

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

DECEMBER 2003 &amp; JANUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

## Next Meeting

### January Annual Business Meeting and Musicale

Monday January 5, 2004, at 7:30 pm  
at Paula Tyler's, 4400 Balcones Drive  
459-4639

#### Please Bring Munchies

**Program-Singalong:** Some of our members (Brad, Kristin, and Libby, for instance) have volunteered to come prepared to lead us in singing some well-known G&S choruses. Many of our members have expressed an interest in singing at our meetings; this is your chance! Come sing as loud or soft as you wish.

**Important Business:** Election of the Board of Directors for 2004. See Election announcement below. You must be a paid-up member to vote or to run for office. Bring your cash or check-book and pay at the meeting to join or renew.

**Announcement:** The Board has voted to eliminate the dues categories Senior and Youth. The dues will now be the simple Individual \$20, and Family or Group \$30. Higher levels for donations will continue as they are now.

## Elections

The election of members of the Board of Directors will take place at our January meeting. At its December meeting, the Board voted to reduce the number of Directors to nine for 2004. The nominating committee, consisting of **Larry Shepley**, **Bill Hatcher**, and **Enid Hallock**, submits the following slate:

<b>Kristin Burrirt</b>	<b>Chris Buggé</b>	<b>Reba Gillman</b>
<b>Bill Hatcher</b>	<b>Randall McIntyre</b>	<b>Brad Merrell</b>
<b>Paula Tyler</b>	<b>Libby Weed</b>	<b>Dave Wieckowski</b>

All of the nominees have served on the Board in 2003 except for Randall McIntyre. Under our Bylaws, our members elect the Directors, who then elect the officers.

Two current Directors have decided not to seek reelection. We thank them for their service: **Chuck Antonie** and **Steve Schwartzman**.

## Happy New Year From Your President

Brad Merrell

*Mad Margaret:* But see, they come — Sir Despard and his evil crew! Hide, hide — they are all mad — quite mad!

*Rose Maybud:* What makes you think that?

*Mad Margaret:* Hush! They sing choruses in public. That's mad enough, I think. — from *Ruddigore*, Act 1

A new year is just around the corner. It's hard to believe that 2003 is almost done. The new year brings to mind anniversaries. Most notably, this month marks Len and Reba Gillman's 65th wedding anniversary! We wish them the best as they celebrate their lives together.

What an amazing year for The Gilbert and Sullivan Society! We put on a delightful (and, I may add, award-winning) production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. We then continued our concert series with a streamlined version of *Iolanthe*.

Now is the time to look forward to next year. We have big plans for this season, including our grand production of *The Gondoliers* this summer and another installment of our concert series (*Patience*) in the fall. What better way to kick off this new season than with a sing-along at our annual meeting? We will have grand choruses from the Gilbert and Sullivan canon selected by several of our longest-standing members as well as some of our newest. Come out to Paula's house and sing some of your favorite Gilbert and Sullivan songs!

Of course, at this meeting we will also be electing our new Board of Directors, so it's important for everyone to be there....

## Thank You!

The G&S Society is proud of its members, and we wish to thank all of you. Your membership dues and donations are what keep our Society going. They enable us to maintain high standards for our productions, in spite of the fact that ticket receipts seldom cover our costs. It is your generosity which lets us produce this Newsletter, maintain an office, and provide community services, including our Pirates in School program.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

*Happy Holidays! and Happy New Year!*

## November Musicale

Reba Gillman

Nearly 40 people gathered in the Jays' lovely home on Monday, November 17, 2003 to be delighted by the program put together by Kristin Burrirt. Present were members and friends: Byron Arnason, Zelda Austin & Arthur Guberneck, Mike & Ginger Flood (parents of Kristin Burrirt), Len & Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Enid Hallock, Gary & Chris Hallock, Benny & Nancy Jay, Richard & Judy Lary, Allen & JoAnn Lawshae, Dan Merrell, Mary Roche, Martha Schumacher, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, Dave Wieckowski, Theresa S. Wilson & Antonio A. Fuentes, and performers Kristin Burrirt, Anna Derdeyn, Arthur Di Bianca, Meredith Groeschel, Andrew Hallock, June Julian, Randall McIntyre, Brad Merrell with Laura, Claire Vangelisti, and Marc Witmer at the piano.

President Brad Merrell did the honors, welcoming us all. Arthur DiBianca introduced the material from *Patience* with the dialog leading into the charming duet sung by Patience and Angela. There were in all four excerpts from *Patience*, with appropriate dialog by the singers, concluding with the wonderful duet "Sing 'Booh to you, pooh pooh to you,' and that's what you should say," sung by Anna Derdeyn as Lady Jane, and Art as Reginald Bunthorne.

After a brief intermission the program continued with selections from *The Gondoliers*. The clever words and lilting music served as a tantalizing foretaste of this opera, which we look forward to producing next June. It was a joy to hear this cast of talented young singers, recruited mostly from our recent production of *Pirates*. We welcome the energy and enthusiasm they bring to us. The Society was created by such performers over 25 years ago, but our aging population is now a cause for concern. We very much need this infusion of new blood.

Kristin is one of the new enthusiasts, and her willingness to plan the program produced an extra Musicale we had not earlier hoped for. It was especially charming that her parents were visiting in Austin, and able to come to hear their talented daughter perform.

