



Annual Meeting and Sing-Along



GSA will be holding our annual meeting and sing-along on January 10th at 3pm. It will be a virtual program, live-streaming on our YouTube channel. We will be showing pre-recorded videos of performers from across the country, as well as from across the pond. All the same entertainment as our usual sing-along, but without having to leave your couch!

In addition to viewing the show differently, we are modifying how we conduct our annual business due to the pandemic. Business will take place online prior to the show, and everyone will need to pre-register for the vote. Members will receive an email around December 20 with a link to register for your ballot. In order to register and vote, your full name must be provided. This is to verify membership, as well as prevent potential spammers. Registration must be completed by December 30th.

One primary area of business is the election of our board of directors. Gilbert and Sullivan Austin's board is a team of volunteers. Board positions are unpaid, and we are grateful for the hours of service board members dedicate to our community. The nomination committee received approval from the board for the following slate:

Returning Members: Sue Caldwell, Leann Fryer, Holton Johnson, Robert O. Kerr, David Little, Michael Meigs, Diane Radin, Sarah Slaughter, Charles Smaistrila, Michelle Vanecek, Libby Weed, and Dave Wieckowski.

Newly Nominated Members: Janette Jones, Saundra Ragona, and David Treadwell. (Note: David will be a returning member.)

Any self-nominations must be received at volunteer@gilbertsullivan.org by December 30.

We will also vote on each of the four amendments to the GSA bylaws that the Board has proposed (see article on page 5).

On January 1st, those who have registered will receive another email with a link to the ballot. Ballots must be completed by January 9th. We will announce the election results at the beginning of the sing-along.

Summary of key dates:

- Dec. 20 - registration link email sent to voting members
- Dec. 30 - last day to complete registration online
- Dec. 30 - last day to submit self-nomination
- Jan. 1 - ballot link email sent to registered members
- Jan. 9 - last day to vote by completing the ballot

If you do not receive the registration link, please call **806-557-0306** by December 30th to register and optionally self-nominate. If you do not receive the ballot link or are unable to vote online, please call that number, January 1 - 9, to vote. You will need to provide your name for verification.



Pandemic Postponement, Again by Diane Radin



The Gilbert & Sullivan Austin Board of Directors has reluctantly realized the necessity of postponing our much-anticipated production of **The McAdo**, this time to June 2022. COVID-19 has had a terrible impact on so many aspects of our society and economy and on so

many of our families. In the larger scale of things, a postponed **McAdo** is a small price to pay.

Even though a COVID-19 vaccine might be widely available by June 2021, auditions (in case some of the cast from 2020 could not be in the 2021 production) and rehearsals would have had to happen much earlier than June. This unique version of **The McAdo** deserves to be seen by one and all, but we doubt that our faithful audiences would turn out in full force in June 2021. (Worley Barton Theater is available to GSA only in June.)

GSA hopes you have found some solace in **#DiscoverGSA** and its selection of videos of past GSA shows. We also have something fresh and different in the works for the spring and summer of 2021 and will keep you posted as plans firm up. GSA hopes to present new versions, on video, of scenes from some G&S favorites featuring performers and directors who are not traditionally known for producing the works of Gilbert & Sullivan. Let's see how the wide array of talent in our city interprets the comedy, satire, social commentary, and beautiful music we all love.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Libby Weed

On January 1, 2021, our esteemed Artistic and Stage Director **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**, will transition to a new role as Artistic Director Emeritus of Gilbert & Sullivan Austin. We plan to honor him and his years of service at our virtual Annual



Meeting on January 10. We hope you will join us to hear some brief testimonials and watch scenes from Rafe's remarkable tenure. We are happy to say that he will continue to consult with us, keep us connected with the G&S world, and (if we're really blessed) occasionally write one of his charming articles for *The Austin Savoyard*.

The first two decades of the 21st century were a phenomenal period in the history of Gilbert & Sullivan Austin, and much of the credit must go to Rafe, our Artistic Director since 2005. Audiences grew, with numerous shows playing to packed houses. Many of the finest singers and actors in central Texas appeared on our stage. Artistic quality and production values grew exponentially, with sets, costumes, and technical features drawing rave reviews. Our prestige in the community grew, as GSA productions were nominated for and received a wide range of awards.

Rafe giving pre-concert lecture at 2019's Iolanthe



Rafe first directed for us in 1998 and has stage-directed all but four of our grand summer productions since that time. He has enjoyed an admirable partnership with Music Director **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, and the two of them have worked closely with Production Manager **Bill Hatcher** and Stage Manager **Monica Kurtz** for the majority of those shows. What a team these professionals have been!



