



A DAY *at the* SAVOY THEATRE

Artistic & Stage Director: Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Music Director: Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School

Austin, Texas

March 7 and 8, 2020



The Production Team



Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
(Artistic & Stage Director)

is Professor of Theatre emeritus, Bridgewater College, Virginia, where he taught and directed for 33 years. He has directed eighteen summer productions and all seven of the March mid-season shows for Gilbert & Sullivan Austin, which appointed him Artistic Director in 2005 and named him to their Hall of Fame in 2011. “Rafe” enjoys his busy retirement, much of it devoted to G&S: directing, researching, collecting, writing, editing, and speaking hither and yon. He and his wife Alice recently moved three blocks in Bridgewater to a cottage in the retirement community there, and they treasure their Austin friendships!



Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
(Music Director)

began working with GSA in 1994 as Music Director for *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and received the first of several B. Iden Payne nominations. In 2003, he received the B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Musical Direction for *The Pirates of Penzance*, and was named to GSA’s Hall of Fame in 2011. Jeffrey regularly performs with La Follia Baroque Orchestra and the Texas Early Music Project, and is a featured soloist with the Texas Bach Festival and Local Opera Local Artists (LOLA). He is Director of Music for the Cathedral of Saint Mary and a co-founder of Celtic Christmas at the Cathedral. This is Jeffrey’s 31st production with the Society.



Bill Hatcher
(Production Manager)

has been a member of GSA since 1985 and the GSA 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.



Andy Heilveil
(Stage Manager)

has worked on the sets and props for Gilbert & Sullivan Austin productions since 2014, but has recently taken on the stage manager position for some musicales so that he can unabashedly sit in on all of the rehearsals.



Jeanne Dayton Sasaki
(Pianist)

has enjoyed serving as a pianist with GSA since 2012, playing for musicales, auditions, rehearsals, and concert productions. She also currently maintains a piano and voice studio in Austin. Her 35-year career in collaborative piano has included performing/teaching at Butler School of Music at The University of Texas in Austin, Le Chateau de la Voix in Champaign, IL, Taos Opera Institute in Taos, NM, and One Ounce Opera in Austin.

Gilbert & Sullivan Austin

presents

A Day at the Savoy Theatre

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian Church

March 7, 2020, 7:30 pm and

March 8, 2020, 2:00 pm

"A Day at the Savoy Theatre"

presented by Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

researched and written by Dave Wieckowski

incorporating songs by Gilbert & Sullivan

selected by Janette Jones

Written by

W. S. Gilbert

Composed by

Arthur Sullivan

and featuring the Austin premiere of

"Mr. Jericho"

Written by

Harry Greenbank

Composed by

Ernest Ford

Artistic and Stage Director

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Music Director

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Producer

Libby Weed

Production Manager

Bill Hatcher

Co-Director

Janette Jones

Co-Producer

Leann Fryer

Lead Technician

Matt Marks

Stage Manager

Andy Heilveil

Sound Designer

Matt Marks

Sound Engineer

Elaine Jacobs

Set Design and Construction

Ann Marie Gordon

Lighting Design

Travis Pollard

Lighting Operation

Pixie Avent

Costume Coordinator

Pam Fowler

Supertitles Preparation

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Projectionist

Claire Pittner

Playbill Editor

Sue Ricket Caldwell

Performers

Patricia Combs

Reagan Murdock

Taylor Rawley

Amy Selby

Julius Young

Pianist: Jeanne Dayton Sasaki

Mr. Jericho!

One of the delightful aspects of spending the last half-century devoted to Gilbert & Sullivan has been following the scholarship devoted to this remarkable collaboration.

I have seen Sullivan's full orchestral scores come out of London bank-vaults and made available to all. I have seen books strip away the mythology that has surrounded the storied collaboration of W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan (and Richard D'Oyly Carte). I have seen and heard performances of Sullivan's non-Gilbert works (including his oratorios) as well as Gilbert's non-Sullivan dramatic works. I have witnessed the lesser-known Savoy operas receiving more and more performances. I have been delighted to note that interest in Gilbert & Sullivan is now a part of the grist for scholarly journals and the repertoires of "grand" opera houses.

