

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

JUNE 2004 NEWSLETTER

## The Gondoliers

or, **The King of Barataria**

R.L. Davis Auditorium, Texas School for the Deaf  
1102 S. Congress Ave.

Admission: \$25 for adults, \$5 for young persons 17 & under.  
Half price (\$12.50 adults, \$2.50 young persons) for preview.  
Special \$20 price for adults for children's matinee.

Specific show dates & times:

8:00 Friday June 18 - half-price preview  
8:00 Saturday June 19 - opening night  
with complimentary gala buffet

3:00 Sunday June 20  
8:00 Thursday June 24  
8:00 Friday June 25  
8:00 Saturday June 26  
3:00 Sunday June 27

The running time for *Gondoliers*  
is about 2-1/2 hr., including inter-  
mission, thunderous applause, etc.

8:00 Thursday July 1  
8:00 Friday July 2  
2:00 Saturday July 3 - special early children's matinee  
8:00 Saturday July 3

Seats are not reserved, since the  
auditorium is quite large, with  
excellent seats in all locations.

To order tickets please contact

[http://www.boxofficetickets.com/  
gilbertsullivan](http://www.boxofficetickets.com/gilbertsullivan)

or call **1-800-494-TIXS**. Note: Our website has  
this information plus much more:

[www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

### Message from Your President

Dear Friends:

We had wonderful attendance at the musicale event last Thursday at the Caswell House. There were about 100 people there. I think there were five empty chairs upstairs and several people stayed downstairs listening to the music and helping with the refreshments. It was a wonderful event — beautiful to the eye and to the ear. The first portion of the evening was selections from a variety of shows performed by friends and former cast members. The second portion was a sampler of music from *The Gondoliers*. Spectacular would not be too bold a term to use to describe how wonderful it was.

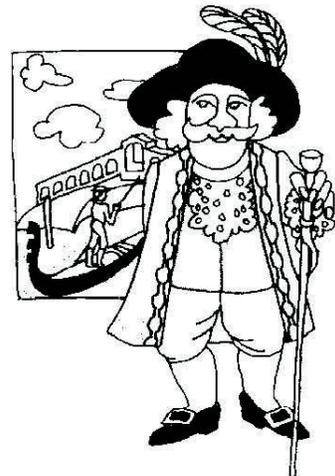
I am confident that all those in attendance will be inspired to buy tickets to our major staging of *Gondoliers*, which opens in about another week. The Grand Opening Gala will be on Saturday June 19 at no extra charge.

The telephone number and internet address for ordering tickets appear in this Newsletter. Now is the time, and I encourage all to make their plans and order their tickets. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors.

And let's make a special effort to bring children and young people. Last year our extra family matinee was a great success. Invite your young friends to attend this year's special Saturday performance at 2:00 pm on Saturday July 3. The ticket price for ages 17 and under has been reduced to \$5.00 because your Board feels strongly about the musical education of our young people.

See you at the theater! Ciao!

Sincerely, *Bill Hatcher*



## Last Musicales and Special Event

Report from *Reba Gillman*

Over 100 people gathered on June 3, 2004, in the Caswell House to enjoy an excellent program of excerpts from Gilbert & Sullivan. Kristin Burrirt and Eva Laskaris worked hard to find and set up this venue and plan selections worthy of presentation in the gracious Victorian setting. In response members and guests showed up in their best bibs and tuckers and a delightful time was had by all.

The audience gathered on the second floor of the old mansion (up a precarious flight of steep stairs, although an elevator was available for those who took the trouble to look for it). Chris Buggé served as MC, in a jovial and informal style. His baby blue Rolls Royce was parked outside to enhance the atmosphere of elegance. Tastes of each of four operas were presented as scenes giving a sense of the story of the whole, which is usually lost when single songs appear with no explanation or introductory dialog. Marc Witmer served as the capable pianist.

