

THE AUSTIN SAVOYARD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **Diane Radin**

I'm dreaming—no, not of a White Christmas, but of a full house for every one of the nine performances of **The McAdo**. GSA was thrilled to have pulled in a full house at the Dell Jewish Community Center for our **Gilbert & Sullivan and Sondheim** show. Performers love to perform in front of a large crowd, especially an appreciative and responsive one.

How can we get that full house turnout for **The McAdo**? We can do it with YOUR help. Let me spell out just what I mean.....

M is for the Many times you tell your friends about this upcoming show.

C is for the Countless ways you sneak it into Conversations.

A is for the Admission you pay to Attend and for bringing a few friends with you.

D is for your Donation to help pay the bills for a first-rate production.

O is for your Outreach to all the groups you belong to —your book group, poker gang, pickleball teammates, walking partners, church choir members, Passover seder and Easter dinner guests, friends and relations, from seniors to kids.

Of course, we will have posters tacked up around town and there will be ads in the **Chronicle** and other news outlets. Of course, the performers will encourage their "groupies" to attend. Yes, there will be ads on KMFA and KUT along with interviews with the cast. We have found that it is almost impossible to get coverage in the **Statesman** (and we are not so sure that people read newspapers these days). Indeed, there will be Facebook and Instagram posts and email blasts from our website that you can forward to everyone.



But the single best way to bring out the crowds is word of mouth—your mouth in particular. This show will make you proud to be a supporter of GSA. The amazing singing, the tuneful orchestra, the gorgeous costumes, the stunning sets, the comfortable theater (with free parking), the friendly volunteers, the beautiful playbill – and best of all, the lilting songs and music by those masters of musical theater Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Sullivan.

Can we count on your help to fill the 400-seat theater nine times over? I hope so.

The McAdo Cast

Pretty Jean — **Julie Allison**

The McAdo — **Bob Beare**

Katishagh — **Patricia Combs**

Coco — **Trey Deason**

Nanky Doug — **Michael Kelley Dixon**

Pubagh — **Sam Johnson**

Wynn Somme — **Mary Kettlewell**

Wee Jo — **Amy Selby**

Pischtusch — **Julius Young**

The Chorus: **Carlee Abschneider,**

Kristin Bilodeau, Garrett Cordes,

Andy Fleming, Leann Fryer, Brett Hardy,

Janette Jones, Annisha Mackenzie,

Mindy Rast-Keenan,

Anneliese Sandoval, Ian Stillwell,

Susan Johnston Taylor, Jay Young

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Stephen Sondheim's Reflective Song

by Mary Hendren

It's fitting to begin this review with a few words from Stephen Sondheim's "No One is Alone" because the song describes what we experienced at the production of **Gilbert & Sullivan and Sondheim**. "No One is Alone" is the final song from the musical fairy tale **Into the Woods**. It centers on the value of coming together, that we don't have to face life's challenges alone:

*Someone is on your side,
No one is alone.
You move just a finger
Say the slightest word
Something's bound to linger
Be heard*

This was true on March 12. We had a full house, standing room only, people sitting shoulder-to-shoulder enjoying music together. True because we had pleasant seating, close to the stage so we caught the comic gestures and facial expressions. True because friends came and supported one another. True because the cast put on a



Janette explains

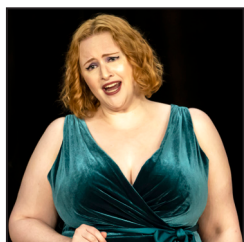
wonderful show and lingered for snacks and conversation. Thanks to **Janette Jones** and **Leann Fryer** for directing and producing a delightful program. They met the goal of connecting the dots. Janette provided introductions and explanations, as well as joining the choruses.

We came away with intimations of Gilbert & Sullivan in Sondheim's work, especially the patter songs.

