning (with her Bippy), Sam Johnson, Bonnie Bogovich, Jim Newsome, and Jay Young
not shown: Shelby Schisler, who performed the "My eyes are fully open" trio with Andy and Sam during the presentation show

Notice of Elections

Gilbert & Sullivan Austin will elect a board of directors for the coming year when we gather on Sunday, January 8, at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall of Genesis Presbyterian Church, 1507 Wilshire Blvd. All members who are current in their dues will be eligible to vote.

The following people have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot to serve on the board in 2019: **Sue Caldwell, June Julian, David Little, Michael Meigs, Diane Radin, Robert L. Schneider, Sarah Slaughter, Charles Smaistrle, David Treadwell, Michelle Vanecek, Libby Weed, and Dave Wiecekowski.**

The nominating committee includes **Charles Smaistrle**, Chair; **Sarah Slaughter**; and **Byron Arnason**. Please contact Charles at CJS@laweconomics.com if you wish to have your name added to this slate or to nominate someone else. In accordance with our by-laws, officers are elected by the Board during their first meeting after the Annual Meeting.

After the elections, we will enjoy an afternoon of music. Mark your calendars!

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 "GSA," or call to join (512) 472-4772 (GSSA).

Please check a membership category:

- ☐ **Member** (\$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 _____
 Address _____
 State _____
 Phone number(s) _____
 E-mail address _____
 Employer _____
 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: ☐

Coming Attractions

Saturday and Sunday, March 2-3 – Concert performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, directed by Ralph MacPhail, Jr., and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. Time: Saturday 7:30 pm; Sunday 2 pm. Location: Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School.

Sunday, May 19, 2 pm – "Iolanthe's Fractured Fairy Tales" Musicale. Get a taste of the joys to come in June as members of the cast present some solos, ensembles, choruses, and scenes from our summer grand production. Location: Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart Lane.

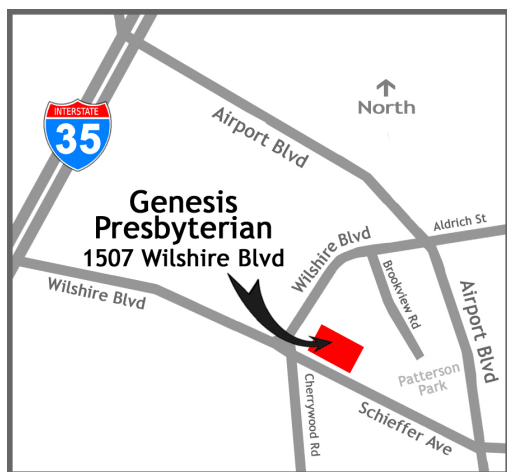
Thursday, June 13, through Sunday, June 23 – Summer Grand Production: *Iolanthe*, Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School.



The Wand'ring Minstrels (l-r) Katie Schneider, Janette Jones, Marti Mortensen Ahern, and Robert L. Schneider

Wand'ring Minstrels

Happy holidays from the Wand'ring Minstrels! If you would like to have the Wand'ring Minstrels perform at your school, retirement center, civic club, business meeting, or private party, please see our web site, www.gilbertsullivan.org, for information.



Map to Annual Meeting and Musicale – details on page 1!



P.O. Box 684542
Austin, Texas 78768-4542

Coming Events

- Jan. 6 Annual Meeting and Sing-Along
Feb. 23-24 *Iolanthe* Auditions
Mar. 2-3 Mid-season production: Concert performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore*
May 19 *Iolanthe's Fractured Fairy Tales* Musicale
June 13-23 *Iolanthe* summer production

Send Us Your News!

The next newsletter should arrive in mid-February; the deadline for submissions is January 28. Please send your news to news@gilbertsullivan.org. Thanks!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 2054
Austin, Texas



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

DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

Gilbert & Sullivan Austin

Entertaining and educating Texas audiences since 1976, Gilbert & Sullivan Austin is dedicated to spreading the topsy-turvy humor and joyful music of W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.

Annual Grand Productions • Musicales
Educational/Community Outreach
Musical Scholarships • Newsletters

G&S Office: 310 West 43rd Street, Austin, TX 78751
Mailing 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

This project is funded and supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department. Visit Austin at NowPlayingAustin.com



Cultural Arts
CITY OF AUSTIN
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



Texas
Commission
on the Arts

The 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

Libby Weed	President
Diane Radin	Vice President
Dave Wieckowski	Treasurer and CFO
Michael Meigs	Secretary and Bursar
Rosa Mondragon Harris	Scholarship Coordinator
June Julian	Musicale Coordinator
David Little	Publicist and Webmaster
Robert L. Schneider	Wand'ring Minstrels Coordinator
Sarah Slaughter	Volunteer Coordinator
Charles Smaistrle	Legal Counsel
Kent Smith	Legal Counsel
David Treadwell	Historian

Database Manager
Newsletter Editor

Arthur DiBianca
Sue Ricket Caldwell