Claire Vangelisti and Holton Harrison Johnson opened the program with a repeat of a scene from their B. Iden Payne award-winning performances as Mabel and Frederic in our 2003 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, singing “Stay, Frederic, Stay,” and ending with the passionate “Oh, here is love, and here is truth, And here is food for joyous laughter.” Next, excerpts from *Iolanthe* were introduced by fairies Kristina Horacek, Eva Laskaris, Emma McNairy, and Hilary Young wearing lovely ethereal wings and singing “Tripping hither, tripping thither, Nobody knows why or whither.” Special guest performer, Cindy Sadler, who sang Buttercup in our 1989 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, joined us as the Fairy Queen and pardoned Iolanthe, sung by Kristin Burrirt. A scene between Strephon (Derek Smootz) and Phyllis (Eva Laskaris) brought us “Good morrow, good lover,” followed by dialog and the lovely duet “None shall part us from each other.” And finally, the Lord Chancellor (Arthur DiBianca) wearily entered to sing the famous nightmare song: “When you’re lying awake with a dismal headache, and repose is taboo’d by anxiety, I conceive you may use any language you choose to indulge in, without impropriety.”

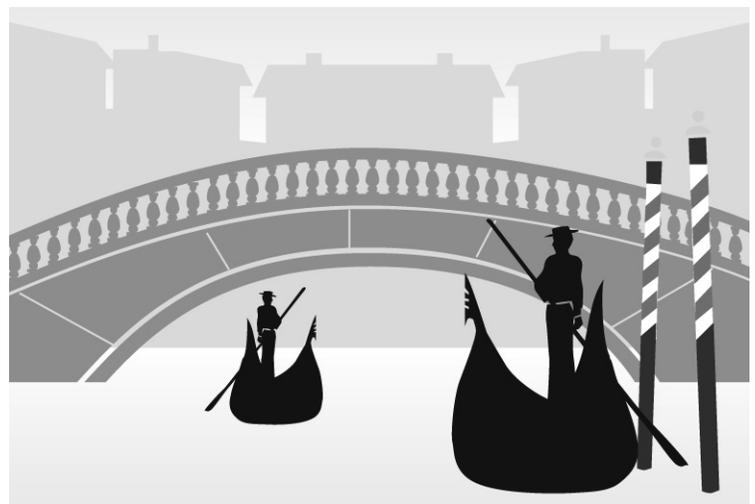
The charming duet between Nanki-Poo (Holton Johnson) and Yum-Yum (Kristin Burrirt), “Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted” introduced scenes from *The Mikado*, followed by a large portion of the Finale to Act I, in which the fearsome Katisha tries to reveal Nanki-Poo’s royal origin, and is thwarted by the combined efforts of the chorus. Cindy Sadler returned to sing Katisha, Holton and Kristin continued as Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum, Eva Laskaris sang Pitti-Sing, and the chorus was sung by Emma McNairy, Hilary Young, Arthur DiBianca, and Derek Smootz. Intermission was then announced, and we were invited to descend to the first floor dining room for desserts. These delicacies were provided by Texas French Bread, the generous Kristin Stephens of Austin Catering, and Trianon-The Coffee Place, plus goodies brought by members as is our custom. The handsome spread had been set up by hardworking volunteers Libby Weed, Paula Tyler, Lauren Hatcher (President

Bill’s daughter) and earlier work by Kristin Burrirt and Eva Laskaris, to all of whom many thanks.

The second act brought us excerpts from *The Gondoliers*, now in rehearsal, and greetings from Music Director Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. He told us that this was his ninth association with a production of The G&S Society of Austin, eight as Music Director and one as performer: he sang the part of Luiz in our 1995 production of *The Gondoliers*. He also told us that he was enjoying working with Stage Director Christina J. Moore, and Choreographer Nancy Bain. He said Christi was one of the most intelligent directors he had ever worked with, noting that his first four favorites were Rafe McPhail. There followed choice samples designed to whet our appetites and bring us all to the performances starting on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Performers were: Russell Gregory as the Grand Inquisitor; Claire Vangelisti and Garrett Maddox as Gianetta and Marco; Kristina Horacek and Holton Johnson as Tessa and Giuseppe; and Stephanie Blackwood, Patricia Combs, Rema Garrison, Amy Kelley, Emma McNairy, Amanda Shelton, and Jennifer Sublett as *contadine*. Chris assured us that there were other men in the show as well. Props were provided by Randall McIntyre, who also sings in the chorus. We heard the opening chorus of the *contadine*; a scene with dialog and song in which the Grand Inquisitor announces that one of the Palmieri brothers will be king and they proclaim their republican ideals while their new wives speculate that one of them will be a “regular, royal queen;” ending with the wonderful, complicated quartet “In a contemplative fashion.”

