

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

The Mikado

or, The Town of Titipu

To be performed at the Austin High School Performing Arts Center 1715 W Cesar Chavez St. (just east of the Mo-Pac bridge over Town Lake). Ticket prices are \$22 for adults and \$5 for 18 and under. (Open seating — no reserved seats.) Tickets may be purchased at boxofficetickets.com, or you can call 1-800-494-TIXS, or click on TICKETS at our website www.gilbertsullivan.org, or buy them at the door.

June 16, 8:00 PM, Half Price Preview
June 17, 8:00 PM, Opening Night with Gala Buffet
June 18, 8:00 PM
June 19, 3:00 PM Matinée
June 23, 8:00 PM (half price!)
June 24, 8:00 PM
June 25, 8:00 PM
June 26, 3:00 PM “Children’s Matinée” activities starting at 2pm
June 30, 8:00 PM (half price!)
July 1, 8:00 PM
July 2, 8:00 PM
July 3, 3:00 PM, Final Performance

Stage Director/Choreographer	Ralph MacPhail, Jr.	Music Director/Conductor	Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
Production Manager	Natalie George	Stage Manager	Monica Kurtz

The Mikado of Japan	Russell Gregory
Nanki-Poo (<i>his Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum</i>)	Holton Johnson
Ko-Ko (<i>Lord High Executioner of Titipu</i>)	Trey Deason
Pooh-Bah (<i>Lord High Everything Else</i>)	Sam Johnson
Pish-Tush (<i>a Noble Lord</i>)	Arthur DiBianca
Go-Go (<i>a Noble Lord</i>)	David Smith

*Chorus of School-girls, Nobles,
Guards, and Coolies*

**Nancy E. Arnold, Kathleen Atwell,
Stephen Bates, Jenna Beaird, Stephanie
Blackwood, Daniel Brookshire, Andy
Fleming, Taylor Garrison, Kate Harrod,
Cecily Johnson, John Lopez, Randall
McIntyre, Russell Prickett, Derek Smootz,
Mandy Summers, Hilary Young, Jay
Young**

<i>Three Sisters — Wards of Ko-Ko</i>	
Yum-Yum	Christiana Cole Little
Pitti-Sing	June Julian
Peep-Bo	Meredith Claire Groeschel

Katisha (*an elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo*)

Rose Taylor

This production is not an Austin High or Austin ISD production.

The Mikado: Red, Hot, and Swing!
June 20, with Rafe MacPhail.
See invitation on page 2!



From Your President

Dear Friends:

Our Society is unique. There are several different things that we focus on, although perhaps a person can't truly be said to focus if there are several things they are focusing on. I'll leave that matter and ponder it some evening when I can't get to sleep (when "repose is taboo'd by anxiety"). But now on to specifics. We attend and enjoy (focus on) our musicales. We produce and attend our large scale annual production. Some of us focus on performing. I could further subdivide, but again, I think that matter can be set aside. I'll "look over it."

In the month of May our Society has excelled in all three of these areas I mention. We had a marvelous musicale on May 9. Rehearsals are underway for *The Mikado*, and of course we have Society members in the *Mikado* cast. This has been a month where many, many people have been busy. I am confident that "being busy," when it means enjoying G&S or making arrangements for others to enjoy G&S, is for most a joy and not a chore. I hope that you attended the musicale, or have a role in getting *Mikado* on stage, or are onstage yourself. It's also time for an activity important for all, and that is you can and should buy your tickets!

There will be more detailed description of the May 9 musicale on another page. I will simply thank Benny and Nancy Jay, Gloria Kim, Arthur DiBianca, Bruce Douglas, Russell Gregory, Meredith Groeschel, June Julian, and Brad Merrell. Thank you all so much for this beautiful evening.

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona concluded the musical rehearsals, and now our Stage Director Ralph MacPhail, Jr. is in from Bridgewater, Virginia, devising and rehearsing the staging. Thank you Larry Shepley, Byron Arnason, and Chris Buggé for picking Rafe up at the airport. I hear there was some fun in the baggage pickup area. I understand the props were a very large fan, a kimono, and a Rolls Royce. I don't have a clear idea even yet as to just what happened, but the star was Rafe MacPhail.

I apologize for the lack of focus in my remarks, but may I bring up one more item? Please call Enid Hallock and volunteer for the various volunteer jobs that are so important. She has a little list and needs to fill it up. These functions are vital and we need to staff these jobs soon.

...The night has been long, ditto, ditto my song, and thank goodness they're both of them over....

Very sincerely yours, *Bill Hatcher*

Volunteer for *The Mikado*!

Help with the show by calling Enid Hallock at 453-4431 to contribute your valued services! We seek:

Ushers • House Managers • Drink servers
Souvenir sellers • Ticket sellers and distributors

Last Musicale

Reba Gillman

What! Another Musicale? It's almost like old times when we enjoyed 10 Musicales a year. Recently we have cut back because we ran short on talent to organize the Musicales. But this month Brad Merrell was free to plan another enchanted evening. Thank you, Brad! (He's really good at it! And Benny and Nancy Jay's house is a perfect spot.)

With Lord High Pianist Gloria Kim and six other performers, we gathered 31 happy listeners at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 9, 2005. President Bill Hatcher greeted us, and thanked the Jays for their hospitality. He told us we could now order tickets for *The Mikado* by calling 1-800-494-TIXS, or going to our website (www.gilbertsullivan.org) and clicking on TICKETS. He urged that we make a modest contribution to the Society by registering our Randall's cards in their Good Neighbor Program (see box in this Newsletter).

