



## PRESS RELEASE

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Media Inquiries: David Little  
Phone: (512) 970-5883  
E-mail: [dlittle@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:dlittle@gilbertsullivan.org)  
[www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

# SPRING MUSICALE – SUNDAY, MARCH 7th Musical Rarities from *The Yeomen of the Guard*

## Summer 2010 Grand Production Preview

WHO: The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin  
WHAT: Spring Musicale – *Musical Rarities from "The Yeomen of the Guard"*  
WHEN: Sunday, March 7 at 3pm  
WHERE: Genesis Presbyterian Church Sanctuary  
1507 Wilshire Blvd.  
INFO: Visit [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org) or call (512) 472-4772  
TICKETS: FREE

AUSTIN, TX – The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin proudly presents an afternoon of Gilbert & Sullivan delights as Artistic Director Ralph MacPhail, Jr. – Master of Ceremonies of the event – reveals little-known secrets of the classic operetta, *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Audience favorites Russell Gregory, Janette Jones, Dan Girardot and David Fontenot will perform various selections from *Yeomen* – accompanied by Martha Dudgeon.

Musical selections include:

- A song cut immediately after the opening night performance in 1888, as the lovesick Head Jailer of the Tower of London reveals his broken heart – with perhaps the most sensuous lyrics in all Gilbert & Sullivan.
- One of the most famous tenor songs in G&S that Sullivan composed three times.
- The original Finale to Act I, cut to save time, that caused friction between its creators.
- The rollicking but often cut duet by Dame Carruthers & Sergeant Meryll at the end of Act II, that features one of Gilbert's favorite words – Rapture – and also includes a secret plot element.

This performance will preview the Summer 2010 Grand Production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*, to be performed June 10-20. Last performed by the society in 1997, *Yeomen* is a richly textured show that is the closest thing to grand opera in the G&S repertoire. Both Gilbert & Sullivan considered *The Yeomen of the Guard* to be their favorite collaboration. Its story is lofty and its score is magnificent, and yet it loses not one bit of the fun and frivolity that are hallmarks of G&S shows. Its hauntingly beautiful tunes, colorful pageantry, and topsy-turvy storyline have captivated audiences for well over 100 years.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin was founded in 1976 with the purpose of education by preserving and presenting the works of Gilbert & Sullivan. Known for its highly acclaimed annual grand productions from the G&S repertoire, the Society is also dedicated to spreading and teaching the joys of G&S through school and community presentations.

GSSA is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.