

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

NOVEMBER 2002 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Next Musicale

The Grand Duke or, *The Statutory Duel* in Concert

7:00 pm Monday November 4, 2002, and
7:00 pm Thursday November 7, 2002

Harris-Bell Hall
Westminster Manor
4100 Jackson St.

(See Map at right)

Change: The previous Newsletter had the wrong time and a wrong date. The correct times and dates are above. We apologize for any inconvenience.

General Admission: \$5.00

Tickets are available at the door. If you want to reserve tickets (to be paid for and picked up at the door), please call our office at 472-4772 and leave a message.

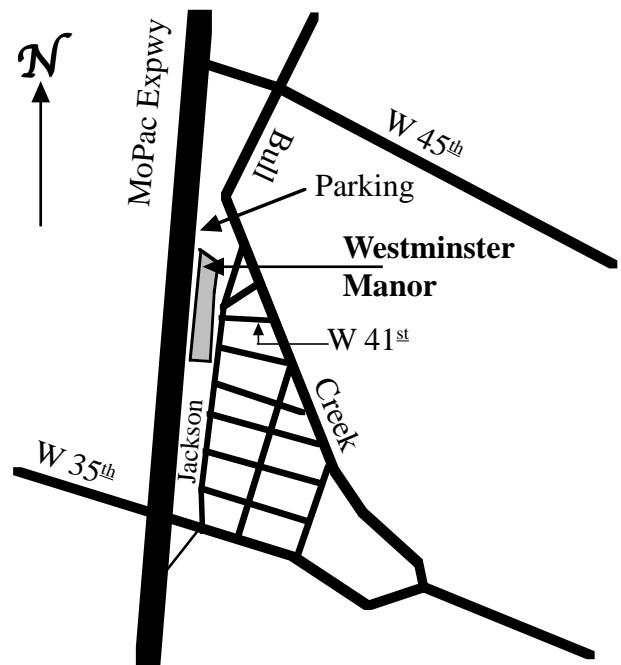
The Grand Duke has never been presented in Austin. This is the last of the G&S operas and a first for Austin! It has some delightful music and a topsy-turvy plot, involving multiple duels (all statutory, of course). We are presenting it in concert form — Art DiBianca and Brad Merrell have reduced the score to an hour and a half; Andrew Hallock is the Music Director; and Gloria Kim is our accompanist. Our previous concert performance, last March, played to a standing-room-only crowd, so come early and enjoy the show!

Message from Your President:

• Larry Shepley

You have never seen *The Grand Duke* — I'm guessing, of course, since it is seldom put on, and few people have even heard of it. It has some good music and some that is frankly pedestrian. It has some good lines and some that are tedious. The plot is complicated but with touches of good old-fashioned Gilbertian humor. I know you will enjoy the condensed version we will be presenting in the first week of November. We had such great success with our concert version of *Princess Ida* last March that we all felt we should continue the practice of putting on such versions of little known G&S shows. Our admission prices will be nominal for these shows, for our main purpose is to have fun. Of course there is still time for more participants, so please call Art DiBianca (707-2809) if you want to be in the first performance of *The Grand Duke* in Austin.

(Continued on page 2)



The Annual Business Meeting

Some food and entertainment as usual.
Business: Election of officers and revision of By-laws.

Save the date:
Monday, January 6, 2003 at 7:30 pm
at Paula Tyler's

Next Board Meeting

The November meeting of the Executive Board will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 12, at Paula Tyler's, 4400 Balcones Drive. You are invited!

(Continued from page 1)

The next-to-last G&S opera was *Utopia, Limited*, which has been described by Isaac Goldberg (in *The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan*, 1935) as “more limited than Utopian.” Goldberg goes on to trash *The Grand Duke*, calling Gilbert a played out humorist and Sullivan’s music a fountain run dry. Frankly, neither *Utopia* nor *Duke* are up to the standards of *The Mikado*, but then neither is *Oklahoma* or *Cats*. In the case of *The Grand Duke*, I can tell you from my role as First Flute (well, Only Flute) in the orchestra (which will be Gloria Kim, who is really excellent, on piano, and myself) that the music and plot are fine, lively, and fun.

At our last Board meeting, we discussed raising funds. Chris Buggé had previously had a good idea — and I and Allan Longacre are fleshing it out — for underwriting *Pirates*: He and I will put up funds under an agreement with The Society which will involve paying us each back if at all possible. (Please see Reba’s article on the next page.)

