

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

SEPTEMBER 2003 NEWSLETTER

September Musicales

Monday September 8, 2003, 7:30 pm

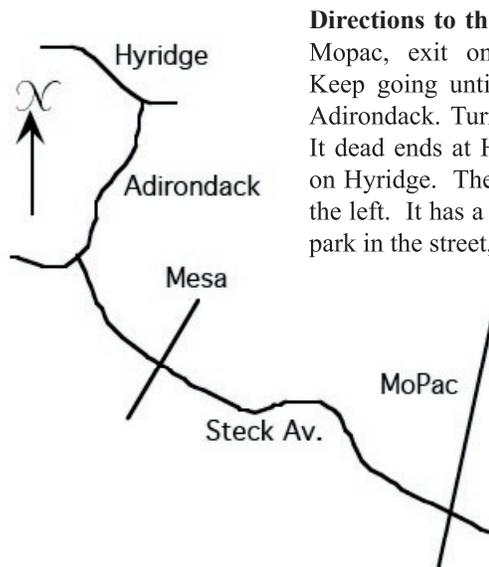
At Benny & Nancy Jay's House

4305 Hyrridge Drive

343-8408

Please bring munchies!

Libby Weed and Janette Jones have planned a delightful program. Each singer will sing one favorite song that suits his or her voice and one song from Gilbert & Sullivan. Halfway through the program Len Gillman will take the stage with a few of his favorite piano pieces and some G&S items. Singers are Kristin Burritt, Kristina Horacek, June Julian, Frank Delvy, Holton Johnson, and Kert Peterson. Gloria Kim will accompany. Start the season right with good music, good company, and good food!



Directions to the Jays' house: From Mopac, exit on Steck going west. Keep going until Steck dead ends at Adirondack. Turn right on Adirondack. It dead ends at Hyrridge Dr. Turn left on Hyrridge. The house is the third on the left. It has a circular drive. Please park in the street, not on the drive.

Good News!

We made enough money on *Pirates* to pay our bills and pay back our generous underwriters, Chris Buggé and Larry Shepley. We hope this will inspire future backing from underwriters, not necessarily as large as this year's.

B. IDEN PAYNE NOMINATIONS

We are proud and happy to announce that our production of *Pirates* has received six nominations in five categories for the B. Iden Payne Awards:

- Outstanding Production of a Musical
- Outstanding Director of a Musical: **Rafe MacPhail**
- Outstanding Musical Director: **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**
- Outstanding Actor in a Musical: **Russell Gregory**
Holton Johnson
- Outstanding Actress in a Musical: **Claire Vangelisti**

Congratulations to all! These attentions are well meant! I mean well deserved, and they confirm our unbiased opinion that this was a wonderful show. Members of Austin Circle of Theaters (ACOT) will vote on the nominations, and the results will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Monday September 29 at 7:30 pm in the Scottish Rite Theater at 18th and Lavaca. Save the date, and plan to be there!

IMPORTANT NOTE: I have just found out that it is not too late to join ACOT, get a ballot and VOTE. This can be done through September 14th. Call ACOT at 247-2531; or mail in your membership to ACOT, 701 Tillery St., Ste. 9, Austin TX 78702. Price: Individual Membership – \$36; Senior or Student – \$26; Couple (2 votes) – \$52.

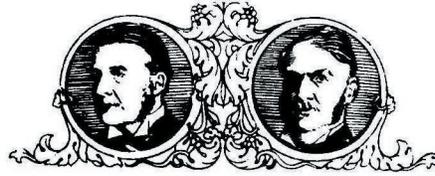
Goodbye

I have resigned as President, and Brad Merrell has been elected to take my place; Bill Hatcher has been elected Executive Vice-President. I decided to leave the Presidency at the end of 2002, but I'm glad I stayed until *Pirates* was over, for it was so successful that a job which I enjoyed anyway was even more enjoyable. Brad is enthusiastic, capable, and knowledgeable about G&S and musical theater — as Executive Vice-President he had a large role in the success of *Pirates*, too.