Today's presentation of *Mr. Jericho* represents another way in which scholarship into the history of the Savoy operas has deepened and broadened, for just five years ago, *Mr. Jericho* (words by Harry Greenbank; music by Ernest Ford) was an obscure footnote in the "post-carpet-quarrel" career of Gilbert & Sullivan. It was written in 1893 as a curtain-raiser for *Haddon Hall*, which was produced at the Savoy and composed by Sullivan, but written by Sydney Grundy. After a century of obscurity, *Mr. Jericho* was rescued from its fate by musicologist Christopher O'Brian and published in England.

I ordered a copy as soon as it became available, and found it a laugh-out-loud delight. The music sounds a lot like Sullivan's (Ernest Ford was Sullivan's pupil at the Royal Academy of Music), and Harry Greenbank was well on his way toward writing the tremendous successes of "the new musical comedy" at Daly's Theatre—works that for a while seemed to supersede comic opera in the public's estimation in the 1890s. Greenbank was surely familiar with his Gilbert & Sullivan, and in *Mr. Jericho* you may hear echoes of *The Sorcerer*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Iolanthe*, and—well, discovering Greenbank's possible antecedents is a delight I'd rather leave to you.

Our aim has been to offer an appealing array of familiar musical numbers that were first presented at the Savoy Theatre, and then give the same five singers a chance to present the Texas première of *Mr. Jericho*. GSA's CFO Dave Wieckowski wrote the historical narrative tying the first part together, thus with the singers setting the musical and historical stage for this little gem of an operetta.

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Dramatis Personæ

Michael de Vere (<i>Earl of Margate</i>)	Reagan Murdock
Horace Alexander de Vere (<i>an omnibus driver</i>)	Taylor Rawley
Mr. Jericho (<i>a jam manufacturer</i>)	Julius Young
Lady Bushey	Patricia Combs
Winifred (<i>her daughter</i>).....	Amy Selby

Musical Numbers

A Day at the Savoy Theatre

Presented by Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

"When I first put this uniform on" (<i>Patience</i>)	Reagan
"My Lord, a suppliant" (<i>Iolanthe</i>)	Patricia
"If you go in" (<i>Iolanthe</i>)	Taylor, Julius, and Reagan
"The world is but a broken toy" (<i>Princess Ida</i>)	Amy, Taylor, Julius, and Reagan
"A wand'ring minstrel I" (<i>The Mikado</i>)	Taylor
"When the night wind howls" (<i>Ruddigore</i>)	Julius and Chorus
"Tis done, I am a bride" (<i>The Yeomen of the Guard</i>)	Amy
"I have a song to sing, O" (<i>The Yeomen of the Guard</i>)	Patricia, Julius, and Chorus
"There was a time" (<i>The Gondoliers</i>)	Amy and Taylor
"I stole the prince" (<i>The Gondoliers</i>)	Reagan and Chorus

INTERMISSION

Mr. Jericho

Scene: Clematis Cottage, near Kensal Green

Time: 1893

"Introduction"	The Pianist
"When sunny summer ripens corn"	Horace
"My heart, my heart goes pit-a-pat"	Winifred and Horace
"My smelling salts get"	Winifred, Lady Bushey, and Horace
"When as a youngster to school he was sent"	Jericho
"There came to maiden innocence"	Lady Bushey and Jericho
"Who, alas! would be a peer"	Winifred, Lady Bushey, Horace, Jericho, and Michael
"Soon there shall ring" (<i>Finale</i>)	Winifred, Lady Bushey, Horace, Jericho, and Michael

The Cast



Patricia Combs

(Lady Bushey) is delighted to be a part of such a wonderful production, with a stellar cast and crew. She was most recently seen

as Dame Hannah in *Ruddigore* and will be playing Miss Jean Brodie this summer in *The McAdo*. Patricia is an active member of the Austin Opera Chorus and One Ounce Opera, and recently took on the role of Production Coordinator for One Ounce Opera's 5th Annual Fresh Squeezed Ounce of Opera micro-opera showcase.



