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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

40th ANNIVERSARY

*Gala  
Celebration and Musicales*

An Evening of Musical Merriment

Master of Ceremonies

Libby Weed

Featuring

Lisa Alexander - Corinna Browning - Arthur DiBianca

Russell Gregory - Holton Johnson - Janette Jones

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona - June Julian

Accompanist - Jeanne Sasaki

Producer - June Julian

Director - Janette Jones



Chez Zee - 5406 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas  
Thursday, October 20, 2016, 7:00 pm

## GSSA - an Austin tradition

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin proudly celebrates spreading the delights of Gilbert & Sullivan throughout Central Texas for 40 years. We are the second oldest continually performing musical theatre group in Austin.

When *H.M.S. Pinafore* was produced in 1976 by the Austin Civic Theater and Zachary Scott Center of Austin, this production inspired a group of devoted Savoyards to meet that September at the Creek Theater to organize The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin. Articles of Incorporation were formulated on April 14, 1977, and non-profit tax-exempt status was obtained the following year.

Organizers and original members of the Society were Linalice Carey, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Enid Hallock, Robin-Elena Hinderer, D. Allen Lawshae, and Rosemary Russell-Vines. In February 1977, Linalice Carey staged a GSSA production of *Ruddigore* or *The Witch's Curse*, at her tiny Creek Theater on the banks of Waller Creek.

Since its inception, GSSA has produced annual productions of Gilbert & Sullivan operas, both as an independent organization and as co-producer with other Austin companies. Following the 1977 *Ruddigore*, the Society presented *The Sorcerer* in November 1977 (exactly one century after its premier). Then GSSA joined with the Zachary Scott Theater Center for productions of *The Pirates of Penzance* (1977), *The Mikado* (1978), *Patience* (1980), *Trial by Jury* (1982), *The Gondoliers* (1983), and *Ruddigore* (1985). In 1978, the Society collaborated with St. Edward's University to produce *Iolanthe*. The last co-production by the Society was *The Pirates of Penzance* with Live Oak Theater in April, 1991. Since that time, the Society has presented its own productions independently.

In addition to its annual productions, the Society produces Musicales several times a year which are free and open to all. These are informal events in which G&S songs mix with other musical genres, and audience participation is encouraged. Our most recent was the September 11 Musicale, "The Yeomen's Salute to First Responders," a fundraiser benefiting The 100 Club of Central Texas. Our Wand'ring Minstrels program presents G&S productions in schools, retirement centers, civic clubs, and other venues. We also offer musical scholarships and internship opportunities for high school students to work back stage at our annual productions.

Operations are funded by membership dues, corporate and individual donations, ticket sales, and grants by the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Still Water Foundation. The Society is governed by an annually-elected, all-volunteer board of directors.

## GSSA Hall of Fame

In 2006, at its 30th anniversary celebration, The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin initiated a Hall of Fame to honor members who have made significant contributions to the Society. At that time, 10 members were inducted into the Hall of Fame. They were Sue Ricket Caldwell, Frank Delvy, Reba Gillman, Len Gillman, Russell Gregory, Enid Hallock, Janette Jones, Robert Mellin, Rosemary Russell-Vines, and Katharine Shields.

In 2011, at its 35th anniversary celebration, members inducted into the Hall of Fame were Arthur DiBianca, Bill Hatcher, Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., and Libby Weed.

It is our great pleasure to tonight induct the following exceptional members into the GSSA Hall of Fame:

**Holton Johnson**, Lead Tenor

**Monica Kurtz**, Stage Manager

**David Little**, Publicist and Webmaster

**Dave Wieckowski**, Treasurer and CFO

We thank the 40th Anniversary Gala Committee and Volunteers:

Libby Weed, Chair

June Julian - Diane Radin - Sandra Ragona - Sarah Slaughter

Charles Smaistrle - David Treadwell - Dave Wieckowski

Photography by Sue Ricket Caldwell

**Special Thanks to Our Patrons for the Gala:**

Susan and Chris Buggé

Stanley Bullard and Patti Riley-Brown

Sue Fairbanks and James Huff

Lillie Gilligan and Hugh Higgins

Julie and Bert Ray

Katharine and Greg Shields

David Treadwell

## Program

### Welcome and Introductions

*Libby Weed*

### God Save the Queen

*led by Chris Buggé*

### America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

*led by Mark E. Long*

## Honorees

Holton Johnson, Lead Tenor

Monica Kurtz, Stage Manager

David Little, Publicist and Webmaster

Dave Wieckowski, Treasurer and CFO

## Honors Presentations & Musical Selections

### The Mikado; or, The Town of Titipu

(presenter, Michael Meigs)

"A wand'ring minstrel, I" . . . . . Holton & Men

"A more humane Mikado" . . . . . Russell, Ensemble & Audience

"Alone, and yet alive!" . . . . . Lisa

"Willow, tit-willow" . . . . . Arthur

"There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" . . . . . Arthur & Lisa

"The sun, whose rays are all ablaze" . . . . . June

### The Yeomen of the Guard; or, The Merryman and His Maid

(presenter, Libby Weed)

"Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon" . . . . . Arthur

"A man who would woo a fair maid" . . . . . Corinna, Janette & Jeffrey

"Strange adventure!" . . . . . June, Lisa, Holton & Russell

"I have a song to sing, O!" . . . . . Corinna, Arthur & Ensemble

## Intermission

*Enjoy coffee & dessert; last call for Silent Auction!*

### H.M.S. Pinafore; or, The Lass That Loved a Sailor

(presenter, Bill Hatcher)

"The nightingale" . . . . . Jeffrey, Lisa & Men

"A maiden fair to see" . . . . . Jeffrey & Men

"Now give three cheers / When I was a lad" . . . . . Russell, Ensemble  
& Audience

"Refrain, audacious tar" . . . . . June & Jeffrey

"Things are seldom what they seem" . . . . . Arthur & Lisa

### The Pirates of Penzance; or, The Slave of Duty

(presenter, Ralph MacPhail, Jr.)

"When a felon's not engaged in his employment" . . . . . Russell & Men

"I am the very model of a modern Major-General" . . . . . Arthur, Ensemble  
& Audience

"Oh, is there not one maiden breast" . . . . . Holton & Ladies

"Poor wand'ring one" . . . . . Corinna & Ladies

## Closing Remarks

*Libby Weed*

All join to sing *Hail, Poetry*, led by Russell Gregory & Ensemble

## Special Thanks to Our Silent Auction Donors:

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