Our Bylaws give the duty of electing officers to the Board of Directors. The Board also fills vacancies in its membership between annual meetings. To make it easier for the Board to select a President, I also resigned as a Board member — as it happened, the new President and Vice-President were already Directors. I certainly will be working for The Society whether I'm a Director or not.

I made mistakes, but I also did some things well. One innovation I am happiest about is our series of concert versions of G&S operas. A concert version means that costumes and stage business are minimal, sets are mostly non-existent, and our biggest expenses are for an accompanist. But we still strive for quality. The concert format lets us put on lesser-known works, since we do not need to recoup major costs. We have now presented our premier performances of *Princess Ida* and *The Grand Duke*. And what successes! We began charging a small entrance fee when the crowd at *Princess Ida* proved far too large for comfort. Our next concert performance will be *Iolanthe* in October; you will enjoy it!

Larry Shepley • Former President



RALPH MacPHAIL, Jr.
Box 114 Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia 22812-1599
June 29, 2003

To All who Worked on *The Pirates of Penzance*:

Dear Friends,

Alice and I are in our little hideaway on Rockledge Cove, furnished so generously by Jim and Sue Caldwell, surrounded by open suitcases as we work on what former D'Oyly Carte tenor Geoffrey Shovelton referred to in his touring days as "the three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle" of packing. We're confident that the bags will close, but we haven't quite arrived at The Moment of Truth.

But we know as truth that this has been an extraordinary summer for us when we think back over the last five weeks, dedicated as they were to *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Thank you—each one of you—for your contributions to the production that delighted so many. It was such a pleasure to work once again with Jeffrey and so many others in bringing one of these century-plus-old treasures of musical theatre before such enthusiastic audiences.

I am going to resist the temptation of referring individually to so many of you—cast, producer, designers, orchestra, backstage personnel, front-of-house staff, board members—for I've tried to express to each of you individually my gratitude for your dedication and contributions to the show. Please know that I will always treasure the memories of this production not only for its effectiveness on stage but also for the incredible bonds of friendship that it created among members of the production company—new and old.

Warmest wishes from Alice and me for a lovely summer—"and even after"!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RALPH" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Contributors to Pirates 2003

Underwriters:

Chris Buggé
Larry Shepley

Individual:

Reba & Len Gillman
David & Roslyn Gutman
Jean & Ed Smootz
Sue Ricket Caldwell
Chris Buggé
Virginia Ehmann
Dan Girardot
Allan & Barbara Longacre

Corporate, Government, and Foundation:

Still Water Foundation of Austin
Priority Copy
Eyes of Texas Laser Center
Cedra Corporation
Westminster Manor
Cleve H. Tandy Foundation
Consolidated Insurance Agency
Genesis Presbyterian Church
HEB & HEB Central Market
Texas French Bread

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped out at the theater during the run of *Pirates*, and especially to the valiant work of **Enid Hallock**, who rounded them up and shepherded them through the run.



The Pirates of Penzance was funded in part by the City of Austin under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission and supported by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



News of Members

Byron Arnason is a long time member although he no longer lives in Austin. He arranged his work assignment so that he was in Austin during the entire run of *Pirates* and attended every single performance, seated front row center for most of them. The cast loved his active enjoyment and looked for him every night.

Bob Wall, Ex-Lord High Pianist, came to Austin from his present home in San Francisco to attend the gala performance of our *Pirates*. His presence added to the celebratory spirit as he greeted old friends. His e-mail address, which he promised to many, is: robertewall@yahoo.com.



Picture by Larry Shepley

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona and Rafe MacPhail conversing during rehearsals for *Pirates*. Please see our website for details: <http://www.gilbertsullivan.org/piratesconversation.htm>.

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

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G&S Office

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	Reba Gillman	327-2277
	Steve Schwartzman	453-2334
	Paula Tyler	459-4639

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



Brad Merrell, our new President, with Harold Gilbert

Next Musicale

Monday September 8, 2003, 7:30 pm
at the Jay's 4305 Hyridge Drive

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Iolanthe

Concert performances at Westminster Manor
Monday October 13 and Friday October 17, 2003
We are hoping to set up a special gala dinner
performance; watch for an update.

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Next meeting of the Board of Directors
7:00 pm Monday September 15 at Paula Tyler's



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