Reagan Murdock

(Michael de Vere) is honored to take part in this truly special production with these truly special people. He made his GSA debut

as Old Adam in *Ruddigore* (2017), and followed it with the concert productions of *H.M.S. Pinafore* (2018) as Dick Deadeye and *Princess Ida* (2019) as King Gama. He will also be taking on the role of Coco in the upcoming production of *The McAdo*. When not on the stage, Reagan can be heard as a voice actor in various media, including the video game *Smite* and the television series *Dragon Ball Super*.



Julius Young

(Mr. Jericho) is excited to work with GSA for the seventh time, having played the Bo's'n in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Dr. Daly in

The Sorcerer, Cox in *Cox & Box*, and Sir Roderick Murgatroyd in *Ruddigore*. He will be returning to the company in the summer to sing the role of Pischtrusch in *The McAdo*. Julius has also recently sung in One Ounce Opera's Fresh Squeezed Ounce of Opera and chorus in Austin Opera's *Rigoletto*.



Taylor Rawley

(Horace de Vere) joins GSA for the third time this year and would like to thank all of the members for welcoming him with

open arms. A graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Carnegie Mellon, Taylor has been seen on stages across the country. Recent performances include Sam Kaplan in *Street Scene* and Cyril in GSA's *Princess Ida*. Later this season he will be performing the role of Nanky Doug in the reimagining of *The McAdo*. Taylor moved to Austin last year to pursue a career in aviation. He is a flight instructor and Cadet with Envoy Airlines based out of Georgetown Airport.



Amy Selby

(Winifred) brings a fresh, bright sound and presence to the stage. Currently a Resident Artist with Central Florida Lyric Opera, she

is thrilled to join her colleagues for the Austin debut of *Mr. Jericho*. She performed in GSA's recent productions of *Princess Ida* (as Melissa), *Iolanthe*, *Patience*, and *Ruddigore*. Last season she debuted the roles of Sophie in *Werther* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. Earlier seasons include Adele (*Die Fledermaus*) and Pamina (*The Magic Flute*). In addition to performing, she enjoys ballet, ballroom dancing, aerial silks, and teaching. Originally from St. Louis, she has also sung locally with One Ounce Opera, Austin Opera, and TCOC. More at www.amyselby.com.



Thank You!

We are particularly grateful to the following for their valued assistance with this production

Far West H-E-B for providing the
Saturday cast supper

Ron Bell at the **Church of Christ in
Hyde Park** and **Dawn Wetzel** at
Abiding Love Lutheran Church
for provision of rehearsal space

Abby Thomas at **Performing Arts
Supply Company of Houston** for
assistance with costuming

**Performing Arts Supply Company of
Houston** for costume rental

Andy Heilveil for construction of
benches and the fence, and for
lending some props

Pam Fowler at **Brentwood Christian
School** for provision of rehearsal
space

AnnMarie Melendrez at **Austin Math
Circle** for provision of rehearsal
space

Upcoming Events

The McAdo



A NEW BEGINNING JUNE 2020



It's the show you love, in a brand new setting! *The Mikado* has been moved to the highlands of Scotland and becomes *The McAdo*. Gilbert's libretto and Sullivan's score will be kept virtually intact, while the scenery and costumes will reflect the Scottish moors. It's a farcical tale of a wand'ring minstrel, a cowardly executioner, an iron-fisted ruler, and some of the greatest songs in musical theater!

Friday	June 12	7:30 pm	<i>Opening Gala</i>
Saturday	June 13	2:00 pm and 7:30 pm	
Sunday	June 14	2:00 pm	<i>Children's Activities</i>
Thursday	June 18	7:30 pm	
Friday	June 19	7:30 pm	
Saturday	June 20	2:00 pm and 7:30 pm	
Sunday	June 21	2:00 pm	<i>Closing Performance</i>

see more details at www.gilbertsullivan.org



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Music Director

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Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

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