

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

MAY 2005 NEWSLETTER

From Your President

Dear Friends:

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Jays' home last week. It's a very pleasant place for our musicales, and they are quite hospitable there. I know there is some inconvenience for them when they host us. I hope everyone took a moment to thank them. Ann Coltman planned the program of singing, and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Your Board of Directors is planning the next Musicale and you will read the details within this newsletter. Brad Merrell is making the plans; he has a special program of singing and will have some of favorite singers from past Musicales.

Additionally, your Board is working on the upcoming production of *The Mikado*. Current activities in that regard include familiarizing ourselves with the theater (the Austin High School Performing Arts Center) and planning the publicity activities.

See you at our next Musicale.

Best wishes, Bill

Our Next Musicale

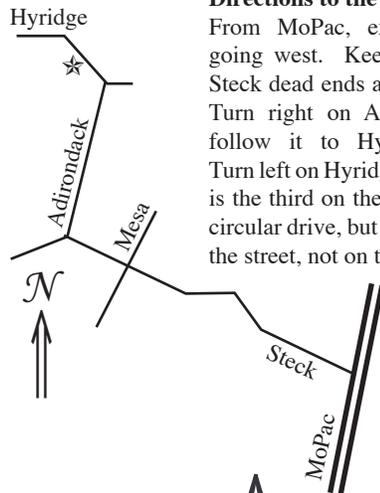
Monday May 9th at 7:30 PM

at the home of
Nancy & Benny Jay
4305 Hyridge Drive
343-8408

Please bring munchies!

Brad Merrell is planning a lovely evening. Come and hear some of your favorite singers do arias of their choice, as well as scenes and songs from G&S.

Directions to the Jays' House:
From MoPac, exit on Steck going west. Keep going until Steck dead ends at Adirondack. Turn right on Adirondack and follow it to Hyridge Drive. Turn left on Hyridge. The house is the third on the left. It has a circular drive, but please park in the street, not on the drive.



Mark your calendar: We will present

The Mikado

Thursdays – Sundays, June 16 – July 3, 2005, at the Austin High School Performing Arts Center.

We will have a Fabulous, All-Star Cast; with **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.** as Stage Director/Choreographer; **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** as Music Director/Conductor; and **Natalie George** as Production Manager.

As a special treat: All Thursday performances will be Half-Price! Watch for details in our next Newsletter.

Last Musicales

Reba Gillman

We had such a good time in January singing together, that we decided to try it again. Ann Coltman, one of the original members of The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, remembers how much fun we used to have just singing G&S at meetings and volunteered to plan this get-together. And the 27 people who came to the Jays' welcoming home on Monday April 11th certainly had a good time. We began with the usual greetings and announcements from President Bill Hatcher, who particularly stressed a modest money-raising scheme: Register your Randall's Remarkable Card so that Randall's will donate 1% of your purchases to The G&S Society (see notice elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Ann then took over, assisted by pianist Lynda Oswalt, whose knowledge of Gilbert & Sullivan and excellent sight-reading were a great addition to the evening. This time we sang everything three times, which satisfied us all: Once to scope it out, once to practice, and the third time to give it our best. Trained voices are not the point here, just singing along as loud or soft as you want, is what imparts the heady glow.

We began with herculean bravado singing the very long sequence "When the foeman bares his steel" from *The Pirates of Penzance*. Everyone sang along with all the parts. Then came a lighter effort: "The flowers that bloom in the spring," from *The Mikado*. "Tra la" is the key here. Next came a valiant try at "Dance a cachucha" from *The Gondoliers*. Good fun, but really requiring more practice — it's pretty tricky. And finally the little known "The pain that's all a pleasure" from *Patience*. I remember singing that in 1980 on the Zach Scott stage, when Ann and I were both in the chorus of the joint production of *Patience*, put on by Zach Scott and our G&S Society. That's the kind of piece you get to know when you perform in a show, or sing at a Society meeting.

To wind up, Brad Merrell sang the Pirate King's lead-in and we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry" from *Pirates*; and then "To the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer*. Music was provided for all pieces except "Hail Poetry" (we'll have that next time). And then to the feast — our members always bring interesting and delicious munchies. Many thanks to Nancy McQueen, who made sure we had something to drink, and to our gracious hosts, Nancy and Benny Jay!

Those present were: Byron Arnason, Zelda Austen & Arthur Gubernick, Ann Coltman, Reba Gillman, Nan & Bill Hatcher, Nancy & Benny Jay, Julie & Richard Lary, Myrna & Jack Longenecker, John Mast, Nancy McQueen, Brad Merrell, Bee Polomé & Milt Weiss, Martha Schumacher, Eve & Steve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Andrée Sjoberg, Libby Weed, David Wieckowski, Theresa Wilson, and pianist Lynda Oswalt.

G&S Videos, DVDs, CDs & Memorabilia

Call our office or write us to order our delightful merchandise: T-shirts, librettos, DVDs, CDs, and videos; all at reasonable prices. Phone 472-4772.

From our friend Rafe MacPhail:

A Visit with W.S. Gilbert

For several years now, English actor Charles Pemberton has been touring his one-man evening with W.S.G., called *A Disagreeable Man?* We North Americans have only been able to read about his dozens of engagements and wish, like the Mikado, that we could be in time for a performance.

