

Gilbert & Sullivan Austin
presents

H.M.S. Pinafore
or, The Lass that Loved a Sailor



Artistic Director: Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Music Director: Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School

Austin, Texas

March 2 and 3, 2019



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Gilbert & Sullivan Austin

presents

H.M.S. Pinafore

or, The Lass that Loved a Sailor

IN CONCERT

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian Church

March 2, 2019, 7:30 pm and

March 3, 2019, 2 pm

Written by

W. S. Gilbert

Composed by

Arthur Sullivan

Artistic Director

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Music Director

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Producer

Libby Weed

Production Manager

Bill Hatcher

Stage Manager

Joseph Clingan

Set Wrangler

David Treadwell

Lighting Designer

Travis Pollard

Light Board Operator

Travis Pollard

Supertitles Preparation

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Supertitles Projection

Carissa Kiessling

Publicity

David Little

Playbill Editor

Sue Ricket Caldwell

Pianist

Jeanne Dayton Sasaki

Thank You!

We are particularly grateful to the following for their valued assistance with this production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*:

Kendra Hiller at Genesis Presbyterian
Church for help with rehearsal space

KMFA 89.5 FM

Travis Pollard for expert assistance and
support at Brentwood Christian School

Travis Pollard and **Joseph Clingan** for
assisting the Set Wrangler

St. Michael's Episcopal School in Bryan,
TX, for donation of *H.M.S. Pinafore*
scores

Celebrating 25 Years Together

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona and Gilbert & Sullivan Austin



*Jeffrey as conductor
for H.M.S. Pinafore
in 1994*

In the fall of 1993, the Board of Directors of Gilbert & Sullivan Austin hired a young graduate student at the University of Texas to serve as music director for a production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, to be performed in January and February of 1994. This young man led a cast including Robert Rudié as Sir Joseph Porter, Frank Delvy as Captain Corcoran, and Janette Jones as Little Buttercup. He received the first of his numerous B. Iden Payne nominations for music conducting for this show.

Twenty-five years later this young man, now **Dr. Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, having earned a Doctorate in Conducting from UT Austin and having played many prominent roles on the Austin choral music scene, is directing music once again for the latest voyage of the Pinafore in Austin. This year, in addition to his music direction role, Jeffrey is also fulfilling a long-time desire to play a role under the direction of **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**

Dr. Jones-Ragona was named Music Director for Gilbert & Sullivan Austin in 2005, the same year that Ralph MacPhail, Jr., was named Artistic Director. Together, this remarkably talented pair of directors has led our organization to greater and greater heights as a leading musical theater production company in central Texas.

In reflecting on his quarter-century directing the Savoy operas with us, Jeffrey said, "It's been a privilege to watch GSA grow over the years. Being a part of that and collaborating with Ralph has been a truly wonderful and important part of my professional and personal life."

Working with you has been truly wonderful for us, Jeffrey. We thank you for your first 25 years with us and look forward to the future with you!

Welcome Aboard!

If you enjoy an occasional cruise—on Lady Bird Lake or on the vast “ocean blue”—you know that when you set sail you’re in for a good time. Like a good cruise, revisiting *H.M.S. Pinafore* never palls.

Gilbert intended to call his ship *H.M.S. Semaphore*, but his composer-colleague Arthur Sullivan suggested christening the vessel with the name of a child’s smock. This topsy-turvy suggestion encapsulated Gilbert’s tongue-in-cheek look at life aboard an English man-o’-war “in many various ways.”

On board *H.M.S. Pinafore* we find a captain who must accompany his military commands with an “if you please” and whose behavior is the opposite of other seafaring martinets in song and story. We find Captain Corcoran to be the model of civility, observing the social amenities with his men—and even checking his salty language in their presence.

Aboard this peaceful man-o’-war we also find a First Lord of the Admiralty, a civilian official who before his appointment had never been to sea—or even seen a ship!

Also aboard this topsy-turvy vessel we find a hero in Ralph, a lowly and uneducated tar, speaking as if he had studied the classics, and a villain in Dick Deadeye who is the only character on board who speaks common sense.