Rafe and fellow GSA Hall of Fame member Jeffrey Jones-Ragona attending 2012's Patience

Long before Professor MacPhail began working with us in Austin, he was renowned as a G&S scholar. During his tenure as Professor and Director of Theatre at Bridgewater College in Virginia, he directed Savoy operas both there and on many other stages. He has authored numerous reviews and papers and has made presentations at many symposia and conferences, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He hosted the

SavoyNet, which is the International Gilbert & Sullivan Internet Bulletin Board, for years. He taught Elderhostel courses about Gilbert & Sullivan in various locations. Since 2014 he has served as the editor of Harry Benford's *Gilbert & Sullivan Lexicon*. Much of Rafe's extensive collection of G&S memorabilia is now housed and available for scholarly research at the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute at the Ohio State University Library.



Rafe and Alice with the Mikado, Austin's Spencer Reichman, at the G&S Festival in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 2011

During his lifelong scholarly endeavors, Rafe had the opportunity to study many original documents, including the prompt books of W. S. Gilbert and those of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. He knew in great detail how Gilbert himself had staged his productions, understood the significance of the minutiae, and dedicated himself to directing productions in the authentic style of the originals. He brought this gift to us.

Rafe demonstrates what he wants to see in a dance for 2017's The Pirates of Penzance



Gilbert & Sullivan Austin has benefited immensely from our association with this remarkable scholar and artist. He is a courtly gentleman, a congenial correspondent, a fascinating raconteur, and a warm-hearted friend. Many in our audiences have enjoyed delightful conversations with him in the lobby and have appreciated deft touches such as his personal notes and his wardrobe of neckties with symbols from the Savoy operas.

How fortunate we were that, just before the world shut down in March, Rafe was with us to narrate two performances of *A Day at the Savoy Theatre*, our last live show before stages had to close. We will long cherish that happy memory.

And when we are able to be together in performance spaces again, we plan to have our AD Emeritus and his dear wife, Alice, back in their seats to enjoy the next production.

Please join us online to honor Ralph MacPhail, Jr., at our virtual meeting on January 10!

Libby Weed

Gilbert & Sullivan Puzzler Questions by Don Devine, from The GASBAG, 1995

Cover the Clue column and answer as many as you can. Then uncover the Clue column and try to answer the rest. Write down the name of the operetta in which the following words or phrases are spoken or sung. Rack up extra points by naming the character who says or sings each word or phrase. **Important hint:** There is no more than one quote from any single operetta. See page 5 for the answers and how to calculate your score.

The puzzler phrase	Cover this Clue column unless you need it. Here are the words in context from the operetta.
1. quips and quibbles quaint	"According to our custom old / With quips and quibbles quaint/ / But all in vain the quips we heard / We lay and sobbed upon the rocks / ..."
2. black and white and dapple grey	"My papa he keeps three horses, / Black and white and dapple grey, sir; / Turn three times and take your courses, / Catch whichever girl you may, sir!"
3. A teardrop dews each martial eye	"Our soldiers very seldom cry, / And yet — I need not tell you why: — / A teardrop dews each martial eye."
4. With an ounce or two of lead	"With an ounce or two of lead / I dispatched him through the head!"
5. Chivalry is an ingredient	"Chivalry is an ingredient / Sadly lacking in our land; / Sir, I am your most obedient, / Most obedient to command."
6. Thirsty lambs run foxy dangers	"Wink is often good as nod; Spoils the child who spares the rod; / Thirsty lambs run foxy dangers / Dogs are found in many mangers."
7. cervical vertebrae	"As the saber true / Cut cleanly through / His cervical vertebrae!"
8. As a poet, I'm tender and quaint	"As a poet, I'm tender and quaint — / I've passion and fervor and grace — / From Ovid and Horace to Swinburne and Morris, / They all of them take a back place."
9. When breakfast is taken away	"You cannot eat breakfast all day, / Nor is it an act of a sinner, / When breakfast is taken away, / To turn your attention to dinner."

Proposed Bylaws Amendments by Sue Caldwell, Bylaws Committee Chair

The GSA Board proposes the following bylaws amendments to be considered for the Annual Meeting (*see page 1 regarding voting*). Changes from our current bylaws are shown in bold.

Amendment 1: Modify Article Five (Board of Directors):

5.01 General Powers. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Directors must be Members **entitled to vote** at the time of their election **and are expected to attend all scheduled Board meetings**.

