

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

OCTOBER 2002 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Next Musicale *The Grand Duke* in Concert

7:30 pm Monday November 4, 2002, and
7:30 pm Friday November 8 2002

Harris-Bell Hall
Westminster Manor
4100 Jackson St.

(No Musicale in October)

The Grand Duke Progress Report

The first cast call and run through occurred on Saturday September 14 at 1:00 PM at the home of Gary and Chris Hallock. Art DiBianca and Brad Merrell have done a heroic job reducing the score to an hour and a half show. Andrew Hallock is directing the music, and Gloria Kim is the fine accompanist. A group of seven people sang through the score with enthusiasm. A talented addition is Larry Garvin, who is a visiting Professor this year at the UT Law School. Others have promised to join the group, and it is hoped there will be a total of 15 to 20 singers. The next rehearsal will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday September 21 at Gary's. All singers are welcome — better late than never — call Art at 707-2807.

Reba Gillman

Next Board Meeting

The September meeting of the Executive Board will be at 7:00 pm, Monday, October 7, at Paula Tyler's, 4400 Balcones Drive. You are invited!

Help Us Sell Ads

Look around at the places where you do business. Would any of them be willing to place a business card-sized ad in this Newsletter? (This announcement is that size, in a space 2" x 3.5".) We will place up to four such ads per issue, at the introductory charge of \$20 per ad. Call our office at 472-4772, or send an e-mail to

info@gilbertsullivan.org.

Message from Your President: PLEASE HELP!

• Larry Shepley

In order to stage *The Pirates of Penzance*, we need your help. We need money, and we need help getting money. Allan Longacre has been advising Art DiBianca, who has chaired our Fundraising Committee, and me, and we will be announcing some innovative ideas shortly. And I personally will be putting my money where my mouth is more than I ever have before.

Please help!

One way is to renew your membership at a higher donor level. If you are a Member, consider becoming a Patron. If you are a Patron, please consider moving to the exalted rank of Grand Duke or Duchess. It is lonely at the top, but I hope some new Major Generals, Pooh-Bahs, Pirate Kings, and Savoyards will join us — why not you? If you are up-to-date in your membership and add a donation, you will be immediately promoted to your new donor level.

If you now work for a corporation or foundation or once did and have contacts, please contact them — or give us information so that we may contact them for you. If you like writing letters, making phone calls, even filling out forms, we can use you, and rest assured, you will be thanked profusely.

Of course, if you prefer, you may make a donation directly in support of *Pirates*. Many individuals and institutions (such as the City of Austin) prefer to fund a specific activity. All our *Pirates* donors will be thanked specially in the Playbill and on the video. If you want to make a donation to support a particular part of the production (costumes, orchestra, etc.), just let us know.

The Society is yours. Whether we can continue to present beautiful and entertaining productions with the top-notch production values you and Central Texas have come to expect depends largely on you.

Please help!

The Society's resources have been severely drained during the last four years. Our biggest expense each year, of course, is our major production. I hope you enjoyed *The Mikado*, *Patience*, and *H.M.S. Pinafore* — but such grand productions cost about \$40,000 to present, if we wish to present them well. And we do! And we did! *Trial by Jury* was less expensive; it is a small gem; but we had to forego an orchestra. *Pirates* deserves a full orchestra, full sets, and authentic costumes, all of which cost money.

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Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

Nearly 60 people gathered to open our season on Monday September 9, 2002, in the lovely home of Benny and Nancy Jay (Brad Merrell's mother and step-father). Present were members, friends, and performers: Chris & Jean Buggé, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Augustin de la Peña, Larry & Robin Garvin, Reba Gillman with guests Aletha Read and Ron Hubbard, Enid Hallock, Gary Hallock, Bill & Nan Hatcher, Sigrid Levi-Baum, Dana McDougal, Robert Mellin, Maurie Ommerman, Joan Pearsall with guest Nell Clark, Bee Harris Polomé, George & Marge Reiter, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Bob Sharron, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, Ed & Jean Smootz, Dorothy M. Summerlin, Bob & Cathie Tull, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, and Milt Weiss. The performers were Stacey Amorous (her husband and daughter came for the opening only), Frank Delvy (with

Donna), Art DiBianca (with Elana Wakeman), Len Gillman, Dan Girardot (at the very end after a conflicting commitment), Cindy Hill (with Marshall), Holton Johnson, Janette Jones, Brad Merrell (with wife Laura, parents Benny & Nancy Jay and Dan Merrell, and brother Mike Merrell), Derek Smootz (with Jennifer Burleson and John A. Samuelson), Davis Tucker and Claire Vangelisti, with Lady High Pianist Pamela Stout.