H.M.S. Pinafore glides so effortlessly in performance that it’s easy to overlook her topsy-turvy subtleties. Only aboard this ship would ecstatic lovers “murmur forth decorous joy in dreamy roundelays,” would a First Lord of the Admiralty proclaim his incompetence in an amusing song, and would a contrived dénouement leave a heroine with her true love—a man who must be the same age as her father!

Topsy-turvy, too, was *H.M.S. Pinafore*’s initial reception, for the work proved eminently seaworthy in the United States before doing so at her home port.

Perhaps most topsy-turvy of all, shortly after *H.M.S. Pinafore* opened in London in 1878, a reviewer characterized the show as a “frothy production destined soon to subside into nothingness.” Well, as Little Buttercup sings, “Things are seldom what they seem”!

Thank you for coming aboard. We hope that this “concert production” will affirm the G&S legacy of tuneful, timeless delight. We also hope it will provide happy memories of a pleasant cruise for you passengers who sail the ocean blue with us into that enchanted land Gilbert called “Topsy-turvydom.” Getting there, we hope, will be all the fun!

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Dramatis Personæ

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B. (*First Lord of the Admiralty*)

..... Arthur DiBianca
 Captain Corcoran (*Commanding H.M.S. Pinafore*) Robert LeBas
 Ralph Rackstraw (*Able Seaman*) Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
 Dick Deadeye (*Able Seaman*) Reagan Murdock
 Bill Bobstay (*Boatswain's Mate*) Bruno César Barbosa
 Bob Becket (*Carpenter's Mate*) Scott Poppaw
 Josephine (*the Captain's Daughter*) Chantal Freeman
 Cousin Hebe (*Sir Joseph's First Cousin*) Abigail Adams
 Mrs. Cripps (*Little Buttercup*) (*A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman*)
 Bonnie Bogovich

Chorus of Sailors

Whit Allee, Bradley Boatright, Garrett Cordes
 Andy Fleming, Gary Hallock, Jake Jacobsen
 Ian Stilwell, Jay Young

Chorus of Sisters, Cousins, and Aunts

Corinna Browning, Patricia Combs, Leann Fryer
 Erica Hernandez, Janette Jones

The Production Team



Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

(Artistic & Stage Director)

has directed 17 GSA grand summer productions and all six of the mid-season shows. This summer he will stage for *Iolanthe*, a hilarious send-up of Victorian politics, for GSA. He and his wife Alice live in Bridgewater, Virginia, and treasure their Austin friendships!



Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

(Music Director)

has served as the Music Director for GSA since 2003, and has been associated with GSA for 25 years. In 2003 he received the B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Musical Direction for his work on *The Pirates of Penzance*. He was named to GSA's Hall of Fame in 2011.



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.



Jeanne Dayton Sasaki

(Pianist)

has enjoyed serving as a pianist with GSA for six years. She maintains a piano studio in Austin. Her prior professional engagements include performing/teaching at The University of Texas at Austin, Le Chateau de la Voix in Champaign, IL, Taos Opera Institute in Taos, NM, and One Ounce Opera in Austin.

Musical Numbers

Overture..... The Pianist

ACT I

Quarterdeck of H.M.S. *Pinafore*, off Portsmouth: Noon

“We sail the ocean blue” Sailors
“I’m called Little Buttercup” Buttercup
“But tell me who’s the youth” Buttercup and Boatswain
“The nightingale” Ralph and Chorus of Sailors
“A maiden fair to see” Ralph and Chorus of Sailors
“My gallant crew” Captain Corcoran and Chorus of Sailors
“Sir, you are sad!” Buttercup and Captain Corcoran
“Sorry her lot” Josephine
“Over the bright blue sea” Sir Joseph’s Female Relatives, *off-stage*
“Sir Joseph’s barge is seen” Chorus of Sailors and Sir Joseph’s Female Relatives
“Now give three cheers” Captain Corcoran, Sir Joseph, Cousin Hebe, and Chorus
“When I was a lad” Sir Joseph and Chorus
“For I hold that on the seas” Sir Joseph, Cousin Hebe, Female Relatives & Sailors
“A British tar” Ralph, Boatswain, Carpenter’s Mate, and Chorus of Sailors
“Refrain, audacious tar” Josephine and Ralph
“Can I survive this overbearing?” (*Finale of Act I*) The Ensemble