Art DiBianca has served as chairperson of the Fundraising Committee and suggested that this position be rotated. Libby Weed is this month’s chairperson, and we definitely invite you-all to participate. We need to build up financial support.

In other action, we discussed our *Pirates in School* program, which although enthusiastically greeted by the students, needs someone who can devote the time needed to supervise it. Unfortunately this program will have to be given low priority for the time being.

Also, we spent some time talking about our By-laws. We have been given advice that they need substantial revision, both to conform to what is current practice and to make sure that you, as members and as G&S fans, have a proper participation in Society affairs. Look for further information about this important subject in the next Newsletter and at the January business meeting.

Finally, we talked about *Pirates* next summer. In spite of financial questions still unresolved, we can be assured that it will be a great production. Rafe MacPhail and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona will once again unite to make sure that this all-American opera (it did open in the U.S., after all!) will be all that it can be. Dan Smith is signing on as Executive Producer — this is the threesome which was so successful with *The Mikado* a few years ago. Don’t look for a Broadway-type show; expect a traditional G&S opera with all of its musical charm and literary hilarity in the style which cannot be beat!



Reba & Len Gillman in *Iolanthe*, 1978



Jan Jones & Frank Delyv in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, 1989

The pictures above are from our **History**, available for only \$10 by calling our office at 472-4772.

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.

\$\$\$

Chris Buggé and Larry Shepley have come up with a generous and inventive approach to help meet our Society's financial need. They are putting up money to support our production of Pirates with the expectation, but not the guarantee, of getting it all back. A formal underwriting agreement will be signed to protect all parties. Any similar sponsorships or outright contributions are most welcome at this time.

As most of you realize, raising money in today's economy is very difficult. Cries for help are heard from every non-profit in the community, and nationwide as well. We are exploring all possible means of raising funds. For further information, call Larry Shepley at 327-1511.

Reba Gillman, Secretary



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.

News of Members

Steven Weinberg, Jack S. Josey-Welch Foundation Chair in Science and Regental Professor at UT Austin, and 1979 Nobel prize winner, is one of our more illustrious members. He and his wife Louise (William B. Bates Chair for the Administration of Justice at the UT Austin School of Law) love theater, attend our yearly shows, and are often seen at other theaters in Austin. On October 3, 2002, Michael Barnes wrote a very interesting article in the Austin American-Statesman XLent about the play Copenhagen. The play is about a World War II conversation between two nuclear physicists, Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg. Weinberg, who knew both of them, served as technical adviser for this production. Larry Shepley, our President, who is also a physicist, says the play is excellent — he saw it in London a couple of years ago. It is playing at 8 pm Thursdays through Saturdays, and Sundays at 5 pm through November 3, at Don Toner's new theater, Austin Playhouse at Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, Building C. For information call 476-0084.

David Tampke, who now lives in Marble Falls, sends greetings to everyone, and says he misses G&S in Austin. He writes that he is very much involved with the Hill Country Community Theater. They usually produce two musicals and four classic stage plays a year, with 10 to 14 performances each in a small theater (about 100 seats). He is also developing his baritone voice "after some intense sinus treatment."

Lucy Shoe Meritt may be visited at The Summit in Westlake, in the Health Care Center on the third floor. I had the floor wrong last month.

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

Pirates in School

Musicales

Musical Scholarships

Monthly Newsletters

Holiday Season Shows

G&S Office

4604 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756

P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542

(512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]

Executive Board

President	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Executive Vice-President	Libby Weed	837-5441
Production Vice-President	Sue Ricket Caldwell	343-7700
Publicity Vice-President	Charles Antonie	733-1006
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	391-8400
Historian & Parliamentarian	Jean Smootz	259-2373
Director at Large	Paula Tyler	459-4639
Director at Large	Chris Buggé	345-9551
Director at Large	Arthur DiBianca	707-2809

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

The Grand Duke

Harris-Bell Hall, Westminster Manor

November 4 and 7, 2002, 7:00 pm

Annual Business Meeting — with Music

Monday January 6, 2003, 7:30 pm

Fundraising Gala

February 2003

G&S Gems with Rafe MacPhail

March 2003

Executive Board Meetings

Monthly, dates to be announced

The Pirates of Penzance

June 2003

Helm Theater, St. Stephen's School



TEXAS
COMMISSION
ON THE ARTS

The Pirates of Penzance is funded in
part by the City of Austin under the aus-
pices of the Austin Arts Commission.



The
**Gilbert
& SULLIVAN** *Society*
OF AUSTIN

P.O. Box 684542

Austin, Texas 78768-4542

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 2054
AUSTIN, TEXAS