This amendment states what had been our assumptions.

Amendment 2: Modify Article Six (Officers):

6.02 Election and Term of Office. The President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its organizational meeting. **The President shall not serve more than six (6) consecutive terms.** All officers must be Directors.

This amendment was suggested by Libby Weed, who has served as our President since 2008.

Amendment 3: Modify Article Seven (Special Committees):

7.01 Appointment of Committees. The Board of Directors may designate and appoint one or more special committees to assist in carrying out the management of the Society. **Permanent Committees shall consist of the Executive Committee, Production Committee, Finance Committee, Fundraising Committee, Membership Committee, and Publicity Committee. Other committees may be created by the Board of Directors as needed.** Members of each such committee shall be Members of the Society, but need not be Directors, and the Board of Directors shall appoint the members

of each committee. Any members thereof may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever in the Board's judgment the best interests of the Society shall be served by such removal.

This amendment codifies the committees needed to carry out the work of the Society, so that they need not be re-designated with each new Board.

Amendment 4: Add Article Seventeen (Insurance and Liability):

17.01 The Society shall indemnify a Society volunteer (including directors and officers) against civil liability for damages based on an act or omission by the volunteer if the volunteer was acting in the course and scope of his or her duties or functions, to the maximum extent permitted by law but subject to the limits of coverage in the Society's general liability insurance policy. Such indemnity shall extend to after-the-fact reimbursement for expenses after a successful defense and to the advancement of defense expenses or reimbursement for a judgment after an unsuccessful defense, but the Society shall not indemnify an individual if a final, non-appealable determination has been made that the individual's misconduct was willful, in bad faith, or constituted a breach of loyalty.

17.02 The Society shall maintain continuous general liability insurance coverage that is at least equal to the maximum amount of the Society's liability for money damages under the Texas Charitable Immunity and Liability Act of 1987.

This is essentially a house-keeping addition, and is currently met. It commits us to continue this practice.

A Day at New England G&S by Sue Caldwell



During the first full weekend in March of this year, GSA presented ***A Day at the Savoy Theatre*** twice, on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, and I had the pleasure of attending both performances. Our artistic director, **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**, served also as narrator for the first half, presenting **Dave Wieckowski's** well-researched history of G&S and the Savoy Theatre. A cast of five (**Patricia Combs**, **Reagan Murdock**, **Taylor Rawley**, **Amy Selby**, and **Julius Young**) presented at least one song from each G&S production that premiered at the Savoy, with accompaniment by **Jeanne Sasaki**. After intermission, the cast performed the charming one-act ***Mr. Jericho***, a non-G&S show from the Savoy of that time. I left the Brentwood Theater humming "Jericho Jams!"



curtain call: Amy, Taylor, Reagan, Julius, and Patricia

Much of the intermission talk involved the city's just-announced decision to cancel this year's South by Southwest music festival, which was to have been a week later, due to "an abundance of caution" over a new coronavirus, whatever that was. Ten days later, the city shut down as everyone learned what it meant.

On November 21, the New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society presented our production in a Zoom meeting that took me back to those happier times. NEGASS President **Amy Ferentz** served as host, while Program Chair **Jacqueline Haney** served as virtual stage manager. The program was suggested by **David DeVries**, editor of their newsletter, ***The Trumpet Bray***. Rafe (a member of NEGASS as well as GSA) set the scene for us, and then

we enjoyed the video recording of GSA's show, made by **David Little** and available on our website. I was again impressed by the performances, and have been humming "Jericho's Jams" ever since!

The audience for this Zoom included a number of GSA folk—**Libby Weed**, **Robert Kerr**, **Charles Smaistrila**, **Elaine Jacobs**, and **Karron Lewis**, among others. It was delightful to chat with our fellow G&S enthusiasts on the East Coast.

This webcast of our production joins **#DiscoverGSA** as another successful outreach in making our productions more widely known to the greater world of Savoy opera enthusiasts—a positive how-de-do in our current state of things.

News of Members

GSA Secretary and Bursar **Michael Meigs** was awarded the annual Lewis Galantière Prize of the American Translators Association at their annual conference in October for his "immaculate" English version of Spanish author Dolores Redondo's novel ***All This I Will Give to You*** (Amazon Crossing, 2018). His translation of Redondo's prequel to her popular "Baztán Trilogy" of thrillers will be published in 2021. It is set in New Orleans in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina.