The singers, accompanied by **Karl Logue**, performed twenty-one songs: four from Gilbert & Sullivan comic operas, four from various Broadway musicals, and thirteen composed by Sondheim. The repertoire included four songs about weddings: "Oh, happy young heart," sung by Leann; "My Mother's



Karl Logue



Leann's happy heart

Wedding Day" performed by **Susan Johnston Taylor**; "Getting Married Today" performed by Susan, **Andy Fleming**, and **Sarah Manna**; and "An Old Fashioned Wedding" done by **June Julian** and **Stephen Maus**. In this last song, they confronted the



Stephen and June plan a wedding



Susan's mother's wedding day

wedding decisions faced by Annie and Frank in **Annie Get Your Gun**. He pictured a simple ceremony, a little chapel, orange blossoms, and *to love, honor and obey*. She fancied a big church, bridesmaids and flower girls, reporters and photographers, and *to love and honor yes, but not to obey*.



Sarah, Susan (NOT getting married today), and Andy

Josué Hernandez and Andy compared notes in "Agony" as neither of the princes (**Into the Woods**) had made progress with the ladies they sought: *ten steps behind, always ten steps below and she's just out of reach*.



Josué and Andy



Patricia calls for clowns

Patricia Combs sang the beautiful ballad from **A Little Night Music**, "Send in the Clowns," a reflection on the foolish mistakes that ended an affair, and by extension the times when anyone's choices make them the clowns, the foolish ones.

The show included plenty of humor: Andy acting the maid as **Gregory A. Hilliard, Jr.**, sang "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid"; Susan shedding her veil; Stephen and Sarah plugging Hudson's Floor Wax in "Speed Test" (a parody of "The Matter Trio" from **Ruddigore**); the cast touting the joys of a weekend in the country;



Gregory and "maid" Andy

Gilbert & Sullivan Austin presented *Gilbert & Sullivan and Sondheim* on March 12, 2023
 photos on pages 2 and 3 courtesy David Little see more at gilbertsullivanaustrin.smugmug.com

June contemplating strategies for catching the Grand Duke. Bravo to all the performers for a fantastic show!

Always the thanks for those who served invisibly, bringing snacks, managing details, setting up and taking down, for the Shalom Austin staff, for GSA Board members such as **David Little** (videography) and **Monica Kurtz** (coordinating the snack table), for volunteers **Win Bent** at the merchandise table and **Isabella Slaughter** at the greeting table—actually it gets back to community and the value of everyone's contributions toward success.



Patricia and Gregory "Welcome, joy"



Leann - "The Miller's Son"



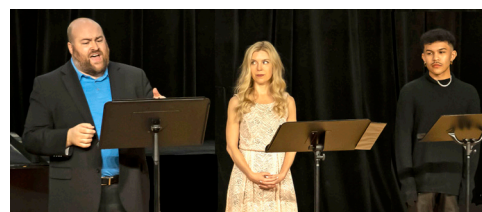
Gregory - no one is alone



Stephen and Sarah have a speed test



June seeks the Grand Duke



"Now"

"Soon"

"Later"



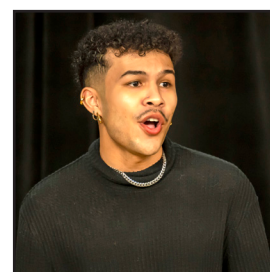
Stephen in "A Little Priest"



Sarah sings of "Green Finch and Linnet Bird"



Andy sings "Ya Got Trouble"

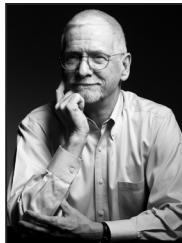


Josué sings of "Johanna"



Ars longa, vita brevis – and *The McAdo* by Michael Meigs

Five years! Five years we've worked on crafting *The McAdo* after assembling in 2018 under **Dave Wieckowski's** leadership to ponder the challenges. And *twelve years* have passed since we were surprised by letters decrying our 2011 production of *The Mikado* that were dispatched to members of the Austin City Council even before we opened.



Life is short but art is long, said Hippocrates, meaning both that art is difficult to achieve and that art endures. That's been a great incentive to see this rewarding project through to triumphant production.

