

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin



Trial by Jury



Artistic & Stage Director: Ralph MacPhail, Jr. • Music Director: Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

First Presbyterian Church
Austin, Texas

February 23, 2014

Thank You!

We are particularly grateful to the following for their valued assistance with this production of *Trial by Jury*:

Bill Hatcher, Andy Hathcock, Janette Jones, Roberta Long, Diane Radin, Kent Smith, Michael Tunks, Libby Weed, and Nancy Winters for providing props
Brentwood Christian School and Roberta Long for loan of graduation robes

Carol Brown for styling the wigs
Kendra Hiller at Genesis Presbyterian Church
Jane Bassett at First Presbyterian Church
Janette Jones for loan of the wedding gown
The Georgetown Palace Theater for use of their scene shop and tools

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of G&S through

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Educational/Community Outreach

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

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This project is funded and supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and in part by the City of Austin Economic Development Department/Cultural Arts Division, believing that an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin's future.

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

presents

Trial by Jury

First Presbyterian Church

February 23, 2014

3:00 PM

Written by
W. S. Gilbert

Composed by
Arthur Sullivan

Artistic and Stage Director
Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Music Director and Conductor
Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Producer
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Costumer
Costume Coordinator
Set Construction
House Manager
Playbill Cover Design
Playbill Editor

Libby Weed
Bill Hatcher
Alexandra Reilman
Janette Jones
Pam Fowler
Ron Watson
Allan Longacre
David Little
Sue Ricket Caldwell

Pianist

Jeanne Sasaki

Dramatis Personæ

The Learned Judge Arthur DiBianca
The Plaintiff (Angelina) Carol Brown
The Defendant (Edwin) Wayne J. Davis
Counsel for the Plaintiff Janette Jones
Usher David Fontenot
Foreman of the Jury Robert L. Schneider

Bridesmaids

Amanda Kay Boundy, Amelia Ciskey,
Leann Fryer, Nicole Ryder

Gentlemen of the Jury

Scott Poppaw, David Treadwell,
Jay Young

Members of the Public

Daniel Brookshire, Patricia Combs, Mark Long, Rachael Shaw

Trial by Jury

Trial by Jury premièred on March 25, 1875, at the Royalty Theatre in London. It was the first Gilbert & Sullivan opera produced by Richard D'Oyly Carte and is the only one-act work the duo wrote, although they had written others with other collaborators. It is also their only through-composed work—a true opera (without dialogue)—although they called it a “dramatic cantata.”

It is a cliché but no exaggeration to say that *Trial by Jury* took London by storm, affirming D'Oyly Carte's feeling that English comic opera could be more successful than the usual musical theatre of the age which was frequently composed of adaptations of French works (with all of the Gallic sexiness excised). (*Trial by Jury* was, in fact, originally an afterpiece for a production of Offenbach's *La Périchole*.)

In 1877, D'Oyly Carte launched his own company devoted to English comic opera, and over the next two decades produced another dozen works from Gilbert & Sullivan, all of which continue to hold the stage with countless productions each year by groups such as ours. Pay careful attention to *Trial by Jury*, and you will discover the seeds for the distinctive style and characteristics of their later works.

We hope you will enjoy this “chamber” production—fully staged and sung, with grand piano accompaniment, costumes, props, and the suggestion of a set—as we sing so merrily, “trial-la-law”!

The Story

Hark, the hour of ten is sounding we hear as the Usher tries to bring order from the Great British Public to the courtroom, and separates the spectators from jurors in preparation for a trial for breach of promise of marriage. He encourages the Jury to adopt his own bias (*Now, Jurymen, hear my advice*) just before the arrival of the Defendant, Edwin (*Is this the Court of the Exchequer?*), who explains his roving eye with the ladies (*When first my old, old love I knew*). The Jury agrees that they were cut from the same cloth (*Oh, I was like that when a lad!*) but assert they have become respectable. All welcome the Judge, who tells all how he came to his exalted position. He had a roving eye, too, and it helped! (*When I, good friends, was called to the bar*) The Jury take their oath (*Oh, will you swear*) before the entrance of the Bridesmaids (*Comes the broken flower*) and the Plaintiff, Angelina (*O'er the season vernal*). She quite captivates the Jury and the Judge. The Plaintiff's Counsel then presents her case (*With a sense of deep emotion*) which is supported by Angelina's tears (*That she is reeling*). All threaten the Defendant, leading Edwin to present his defense (*Oh, gentlemen, listen, I pray*), suggesting he would thrash and kick his wife, since he is “such a very bad lot,” especially when drinking. After objections, the entire ensemble considers this, *A nice dilemma*. The Plaintiff declares her love for this rake, asking the jury to consider her distress when assessing “the damages Edwin must pay,” which leads the Judge to consider making Edwin tipsy as a way to determine the truthfulness of his defense. All but the Defendant object, leading the Judge to solve the impasse in an unexpected but delightfully humorous way, and all sing of *joy unbounded*.