INTERMISSION

ACT II

The Same: Night

Entr’acte The Pianist
“Fair moon, to thee I sing” Captain Corcoran
“Things are seldom what they seem” Buttercup and Captain Corcoran
“The hours creep on apace” Josephine
“Never mind the why and wherefore” Josephine, Captain, and Sir Joseph
“Kind Captain, I’ve important information” Captain and Dick Deadeye
“Carefully on tiptoe stealing” Soli and Chorus
“Farewell, my own!” Octet and Chorus
“A many years ago” Buttercup and Chorus
“Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen!” (*Finale of Act II*) The Ensemble

The Cast



Abigail Adams

(Cousin Hebe) returns for a second GSA production after singing Zorah in last summer's *Ruddigore*. Her favorite G&S roles include

Lady Angela (*Patience*) and Constance (*The Sorcerer*). She sings in the choir of St. Martin's Lutheran Church. When not singing, she is studying for a Ph.D. in medieval literature at UT.



Whit Allee

(Chorus) is in his first show with GSA. He is a senior at Brentwood Christian High School, where he has performed

in countless productions and is a member of the International Thespian Society. He hopes to continue to participate in future performances after he graduates and starts his path towards pursuing a career in medicine.



Bruno César Barbosa

(Bill Bobstay) is from São Pedro d'Aldeia, RJ, Brazil. He graduated with honors from UT Austin (BM Voice Performance, BA English).

In June 2019, he will be the Emerging Artist for the Victoria Bach Festival and singing the title role in Echo Ensemble Austin's Giulio Cesare (echoensembleaustin.com).



Bradley Boatright

(Chorus) is excited to be in his first show with GSA! A sophomore at Smithville High School, he has attended the Schmidt Vocal

Institute and has placed first in category 4A at both Texoma and South Texas NATS. Previously, Bradley performed in community productions with Playhouse Smithville for four seasons.



Bonnie Bogovich

(Little Buttercup)

is excited to perform once again with GSA! You can learn about her past roles, compositions, music and

voice for video games, audio dramas, educational media and more on her website: BlackCatBonifide.com



Corinna Browning

(Chorus) is in her third show with GSA. Recent Austin credits include Mae (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Austin Shakespeare), Banquo

(*Macbeth*, Something for Nothing), Nina (*The Seagull*, Austin Shakespeare), and Rose Maybud (*Ruddigore*, Gilbert & Sullivan Austin).



Patricia Combs

(Chorus) has lost count of how many wonderful productions she has performed with GSA, although this is her first

H.M.S. Pinafore. Most recently, she was seen as Dame Hannah in *Ruddigore*. Patricia is an active member of the Austin Opera Chorus and One Ounce Opera.

The Cast



Garrett Cordes

(Chorus) gladly returns to GSA for this special production! Special skills include: incorrect sword swinging, flag tossing, synchronized sitting, fist bump explosions, dying a dramatic death like a soprano, singing from the dead like a soprano, and coming back to life, mid-show, very much unlike a soprano.



Arthur DiBianca

(The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B.)

has appeared in many GSA productions since 1994. Most recently he has played Don Alhambra in *The Gondoliers* (2016), Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2017), and Robin Oakapple in *Ruddigore* (2018).



Andy Fleming

(Chorus) is excited to be back! Previous roles include Grosvenor in *Patience*, The Defendant in *Trial by Jury*, and emergency stand-in conductor in one performance of *The Gondoliers*.



Chantal Freeman

(Josephine) is a lyric soprano from Chicago, IL. After receiving her BA in Music and Theology from Fordham University, she relocated to Philadelphia to study with voice technician Antonio Conte Pugliese. She will graduate in May with a Master's in voice from UT, and studies with baritone Donnie Ray Albert.