Another adage applies, one I haven't been able to construct in adequate Latin: *art endures but recording technology changes*. Gilbert & Sullivan Austin has a rich archive of photos at www.gilbertsullivan.org; CDs and DVDs preserved major performances in recent decades. As COVID threatened our 2022 *The McAdo*, our video team reprogrammed in a rush to capture opening night—which turned out to be the only public performance. We plan to record our 2023 *The McAdo* over several evenings to ensure the best possible record. Meanwhile, with CD and DVD use on the wane, we're confronted with choices. Are video streaming and pay-per-view in the GSA future?

Theatre art, by its very nature, is ephemeral. That's why live performance offers intense delight superior to the pleasures of any recording. The 2023 *The McAdo* is not to be missed. Many of the cast will return, including leads **Mary Kettlewell** as Wynn Somme and **Michael Kelley Dixon** as Nanky Doug. **Patricia Combs** will again intimidate as the ferocious Katishagh.

The 2023 cast features new faces. **Trey Deason** as Coco reprises and reinterprets the role he performed in our 2005 production, giving you the opportunity to appreciate the growth of a much-appreciated performer. **Sam Johnson**, our erstwhile Pirate King, appears as Pubagh, in an intriguing metamorphosis from roisterous freebooter to stuffy, duplicitous authoritarian.

GSA proudly presented strictly traditional G&S performances under the guidance of Artistic Director emeritus **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**, in the course of two decades, but COVID and circumstances obliged us to innovate with our Scottish *McAdo* and 2021 *Fresh Takes*. What's next? We'll see; *The Yeomen of the Guard* is scheduled for 2024.

Gilbert's wit and Sullivan's music entertain and instruct via any vehicle. *The McAdo* offers the fresh-faced hope of youth, mocks the self-importance of authority, depicts the pain of fading beauty and thrill of new romance, celebrates the promise of marriage, and reminds us how comic we mortals are.

As **Bob Beare** in the role of the McAdo will assure us at the end of the evening, "Nothing could possibly be more satisfactory!"

Ad Space Available in the Playbill for *The McAdo*

Consider purchasing an ad for your business, practice, service, etc., in the playbill for *The McAdo*. It will be seen by several thousand G&S aficionados.

Ads come in several different shapes and sizes, all at reasonable rates:

- Full page 4½"x7½" @ \$300,
- Half page 4½"x3¾" @ \$150, and
- Quarter page - vertical or horizontal - 2¼"x3¾" or 4½"x1½" @ \$75.
- The one and only **Full Back Page** (in color!) can be yours for \$500.

Invite the people with whom you do business to purchase an ad and help support this production.

You can see previous playbills on our website (www.gilbertsullivan.org): Click Shows, then select a show under Past Productions and click on the Playbill.

To reserve ad space in the playbill for *The McAdo*, or to ask questions and get more information, please contact ad manager **Aletha Read** at media@gilbertsullivan.org.

The deadline for ad commitment (both size and format) is May 1, and final copy is due by May 15.



2022 Summer Grand Production
Worley Barton Theater, 11908 North Lamar, Austin

Friday	June 9	7:30	Free Gala Buffet after show
Saturday	June 10	2:00	
Saturday	June 10	7:30	Pre-Show Talk (6:30)
Sunday	June 11	2:00	
Thursday	June 15	7:30	Reduced-Price Thursday
Friday	June 16	7:30	Pre-Show Talk (6:30)
Saturday	June 17	2:00	
Saturday	June 17	7:30	
Sunday	June 18	2:00	Children's Activities (1:00)

For ticket information, please visit our website at
www.gilbertsullivan.org

Foggerty's Fairy

by W. S. Gilbert

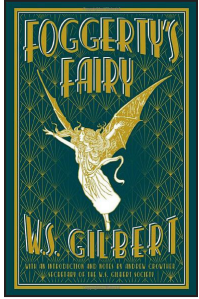
Edited and Introduced

by Andrew Crowther

Reviewed by Ralph MacPhail, Jr.