To finish off the evening in true G&S style we all rose to sing “Hail Poetry” from *Pirates* as Chris informed us that Russell Gregory was celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and would sing the Pirate King’s introduction.

Many thanks to all who contributed their services to this event. Special thanks to Cindy Sadler, Texas French Bread, Kristin Stephens of Austin Catering, and Trianon-The Coffee Place.



### Member of the Month

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "member of the month" (who is randomly selected). The member of the month is entitled to contact our office and order one free piece of merchandise: a video, CD, Society History, T-shirt, or mug. This month's Member of the Month is

#### PATRICIA SPURR

Congratulations! We value your membership! Please see our web site

[www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

for a list of what's available, choose your prize, and we'll mail it to you.

### Contributors to *Gondoliers* 2004

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé • Larry Shepley • Michael & Libby Weed**

Contributors: **Chuck Antonie • Norma & Floyd Brandt • Barbary Phillips in memoriam Lucile Convers • Ann Rogers in memoriam Lucile Convers • John, Christie, & Lori Fisher • Russell Gregory • Cindy Hager • William P. & Naomi Haight • James A. Hitt • Benard Laves • Norman & Emilia Martin • George & Nancy McQueen • Joan Pearsall • B.M. Phillips • Priority Copy • Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts • D.A. Rutishauser • Jean and Ed Smootz • Patricia Spurr • Cleve H. Tandy Foundation • Michael & Libby Weed • Dr. Claire Ellen Weinstein • Westminster Manor**



*The Gondoliers* is 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.



### Our Supporters

We wish to thank especially the following individuals for their continuing support:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Byron Arnason     | Allen Lawshae     |
| Marion DeFord     | Barbara Lee       |
| Russell Gregory   | Katharine Shields |
| Andrew, Enid, &   | Patricia Spurr    |
| Gary Hallock      | Rose Taylor       |
| Kristine M. Olson | Steve & Louise    |
|                   | Weinberg          |

### News

**Larry Shepley**, our wandering former President, is back from a week in Florence, Italy, where he participated in a National Science Foundation "Chautauqua" program: "Galileo's Genius Viewed in Scientific, Artistic, Political, and Religious Contexts." There he suffered from Stendhal's Syndrome: an overload of great art (not to mention good food).

**The Spring Woods High School Theater Arts Department and Thespian Troupe 127** have been invited to represent the US at the 2005 American High School Theater Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August, 2005. There they will perform *The Pirates of Penzance*. To start raising funds for their trip, they presented *Pirates* at the Hobby Center Zilkha Hall in Houston, Texas, June 1-5. We send them our very best wishes.

Swing 'n Sway with the **Stardust Four** (Judy Ratliff, Catherine Bartoli, and Ann & Vernon Moeller, who have sung for us before). They will perform with Tom Husak and his Big Band at Bethany United Methodist Church, 10010 Anderson Mill Road, Sunday June 13, 2004, at 4:00 pm. For more information contact Vernon at [m511406@yahoo.ie](mailto:m511406@yahoo.ie) or Catherine at [cbartoli@swbell.net](mailto:cbartoli@swbell.net).

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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Does your company match donations? \_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

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 • Pirates in School  
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Mail Address: **P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542**

Phone: (512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]

The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. We are pleased to receive funding from the City of Austin under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission and to be supported by a grant from the Texas commission on the Arts.



### Board of Directors

President	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
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	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)

### Save the Date

Our new season will begin in September. A Musicale is planned for Monday September 13, 2004. Watch for up-to-date details in our next Newsletter, which will appear in late August or early September. In the meantime, enjoy *The Gondoliers* and have a good summer.

# The Gondoliers

June 19 – July 3, 2004

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