Happy Holidays from #DiscoverGSA!

by Leann Fryer



We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving—and that you got the chance to catch our special encore of 2012's ***Patience***! Christmas will bring another treat with an encore of 2017's ***The Pirates of Penzance***. Like ***Patience***, it will run for three days only, December

24 to 26. Keep an eye out for a special holiday message from a GSA favorite.

We hope to see you all in January, when we will resume streaming past shows each month, beginning with a digital encore of ***H.M.S. Pinafore***.



a screenshot from the discussion following the show



December



January

Worley Barton Theater Eagle Scout Project by Libby Weed



Hunter Biegert

Hunter Biegert, a sophomore at Brentwood Christian High School, completed a renovation of two storage rooms behind the orchestra pit of Brentwood's Worley Barton Theater as his Eagle Scout project this fall. The two rooms, which had been filled with odds and ends of unused furniture and equipment, have now become two extremely attractive and useful spaces—a makeup studio and a costume storage room.



the makeup studio —let there be lights!

Hunter's first intention was to benefit the school's theater production class and its performance activities. But he also had in mind the outside groups, including Gilbert & Sullivan Austin, who rent this performance space. These groups will also have access to the makeup studio and costume storage area.

As Hunter began his project in the summer, he established a GoFundMe site to assist with purchase of supplies. Several members of the GSA board and production team were inspired by his vision and contributed to the campaign. He and a team of volunteers, including other scouts, family, and friends, worked through the coming months following Hunter's plan to remove the clutter, clean and paint the space, build in new shelving and storage areas, install lighted mirrors, and move in costume and makeup supplies.



Hunter shows off the new costume room

When the project was complete, Hunter held an "open house" on the last Friday night of October, inviting school families and everyone who contributed to the GoFundMe campaign to view the results of the project. Thanks to his vision and his efforts, what was once wasted space is now a very useful addition to the theater.

Thank you, Hunter!

Gilbert & Sullivan Puzzler Solution by Don Devine, from The GASBAG, 1995

Scoring (maximum score is 81):

2 points—correct operetta, but *you did refer* to the Clue

4 points—correct operetta *without referring* to the Clue

2 points—correct character, but *you did refer* to the Clue

5 points—correct character *without referring* to the Clue

1. quips and quibbles quaint	Pirates. Sung by Ruth in a trio with Frederic and the Pirate King. The next line, which is a give-away, is "Until to somebody occurred / A startling paradox."
2. black and white and dapple grey	Gondoliers. Sung first by the chorus of contadine and then by the chorus of gondoliers as Marco and Giuseppe are blindfolded and spun before selecting their brides.
3. A teardrop dewes each martial eye	Patience. Sung by the Duke , repeated by the chorus of dragoons, and he pleads with the chorus of maidens to stay and resume their previously "plighted" relationship.
4. With an ounce or two of lead	Yeomen. Sung by Wilfred and repeated by the chorus, as Wilfred describes, at the end of Act I, how he shot Colonel Fairfax while he was escaping across the river.
5. Chivalry is an ingredient	Sorcerer. Sung by Lady Sangazure in a duet with Sir Marmaduke in which they alternatively sing to each other with stately courtesy and aside with frantic vehemence.
6. Thirsty lambs run foxy dangers	Pinafore. Sung by the Captain in a duet with Buttercup in which she tries to tell him things are seldom what they seem. He finds it incomprehensible.
7. cervical vertebrae	Mikado. Sung by Pitti-Sing in Act II as she and Ko-Ko and Pooh-Bah fabricate a description for the Mikado of an execution which never took place.
8. As a poet, I'm tender and quaint	Ruddigore. Sung by Robin as he explains to Richard how diffident he is.
9. When breakfast is taken away	Trial by Jury. Sung by the Defendant as he explains to the jury how it is unreasonable to expect a man not to love more than one lady.

Join Us!

We encourage you to join our Society to help GSA keep the joys of Gilbert & Sullivan alive. We offer many levels of membership, starting with basic member at \$30 per year. To join, renew, or donate, please visit www.gilbertsullivan.org/join/.

Support GSA

You can support Gilbert & Sullivan Austin effortlessly by joining Amazon Smile. Once you sign up on Amazon.com, Amazon will rebate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. We hope you choose GSA! Sign up the next time you want to visit Amazon.com by going to smile.amazon.com.

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Once you become an Amazon Smile member, you will help underwrite **The McAdo** and all future GSA programs and productions with each eligible Amazon purchase. Thank You!



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THE AUSTIN SAVOYARD - DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

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.

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The Society holds nonprofit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.
Artistic Director **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**
Music Director **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**

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