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Musical Numbers

- “Hark, the hour of ten is sounding” Ensemble and Usher
- “Is this the Court of the Exchequer?” Defendant and Ensemble
- “When first my old, old love I knew” Defendant, Usher, and Ensemble
- “All hail, great Judge!” Ensemble, Judge, and Usher
- “When I, good friends, was called to the bar” Judge and Ensemble
- “Swear thou the Jury!” Counsel, Usher, Defendant, Judge, and Jury
- “Where is the Plaintiff?” Counsel, Usher, Bridesmaids, and Plaintiff
- “Oh, never, never, never” Judge, Foreman, Plaintiff, Usher, Jury, & Bridesmaids
- “May it please you” Counsel, Plaintiff, Usher, and Ensemble
- “That she is reeling is plain to me” Judge, Foreman, Plaintiff, Counsel,
and Ensemble
- “Oh, gentlemen, listen, I pray” Defendant and Bridesmaids
- “That seems a reasonable proposition” Judge, Counsel, Jury, Usher & Ensemble
- “A nice dilemma” Full Ensemble
- “I love him” Full Ensemble
- “Oh, joy unbounded” (Finale) Full Ensemble

The Production Team



Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

(Artistic & Stage Director) has directed 13 GSSA productions. Next weekend he and Jeffrey will audition singers for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The

following week he'll speak on *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the University of Chicago. In August, Rafe will teach a Road Scholar (Elderhostel) course in New York on "*Pira-Mika-Fore*."



Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

(Music Director/Conductor) has served as the Musical Director for GSSA since 2003, and is pleased to be conducting his second *Trial*

by Jury. He has been associated with the Society since 1993. In 2003 he was awarded the B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Musical Direction for his work on *The Pirates of Penzance*.



Bill Hatcher

(Production Manager) has been a member of GSSA since 1985 and the Society's Production Manager since 2009. He enjoys the

excitement, challenges and rewards of managing these shows and thanks the Board for their trust. Bill has also served as President and Treasurer, acted on stage, and played in the orchestra.



Jeanne Sasaki

(Pianist) is Staff Accompanist and Vocal Coach at Butler School of Music at The University of Texas at Austin. She also maintains a private

piano teaching and vocal coaching studio at her home in Austin. In her 30-year career, she has worked with many outstanding vocalists and instrumentalists from across the United States.

The Cast



Amanda Kay Boundy

(Bridesmaid) is in her fourth G&S show, and her second performance with GSSA. She completed a B.A. in Music Performance at Albion College and an M.M. in Voice Performance at the Peabody Conservatory. She was a featured recitalist for Pine Mountain Music Festival and has performed with Zach Scott Theater and Austin Lyric Opera.



Daniel Brookshire

(Public) has appeared in GSSA's 2005 versions of *The Mikado* and *Trial by Jury*, as well as *Ruddigore* in 2007, *Patience* in 2012, and last year's *Princess Ida*. He also sings with the Capital City Men's Chorus (14 years) and the Trinity United Methodist Church Choir.



Carol Brown

(The Plaintiff) is thrilled to be a part of GSSA again after her 2008 debut as Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Since graduating from UT with a BM in Voice, she has performed for several seasons with Austin Lyric Opera and recently as a member of Spotlight on Opera. When not onstage or backstage, Carol is a hairstylist and voice teacher.



Amelia Ciskey

(Bridesmaid) holds a MM in Opera Performance from UT, where she performed the roles of Babs (*New York Stories*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Cugina (*Madama Butterfly*), and Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*). She portrayed Barbarina in Austin Lyric Opera's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Last summer she sang Lady Psyche in GSSA's *Princess Ida*.