To finish off the evening Brad led us into our traditional audience participation, and we rose to sing "Hail Poetry" and "Now to the banquet we press." But then — surprise! — Nancy came forward with a big birthday cake with one candle, and we all sang "Happy Birthday to Brad," for November 17th is indeed his birthday. A splendid evening was rounded out with conversation and comestibles as usual. Our members are very talented munchy providers!



## Program Musicale — 17 November 2003

**Part I** — Selections from *Patience* (with dialogue interspersed)

"Long years ago, fourteen maybe" Patience, Lady Angela  
 "Prithee, pretty maiden" Patience, Grosvenor  
 "Love is a plaintive song" Patience  
 "So go to him and say to him" Lady Jane, Bunthorne

Patience — Meredith Groeschel  
 Lady Angela — June Julian  
 Lady Jane — Anna Derdeyn  
 Archibald, Grosvenor — Randall McIntyre  
 Reginald Bunthorne — Arthur DiBianca

### Intermission

**Part II** — Selections from *The Gondoliers*

"We're called gondolieri" Marco, Giuseppe  
 "From the sunny Spanish shore" Casilda, Duchess, Luiz, Duke  
 "O rapture, when alone together"... "There was a time" Casilda, Luiz  
 "After sailing to this island" Gianetta, Tessa, Company  
 "In a contemplative fashion" Tessa, Gianetta, Marco, Giuseppe  
 "To help unhappy commoners" Duke, Duchess  
 "I am a courtier" Casilda, Duchess, Marco, Giuseppe, Duke

Casilda — Claire Vangelisti  
 Duchess of Plaza Toro — Anna Derdeyn  
 Tessa — June Julian  
 Gianetta — Kristin Burrirt  
 Marco — Andrew Hallock  
 Giuseppe — Randall McIntyre  
 Luiz — Brad Merrell  
 Duke of Plaza Toro — Arthur DiBianca

Lord High Pianist — Marc Witmer

Finally, join us for a rousing chorus of "Hail, Poetry!" and "Now to the banquet we press."

### 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.

### News of Members

Our eminent Director, **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**, reports on a whirlwind trip to England in November. He was invited to give his lecture "Mikado: Red, Hot, and Swing!" to the Gilbert & Sullivan Society meeting at the Club for Acts and Actors in Bedford Street, London. "It all went well and was wonderfully attended, even though it was a rainy weekend." Rafe used his brief time well, paying his respects to the Gilbert, Sullivan, and D'Oyly Carte memorials, and the two Savoy's (Theatre and Hotel). He walked up Southampton Street, Gilbert's birthplace, to Covent Garden, and spent a quiet half-hour in St. Paul's ("the actors' church").

Before his trip to London, Rafe had the pleasure of entertaining **Ian Bradley**, in Bridgewater. Bradley introduced and edited *The Complete Annotated Gilbert and Sullivan* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1996), which we refer to constantly.

### Texas Early Music Project Christmas Concert: The Play of Daniel:

One of the most popular of the medieval mystery plays from the 12th century will be performed with full staging, a small medieval orchestra, and a cast of luminaries, including G&S favorites, **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** and **Andrew Hallock**. There will be a shortened afternoon performance geared especially for families and children at 2:00 pm and a full performance at 8:00 pm, Saturday, December 20 at University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio Street: \$12/\$15; 474-TIXS; Info: 371-0099; early-music.org.

### The Pirates of Penzance

The critically acclaimed Spring Woods High School (in Houston) Performing Arts Department presents the 125th Anniversary Production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, January 29, 30, 31, February 5, 6, and 7, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a 2:00 p.m. matinee on February 1, 2004. SWHS Auditorium, 2045 Gessner. Tickets: \$7 Students and SBISD Employees, \$10 Adults. Reservations appreciated: 713-365-4475, ext. 3514.

### 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 our many volunteers and to **Enid Hallock**, who coordinated them.



*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.



### G&S Mugs & Memorabilia

Our mugs are 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)



And don't forget our other delightful merchandise: Tee shirts, videos, librettos; all available at very reasonable prices. Call us at 472-4772.

## 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 a membership category. Membership benefits include our Newsletter and 10% discount on tickets.

Individual: \$20 or more  
 Family/Group: \$30 or more  
 Donation only (no membership)  
 I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider becoming a member 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). Donor members receive additional benefits. Please call our office or visit our website ([www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)) for further information.

**The Gilbert & Sullivan  
Society of Austin**

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

**Annual Grand Productions**

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**G&S Office**

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**Board of Directors**

President	Brad Merrell	257-1742
Executive Vice-President	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
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	Chris Buggé	834-7766
	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](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

E-mail: [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:info@gilbertsullivan.org)

The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

**Annual Meeting and Musicale**

7:30 pm Monday January 5, 2004

At Paula Tyler's House

4400 Balcones Drive

459-4639

**Next Board Meeting**

7:00 pm Monday January 19, 2004

At Paula Tyler's House

We are planning a **Gala Fundraiser** in February  
and a concert version of *Patience* next fall.

# The Gondoliers

June 2004

Janette Jones, Stage Director

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Music Director

Watch for announcement of auditions in March



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