After a few announcements President Larry Shepley invited all to attend the November performances of our concert version of *The Grand Duke*, and passed out tickets to be used for a drawing for three pairs of free tickets during the intermission. He then turned the proceedings over to Libby Weed, who had planned the evening's program.

Libby mentioned that everyone performing was listed in **The History** of our Society and gave a short but cogent introduction for each performer. Frank Delvy came forward to serve as the MC, and the program began.

Program

- “Brightly dawns our wedding day” from *The Mikado* — Entire company (accompanied by Pam)
- “My eyes are fully open” from *Ruddigore* — Janette, Holton, Frank (accompanied by Len)
- “Strange the views some people hold” from *The Grand Duke* — Claire, Janette, Holton, Brad, Davis
(all remaining numbers accompanied by Pam)
- “If Saphir I choose to marry” from *Patience* — Cindy, Stacey, Holton, Davis, Derek
- “Strange adventure!” from *The Yeomen of the Guard* — Cindy, Stacey, Holton, Frank
- “Three little maids” from *The Mikado* — Cindy, Claire, Stacey
- “In a contemplative fashion” from *The Gondoliers* — Cindy, Stacey, Brad, Derek
- “When you had left our pirate fold” from *The Pirates of Penzance* — Janette, Dan, Frank
- “I rejoice that it's decided” from *The Sorcerer* — Claire, Janette, Holton, Art, Davis
- “I am so proud” from *The Mikado* — Dan, Davis, Frank
- “Farewell, my own” from *H.M.S. Pinafore* — Entire company

After the sixth song, “Three little maids from school are we” from *The Mikado*, a short intermission was proclaimed. As we returned from stretching our legs, the Drawing was conducted, and three lucky people won pairs of tickets for *The Grand Duke*, choosing Monday November 4 or Friday November 8 to attend. Bee Polomé urged us all to attend the Sunday September 15th concert of the Austin Civic Orchestra, a memorial for September 11th. Frank Delvy announced the opening performance of this year's Dowser Dan show on Thursday September 12th. Frank said he was using the skills he learned for Jack Point in *The Yeomen of the Guard* (I guess he meant the juggling). Libby confessed that she was delaying matters to allow time for Dan Girardot to arrive from a church meeting, but the show must go on.

One song was postponed, but still no Dan. So after the quintet from *The Sorcerer*, Holton Johnson came on as substitute tenor. The piano began ... when Lo and Behold coming

through the door there was Dan! He leapt into his part with his usual aplomb, and we all enjoyed a very spirited rendition of “When you had left our pirate fold,” from *Pirates*, followed by “I am so proud,” the wonderful trio from *The Mikado*.

After the finale, “Farewell, my own” from *Pinafore*, sung by the entire company, Frank did the honors as the Pirate King to lead us all into “Hail Poetry,” followed by “Now to the banquet we press,” from *The Sorcerer*. And so in our now well-established tradition, we concluded the musical part of the evening, and pushed back the chairs to mingle and enjoy the soothing drinks and the cookies made by the French Bakery Program at Johnston High School, arranged for by Paula Tyler. A truly delightful evening in a beautiful setting. Thank you Libby, it was a great program! Thank you, Paula, and thank you Chris Buggé — you made an elegant greeter. And special thanks to Benny and Nancy for having us!

G&S Mugs

Tastefully designed with the G&S Logo. Only \$10. Call our office or write us for one of these handsome mugs (lead-free and microwave and dishwasher safe).



Randalls/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

Please register your Randall's Remarkable Card — Randalls will donate 1% of your bill to us (and up to two other charitable groups, if you wish). To register, visit the customer counter and use our name and number:

Gilbert and Sullivan Society 10090

This is an easy and cost-free (to you!) way to help us out.