Until Mr. Pemberton tours the U.S. or records his show on DVD, we can at least meet his Gilbert through a recent CD now available on *both* sides of the Atlantic. The full show (originally written by Gilbert authority Brian Jones) has been adapted for audio performance and cut to 69 minutes, but it still gives a remarkably full (and accurate!) history of the G&S collaboration and plenty of reason to question the need for the question mark of the title. Was WSG a disagreeable man? Or a man who did not suffer fools or injustices lightly?

With occasional musical transitions and underscorings, and set just after his untimely death ("in a place of waiting 'twixt the here and the hereafter"), this recording presents the Gilbert I would like to meet—not Jim Broadbent's or Robert Morley's. If of course I hadn't done something to incur his wrath!

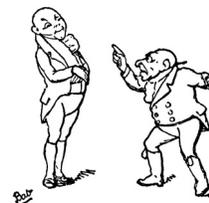
Pemberton as Gilbert, a grand old English gentleman, uses his voice well for a variety of additional characterizations—within-the-main-characterization and to give a range of Gilbertian emotions—from his exasperation with Sullivan's work ethic to his love for Lucy, his "little kitten."

I still hope for the DVD—or to see the show in person—some day, but in the meantime I'm pleased to have this CD, which invites the listeners to flesh out this complex man with their imaginations and understandings.

Disagreeable? No, neither the man nor the recording.

—Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

ORDERING INFORMATION: In the U.S.: Send a check for \$18.99 + \$3.99 postage and handling to J. C. Lockwood 78s2CD, P. O. Box 4831, Rio Rico, AZ 85648-4831, or go to www.78S2CD.com.



And all his wives
Are met with smiles...

Randall's/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

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

Love and Congratulations to Members

President **Bill Hatcher** has just returned from another bike ride. He joined thousands of other cyclists riding from Houston to Austin in two days to benefit fighting multiple sclerosis. He rode 161 miles on rural roads, and spent Saturday night in a sleeping bag on the county fair grounds in La Grange. His first lady, Nan, met him Sunday evening in Bastrop with a bottle of champagne. He says the ride is fun, and he enjoys the company, although the preliminary training is hard — grueling and mind numbing. But even that has its enjoyable aspects.

Rose Taylor, who plays Katisha in our June production of *The Mikado*, will be inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame. She will be one of six Central Texans nominated by the Austin Critics Table this year to join the 32 previously elected, who have made life-long contributions to the arts as creators, producers, advocates or philanthropists. “A longtime member of the teaching faculty at the UT School of Music, singer Rose Taylor has nurtured dozens of artists, while expanding a distinguished performance career.” The awards ceremony will take place at 7 PM on Monday, June 6, at the Capital City Comedy Club, 8210 Research Blvd. It is informal and free..

In G&S circles **Rafe MacPhail** is known worldwide. We are looking forward eagerly to his stay in Austin while he directs *The Mikado*. Anyone who would like to intensify his/her experience with Rafe and G&S can sign up for one of the two summer Elderhostel programs Rafe runs in Ivoryton, Connecticut. *The Yeomen of the Guard* will be the subject July 17 – 22; *Pira-Mika-Fore: The Big Three* runs July 31 – August 5. This could be the vacation highlight you’ve been looking for! For information or to register, call toll-free 1-877-426-8056 (M – F from 9 AM to 6 PM Eastern time) or go on-line to www.elderhostel.org and search on *Gilbert*. Also, Larry Shepley participated in last summer’s *Pira-Mika-Fore* and could tell you more about the experience — call 327-1511.

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**. We wish to thank especially the following individuals for their continuing support: **Byron Arnason, Marion DeFord, Russell Gregory, Andrew, Enid, & Gary Hallock, Kristine M. Olson, Allen Lawshae, Barbara Lee, Katharine Shields, Patricia Spurr, Rose Taylor, Steve & Louise Weinberg**.



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.



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 receive a CD of our 1998 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for April is:

Paula Tyler

Congratulations! Please call our office (472-4772) to let us know where we should send your CD.

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) for further information.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

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**Annual Grand Productions • Pirates in School
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G&S Office: 4604 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756

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 Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas commission on the Arts.



Board of Directors

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	Reba Gillman	327-2277
	Allan Longacre	301-5611
	Randall McIntyre	422-3565
	Larry Shepley	327-1511

Newsletter Editor **Reba Gillman**
Layout **Larry Shepley**

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org
E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

Coming attractions:

Musicale

Monday May 9th at 7:30 PM, at the home of Nancy & Benny Jay, 4305 Hyridge Drive; see page 1 for details.

Look for an encore presentation of

The Mikado: Red, Hot, and Swing!

by Rafe MacPhail, coming in June.

Our major production of 2005:

The Mikado

or, The Town of Titipu

June 16 – Preview

June 17 – Gala Opening Night (no extra charge!)

June 18 – July 3 — performances Thursdays, Fridays, and
Saturdays at 8:00 PM; Sunday matinées at 3:00 PM

Thursdays: Half-Price Admissions!



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