Following publication in 2021 of W. S. Gilbert's *Engaged* (Austin Savoyard, May 2022), Andrew Crowther has brought back into print another of Gilbert's comedies, *Foggerty's Fairy*, which was originally presented at London's Criterion Theatre in 1881. This new paperback edition is enhanced by "A Brief Introduction" to Gilbert, a short but important introduction to the play itself, notes on the text, and an appendix containing the original opening of Act II.



Mr. Crowther opens his introduction noting that

Foggerty's Fairy is one of W. S. Gilbert's funniest and most inventive plays, but also one of his least well known. Its central idea, that to make even the smallest alteration to the past leads to major changes in the present, may seem child's play to a modern audience brought up on the conventions of twentieth-century science fiction, but it was unfamiliar to many at the time. . . . Despite its widely acknowledged wit and invention, it lasted for only twenty performances, closing on the 6th of January 1882.

The play "bewildered critics and audiences alike," according to the editor, who quotes several reviews including one from the *Sportsman*, which "judged the plot to be 'something too much like a proposition in the sixth book of Euclid to be followed by any average audience.'" Its short run was the result.

Foggerty's Fairy, like so many of the dramatist's works, had its genesis in an earlier work. "The Story of the Twelfth Cake," a short story, originally published in 1874, concerns a tradesman who is granted three wishes by a visiting fairy, enabling him to obliterate elements from his past—each wish flinging him into an ever-worse alternative present, until, with his final wish, he obliterates from his life the meeting with the fairy that had caused all the trouble in the first place.

(Gilbert revised "The Story of the Twelfth Cake" and published it as the first work in his collection of short stories, *Foggerty's Fairy and Other Tales* [Routledge, 1890]. The original story can be found in Mr. Crowther's recent *The Triumph of Vice and Other Stories* [Alma Classics, 2018].)

The text of the play is presented clearly, enhanced by effective repositioning of stage directions; and the notes in the back make clear the editor's treatment of the text, helping to elucidate terms and expressions that may be unfamiliar to the modern reader.

Best of all, it will serve as an excellent "acting edition" and will, we can hope, lead to production on the stage today.

Andrew Crowther's edition of W. S. Gilbert's *Foggerty's Fairy* (London: Renard Press Ltd., 2021) is available from [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) and from the publisher: www.RenardPress.com. (Note: When shopping online, be sure you select Andrew Crowther's edition of *Foggerty's Fairy* published by Renard Press.)

Growing the GSA Scholarship Program

GSA is pleased to provide increased scholarship opportunities for the 2023-24 academic year, and will be offering \$1,500 scholarships for up to four recipients - two each of the *Gilbert & Sullivan Austin Libby Weed Scholarship* and the *Dr. Robert O. and Mary Ann Kerr Music Scholarship*. At least two of these scholarships will be specifically designated for members of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community. Payments will be made directly to the student's school of study or program. GSA reserves the right to modify the amounts and number of recipients based on the recommendation of the GSA Scholarship Committee.

Applicants must:

- Be pursuing a professional career in music or musical theater (preferably vocal performance)
- Be enrolled or enrolling in a professional course of study in the United States (university, college, or conservatory music degree program, apprenticeship program, Young Artist Program, etc.)
- Have an affiliation with Central Texas (resided, studied, or performed in the Central Texas area, defined as the counties of Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Blanco, and Burnet)
- Be at least a graduating high school senior

Preference will be given to applicants who have performed Gilbert & Sullivan.

To apply, please visit our website, www.gilbertsullivan.org, select About, then Scholarships. Applications must be submitted by May 7, 2023.



What? You missed *Gilbert & Sullivan and Sondheim*?
Well, at least you can read about it on pages 2 and 3!

Send Us Your News!

The next newsletter should arrive about June 1; the deadline for submissions will be about May 8. Please send your news to news@gilbertsullivan.org. Thanks!

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S MIKADO

AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE



Coming Events

June 9-18 **The McAdo** summer grand production
see articles on pages 1, 4

For more information, please visit our website at
www.gilbertsullivan.org

Join Us!



We encourage you to join GSA to help 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, visit www.gilbertsullivan.org/join/.



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Leann Fryer

Newsletter Editor

Sue Ricket Caldwell

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

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