Patricia Combs

(Public) has appeared in a number of productions with GSSA since 2004. Her most recent roles include Lady Blanche in *Princess Ida*, Lady Angela in *Patience*, Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado*, and Phoebe in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Patricia is an active member of the Austin Lyric Opera Chorus.



Wayne J. Davis

(The Defendant) teaches voice at Concordia University. He completed his doctorate in voice/pedagogy in 2009 from The University of Texas. He has sung the roles of Ralph (*H.M.S. Pinafore*), Frederic (*The Pirates of Penzance*), and Marco (*The Gondoliers*), and as Lieut., the Duke of Dunstable in GSSA's 2012 *Patience*.



Arthur DiBianca

(The Learned Judge) has appeared in many productions with GSSA since 1994. His most recent roles include Ko-Ko in *The Mikado* (2011), Reginald Bunthorne in *Patience* (2012), and King Gama in *Princess Ida* (2013). Outside the G&S world, he serves as the president of the Austin Philharmonic, a community orchestra.



David Fontenet

(The Usher) is enraptured finally to be performing in *Trial By Jury*, an opportunity that has somehow eluded him during his previous 18 (or so) seasons of G&S. David would like to express his humble gratitude to the many members of the GSSA whose kindness and support have made every show a joyous experience.



**Leann R. Fryer**

(Bridesmaid) has appeared in GSSA choruses for 2012's *Patience* and last year's *Princess Ida*. She performs with Spotlight on Opera and has been in many shows with the Georgetown Palace Theater.

**Janette Jones****(Counsel for the Plaintiff)**

is a native Austinite who learned to love G&S while performing with the Light Opera of Manhattan, where she played many lyric mezzo roles. She has been nominated four times for a B. Iden Payne Award, most recently in 2012 for her portrayal of Lady Jane in *Patience*.

**Mark Long**

(Public) first performed with GSSA in 1997 (*The Yeomen of the Guard*), and last year's *Princess Ida* was his eleventh production with our

company. He has also sung with the Austin Choral Union, the Austin Lyric Opera Chorus, the Texas Choral Consort, and Chorus Austin.

**Scott Poppaw**

(Juror) appeared in GSSA's 2000 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* and also in last year's *Princess Ida*. Actively involved in Austin's theater and art

community, he has worked for many years as an actor, singer, and theatrical sign language interpreter.

**Nicole Ryder**

(Bridesmaid) made her GSSA debut in last year's *Princess Ida*. She has performed with Austin Lyric Opera and Spotlight on

Opera. She received her BA in Graphic Design with a minor in music from St. Edward's University in 2011.

**Robert L. Schneider****(Foreman of the Jury)**

began singing G&S roles in high school in Michigan. After college, he sang opera for 30 years in Germany. Now teaching voice in Austin, he serves on the GSSA Board, heading the "Wand'ring Minstrels," who entertain for schools and private functions. He and wife Katie are proud parents of singer-songwriter Bob Schneider.

**Rachael Shaw**

(Public) has appeared in the last two GSSA summer productions, *Patience* and *Princess Ida*. She is originally from Michigan, where she was

very active in musical theatre, appearing as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Jellylorum in *Cats*, and Janet in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

**David Treadwell**

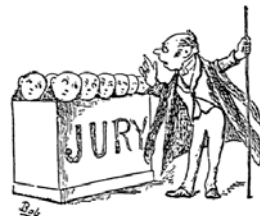
(Juror) made his GSSA debut in last year's *Princess Ida* and was recently elected to the Board of Directors. In the work-a-day world he owns

a chemistry consulting company and a small recording studio, is an amateur photographer, poet and creator of pies.

**Jay Young**

(Juror) is thrilled to be a juror in this Trial. He has lived in Austin for 22 years, and is happy to call it home. When

not serving on juries, he works in the State Capitol, performs in the chorus for operas and musicals, and frequents theatrical productions in the Austin area.



Upcoming Events



H.M.S. Pinafore Auditions

March 1 & 2



H.M.S. Pinafore Preview Musicale

Sunday, May 18 - 3pm



Summer 2014 Grand Production

H.M.S. PINAFORE

9 Performances

June 12-22



For more information on these and other GSSA activities please visit

www.gilbertsullivan.org