Leann Fryer

(Chorus) is celebrating her tenth show with GSA! She has been putting her music minor to good use with this company, as well as with Spotlight on Opera and the Georgetown Palace Theater.



Gary Hallock

(Chorus) performed with his mother in the 1976 *H.M.S. Pinafore* which gave "berth" to GSA; both played a variety of roles on and off stage through its long history. He serves as kid wrangler at our children's matinees. He's also served as producer and emcee of the Annual O. Henry Pun-Off World Championships for the past 30 jeers.



Jake Jacobsen

(Chorus) is in his seventh production with GSA. He has played the roles of Samuel in 2017's *The Pirates of Penzance* and Second Yeoman in 2010's *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Jake has performed with Austin Opera, Conspire, and One Ounce Opera. Jake graduated from UT with a DMA in vocal performance in 2015.

The Cast



Erica Hernandez

(Chorus) originally from Laredo, TX, received a Bachelor of Music degree from Texas A&M International University in 2012 and moved to Austin in 2013. She is excited to be in her third production with Gilbert and Sullivan Austin, and to continue being a part of the GSA family.



Janette Jones

(Chorus) is thrilled to be singing in *H.M.S. Pinafore* again. Her first Gilbert & Sullivan show was in the *H.M.S. Pinafore* mezzo chorus with the Light Opera of Manhattan. She fell instantly in love with G&S and remains so to this day.



Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

(Ralph Rackstraw)

conducted his first production with GSA 25 years ago, in February 1994—it was *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Jeffrey is thrilled to step out of the pit and onto the stage in his first principal role with GSA since portraying Luiz in 1995's *The Gondoliers*. What a wonderful journey it has been!



Robert LeBas

(Captain Corcoran)

is pleased to take part in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, his third GSA production. He also regularly performs with the Austin Opera, Austin Cantorum, One Ounce Opera, and the Good Shepherd Schola. Robert would like to thank his family and wife for their continued support.



Reagan Murdock

(Dick Deadeye) is very happy to be part of his second production with GSA. He is a recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin. He also performs voiceovers in video games such as *Smite* and *Paladins*, and anime such as *Dragon Ball Super*.



Scott Poppaw

(Bob Becket) is thrilled to be performing with GSA once again! Previous appearances include: *Trial by Jury*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Princess Ida*, and the 2000 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Scott is actively involved in Austin's theater and art community. Offstage, Scott tends to his online consignment and art businesses.



Ian Stilwell

(Chorus) is proud to be in his ninth production and second *H.M.S. Pinafore* with GSA. An Austin native, raised in Austin theater and graduate of Saint Edwards Theater Program, Ian hopes to continue to perform in Austin for many years to come. Ian would like to thank his family for supporting him in theater over many years.



Jay Young

(Chorus) is thrilled to be a sailor on the Pinafore once again. When not sailing the ocean blue on the beauty of that saucy ship, he works in the State Capitol, performs in the chorus for operas and musicals, and frequents theatrical productions in the Austin area.

Esther the Clever Queen

Inspired by the music of Gilbert and Sullivan. Adapted Book and Music Selection by Ira Forman

Sunday March 17, 7 PM
Congregation Agudas Achim



Featuring:
Rabbi Neil Blumofe, Janet Forman,
Gil Zilkha, Steven Long, and Members of the CAA Choir

Directed by Stacey Glazer



A community-wide event

For tickets and more information,
www.theaustinsynagogue.org/queenesther

Upcoming Events

May 19 *Iolanthe's Fractured Fairy Tales* Musicale

June 13-23 *Iolanthe* summer production



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



Thanks to Our VIP Supporters for *H.M.S. Pinafore*:

Judy and Daren Allee

Frances and Daniel Hamermesh

Mary Ann and Robert Kerr

Peter Knudsen and Pamela Nelson

Carrie Silberman

Jay Westbrook and guest

