

Gilbert & Sullivan Austin
presents

Trial By Jury



Artistic & Stage Director: Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Music Director: Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School

Austin, Texas

March 3 and 4, 2018

Thank You!

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

Pam Fowler for styling the wigs
Kendra Hiller at Genesis Presbyterian Church, **Janet Gurley** at Crestview United Methodist Church, and **Ron Bell** at the Church of Christ in Hyde Park for help with rehearsal space
Janette Jones for loan of the wedding gown

Libby Weed, Kent Smith, Michelle Mallett, and **Bill Hatcher** for providing props
Jeanne Sasaki and **Brett Bachus** for being our substitute pianists
David Treadwell, Byron Arnason, and **Bill Hatcher** for moving the set, and **Lonnie Evans** for loaning moving equipment

Gilbert & Sullivan Austin

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Music Director

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Gilbert & Sullivan Austin

presents

Trial by Jury

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian Church

March 3, 2018, 7:30 pm and

March 4, 2018, 3 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
Set Construction
Costume Coordinator
Lighting Designer
Light Board Operator
Sound Designer
Sound Board Operator
Projectionist
Supertitles Preparation
Playbill Editor

Libby Weed
Bill Hatcher
Callie Stribling
Ann Marie Gordon
Pam Fowler
Travis Pollard
Tessa Banner
Patrick Hanrahan
Patrick Hanrahan
Jillian Hamilton
Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Sue Ricket Caldwell

Pianist

Karl Logue

Dramatis Personæ

The Learned Judge **Arthur DiBianca**
The Plaintiff (Angelina) **Angela Irving**
The Defendant (Edwin) **Andy Fleming**
Counsel for the Plaintiff **Janette Jones**
Usher **Robert L. Schneider**
Foreman of the Jury **Robert LeBas**

Bridesmaids

**Leann Fryer, Sarah Manna,
Ellie Mellen, Sarah Steele**

Gentlemen of the Jury

**Jake Jacobsen, Scott Poppaw,
Jay Young**

Members of the Public

Garrett Cordes, Anthony Fuller, Jennifer Garza, Rosa Mondragon Harris

Trial by Jury

Trial by Jury premiered 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 presented as 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 16 GSA grand summer productions and all five of the mid-season shows. This summer he will stage

Ruddigore, a hilarious send-up of Victorian melodrama, for GSA. He and his wife Alice live in Bridgewater, Virginia, and treasure their Austin friendships!



Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

(Music Director/Conductor) has served as the Music Director for GSA since 2003, and is pleased to be conducting his third *Trial by*

Jury. He has been associated with GSA since 1993. In 2003 he received 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 GSA 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.



Karl Logue

(Pianist) is the principal accompanist for the Capital City Men's Chorus. He is a prolific composer of choral, orchestral, and piano works.

He directs the Interfaith Pride Choir and the Unity Church of the Hills Inspiration Choir, and is worship organist for Hyde Park Christian Church.

The Cast



Garrett Cordes

(Public) made his G&S debut as a beard with a pirate companion in last year's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. This year, he is playing a Tenor accused of singing too loudly, but no one has ever proven such a crime.



Jennifer Garza

(Public) is thrilled to be cast in her second GSA production. She previously appeared as Fiametta in *The Gondoliers*. Jennifer is a voice teacher and children's choir director in the San Marcos/Kyle area.



Arthur DiBianca

(The Learned Judge) has appeared in many Gilbert & Sullivan Austin productions since 1994. His most recent roles are Don Alhambra in *The Gondoliers* (2016) and Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2017).



Rosa Mondragon Harris

(Public) is elated to return for her eighth GSA production. She also sings with Tapestry Singers women's chorus and its smaller ensemble, Loose Threads; One Ounce Opera; and the Austin Opera Chorus. She has served on the GSA Board of Directors since 2015.



Andy Fleming

(The Defendant) was last seen as Box in *Cox and Box* and as a pirate in *The Pirates of Penzance*. This is Andy's 15th season with Gilbert and Sullivan Austin. Andy frequently performs with Austin Opera and One Ounce Opera.



Leann Fryer

(Bridesmaid) has appeared in many GSA choruses, including both summer productions and mid-season productions. She has also performed with Spotlight on Opera and has been in many shows with the Georgetown Palace Theater.



Angela Irving

(The Plaintiff) is delighted to perform in her ninth GSA production. Angela teaches voice lessons during the day, and often sings with Austin Opera and One Ounce Opera. Notable GSA roles include Tessa in *The Gondoliers* (2016), Laetitia in *The Zoo* (2015), Melissa in *Princess Ida* (2013), and Peep-Bo in *The Mikado* (2011). Angela hopes you find this show rapturous!



Anthony Fuller

(Public) is from South Texas and moved to Austin in 2006 after studying music at the University of North Texas in Denton. He is a proud member of The Capital City Men's Chorus and spends his free time playing his own original music at open mics around town.



Jake Jacobsen

(Juror) is a baritone and in his fifth production with GSA. In 2015, Jake received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Texas in Vocal Performance. Jake performs with several professional organizations in Austin, including Austin Opera, One Ounce Opera, and Conspirare.



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*.



Robert LeBas

(Foreman of the Jury)

appreciates the exceptional musicianship and collaboration of GSA. The timeless works have a profound way

of connecting people through music. Robert would like to thank his family and his wife Danika, for their love and support.



Sarah Manna

(Bridesmaid) is delighted to perform in *Trial by Jury!* Sarah's past GSA roles include Giulia in *The Gondoliers*, Isabel in *The Pirates of*

Penzance, and a soloist in various musicales. Sarah thanks the cast and crew for making this performance experience such a special one!



Ellie Mellen

(Bridesmaid) has been performing for over 18 years. She was first seen with GSA in *The Pirates of Penzance*

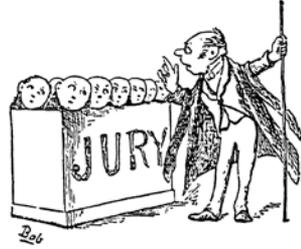
in 2017 and is excited to be back with the company. She is grateful for the support she gets from the cast and her family.



Scott Poppaw

(Juror) appeared in GSA's 2000 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, our 2013 production of *Princess Ida*, and last year's *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Actively involved in Austin's theater and art community, he has worked for many years as an actor, singer, and theatrical sign language interpreter.



Robert L. Schneider

(Usher) 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 GSA 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.



Sarah Steele

(Bridesmaid) is delighted to be part of this production. She has sung in three previous GSA productions and also

sings with the Austin Opera chorus. She studies German and Russian at the University of Texas.



Jay Young

(Juror) is thrilled to be a juror in this Trial. He has lived in Austin for 26 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

May 20 **Ruddigore** Preview Musicale

June 14-24 **Ruddigore** summer production



For more information on these and other GSA activities, please visit
www.gilbertsullivan.org



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors for *Trial by Jury*:

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