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You will notice that I have not yet mentioned the expense of paying performers and directors. We do give the company honoraria, but these token amounts are to express our thanks. Our company are in essence volunteers, working so hard for so little monetary reward that their dedication is truly wonderful. If we had had to pay Rafe MacPhail, G'ann Boyd, Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Janette Jones, Frank Delvy, and all the others what they were really worth, we would not have had the pleasure of seeing and hearing their work! To pay our company is only just, and so I consider this expense to be especially honorable. I repeat:

Please help!

The Society has other activities. Many of you have enjoyed our Musicales. We are opting for fewer but more elaborate ones, and the turnout at the Musicale in September showed once again that G&S has an almost magical allure. Pirates in School needs help, too, but from volunteers to help scheduling more than money. *The Grand Duke*, which you will enjoy in November, will cost The Society almost nothing, but it needs volunteer singers. Our on-going office expenses are manageable. Our annual fund-raising Gala (look for it in early February 2003) brings us much-needed funds, though not enough. I end this article the way I started:

PLEASE HELP!

News of Members

Allen Lawshae is treading the boards at the Bass Theater in Round Rock. He is playing the part of the old actor in *The Fantasticks*, showing at 8 pm Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and at 2 pm on Sunday through September 28. Allen says this is the third time he has appeared in this show, playing a different part each time.

Frank Delvy is entering his third full year in the city's water conservation program, *Dowser Dan*. This year he is playing Drippo the Clown and does a lot of juggling. Frank always plays the bad guy — the water waster. This program is seen by hundreds of school children every year, and presumably encourages them to treat our water supply with respect.

Lucy Shoe Meritt is now residing at the Summit in Westlake, in the Health Care Center. She is on the second floor, sitting up in bed and holding court. Visitors welcome. Lucy's book, *Etruscan and Republican Roman Mouldings*, written with her colleague Ingrid Edlund-Berry, is being published by the University of Texas Press in a revised edition. Lucy's pioneering work in Greek, Roman, and Etruscan architecture has been recognized world-wide for over sixty years.

Senior Members: We're sorry; in the *Trial by Jury ... And More* Playbill, we listed our Members, but a technical aberration omitted our Seniors. We value all of our Members and will continue to court both Seniors and Young Persons with reduced rates but NOT reduced recognition or thanks!

We wish to thank the Austin Arts Commission for recommending that we receive funding from the City Arts fund and from state resources for next year (in support of Pirates). With this "seed" money, I hope that we will develop the support we so richly deserve from corporations, foundations, and individuals.



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
Trial by Jury ...And More
Video now available. Only \$20 (or \$22 if you wish it mailed.)

Membership Form

We encourage you to join our Society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal date on the top of the mailing label. If expired or near expiration, your membership needs to be updated! To correct your address, renew your membership, or become a member, complete this form, and mail it to us at:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
P.O. Box 684542
Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

Name (as you want it to appear) _____
Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
E-mail address _____
What company do you work for? _____

Please check membership category:
 Individual: \$20
 Family/Group: \$30
 Youth (18 & under): \$10
 Senior (65 & over): \$10
Membership benefits include our Newsletter & 10% discount on tickets.
 My donation of _____ is enclosed. (For levels & privileges, see below.)
 I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.
 I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider contributing to The Society at one of the following **Donor Levels**: **Patron** (\$50-\$99), **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249); **Major General** (\$250-\$499); **Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999); **Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499); **Savoyard** (\$2500 & up). Donors receive various benefits, including membership, listing in programs, and other benefits. Please call our office for further information.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of
Gilbert & Sullivan through

Annual Grand Productions
School Outreach Concerts
Free Monthly Musicales
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Monthly Newsletters
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Newsletter Editor Reba Gillman
Layout Larry Shepley

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org
E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org
The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

G&S Society Season Schedule for 2002-2003

Musicales:

November 4 and 8, 2002: *The Grand Duke*
Harris-Bell Hall, Westminster Manor

Monday January 6, 2003, 7:30 pm:
Annual Meeting — with Music

March, 2003: G&S Gems with Rafe MacPhail

Fundraising Gala: February 2003

The Pirates of Penzance: June, 2003
Helm Theater, St. Stephen's School

Monthly Executive Board Meetings
Dates to be announced



A Pirate Paradox, with Frank Delvy, Dan Girardot, Janette Jones, at our last
Musicale. Photo by Larry Shepley

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