Works selected by the performers made up the first half of the program. Meredith Groeschel asked for a volunteer to stand in as Eisenstein while she sang "The Laughing Song" from *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss; Byron Arnason came forward diffidently, but soon enjoyed himself thoroughly as Meredith played up to him throughout the song. Byron explained that he had no choice – "Rafe MacPhail has nominated me The Slave of Duty!" Brad Merrell sang "Lensky's Aria" from *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky (in Russian!); Bruce Douglas sang "Pardon, Madame" from *Viktorina and her Hussar* by Paul Abraham; June Julian sang "My Man's Gone Now" from *Porgy and Bess* by George Gershwin; Meredith and June sang "Sous le dôme épais" (The Flower Duet) from *Lakmé* by Leo Delibes; Russell Gregory sang "The Warthog" by Donald Swann; and finally Gloria Kim played "Estampes: I. Pagodes" by Debussy.

After a break, Reba explained that we were welcoming back an old friend, Bruce Douglas, who sang with us years ago. He played Edwin in *Trial by Jury* in 1980, and Marco in *The Gondoliers* in 1983. He is also now Brad's voice teacher. Bill asked for the introduction of guests. Byron had four: Clarice Gaines, attending for the first time; Pat Hobbs, who has become a member and her daughter Bonnie Turpin, and Bonnie's friend Blake Andrews. Paula Tyler introduced a young friend, Sergey Tsalkov, from Russia, who will be going to study at Harvey Mudd College in California. Brad nervously inquired about his Russian, and was reassured by Sergey.

Then into the music of Gilbert and Sullivan. Arthur DiBianca told us he wanted to sing the famous "Nightmare Song" from *Iolanthe* at a slightly slower tempo than usual, in order to make sure that people really heard the words. "They're too good to miss." The words were all clear, but they still went by pretty fast. Next came the quintet from *The Sorcerer*, "I rejoice that it's decided" sung by all but Bruce; then a duet from *Patience*, "Prithee, pretty maiden" sung by Meredith and Arthur; a trio from *The Yeomen of the Guard*, "A man who would woo a fair maid" sung by Meredith, June, and Brad; "The battle's roar is over" from *Ruddigore*, sung by June and Brad; and finally the quintet from *The Gondoliers*, "Try we life-long," sung by all but Brad. This contains the charming words "Life's perhaps the only riddle that we shrink from giving up."

Music was handed out, Russell sang the Pirate King's lead-in, and we all stood to sing "Hail Poetry!" from *Pirates*. We finished off as usual with "Now to the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer* (without music — we did pretty well!) All adjourned to the kitchen where the goodies were laid out, to munch and chat. Many thanks to the Jays, and to Gloria Kim, a first class pianist.

(Continued on page 3)

You are invited to an encore presentation of

The Mikado: Red, Hot, and Swing!

by Rafe MacPhail

7:30 PM Monday June 20, 2005

Howson Hall — First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
4700 Grover Ave.

FREE (donations accepted at the door)

Members, please bring munchies



Byron Arnason, Rafe MacPhail, Chris Buggé, the fan, & the Rolls — May 17, 2005

Welcome to Rafe, our Stage Director

Reba Gillman

When Rafe MacPhail flew into Austin Bergstrom Airport on Tuesday, May 17th he expected to be met and driven to his Austin residence by Larry Shepley. He did not expect that Lord High Enthusiast Byron Arnason and former Board member Chris Buggé would also be on hand to greet him with fanfare. Unfortunately I could not be there, but I have it on good authority that Chris showed up carrying a very large Asian fan and wearing a kimono, having parked his baby blue 1935 Rolls Royce. As Byron reports, Chris didn't miss a single G&S sales opportunity and didn't allow any sense of shyness or ego to get in the way. "He grabbed an Asian looking guy next to the baggage conveyer and asked him if the script on his (Chris's) 4 foot fan was Chinese or Japanese. The fellow said he was Korean and the script looked Chinese to him. Chris looked him straight in the eyes and told him to come to *The Mikado* — Chris is MY kind of salesman!"

At 5:30 PM several of us gathered for dinner with Rafe at the Buffet Palace on Anderson Lane — one of his favorite eating spots. Chris was there with his three boys, Larry and Len and I completed the party. After that Rafe went on to his scheduled first rehearsal (don't waste a moment!) at Westminster Manor. Byron reports that he was thrilled to be able to join the rehearsal, and that Rafe had him stand in for Pooh-Bah while the three little maids made fun of him under Rafe's skilled direction and practiced their fan technique — "repeat and repeat and repeat until the reality matched the perfect image in Rafe's brain!"

Rafe expressed pleasure at being back in Austin, and it must be said that the efforts of many people went into this accomplishment. The Gillmans contributed Frequent Flyer miles to pay for Rafe and Alice's air fare; Rafe is living in the garage apartment of Jim and Sue Caldwell; he is using the cell phone provided by Bill Hatcher, and driving the car lent by Chris. The reward is the pleasure of his presence, and I'm sure many other G&S aficionados feel the same, and will let Rafe know.

(Continued from page 2)

Those present were: Byron Arnason with Pat Hobbs, Bonnie Turpin, Blake Andrews & Clarice Gaines; Chris Buggé, Lucian Chimene, Ann Coltman, Len & Reba Gillman, Kay Gregory, Bill & Nan Hatcher with Lauren, Matt Julian, Richard & Julia Lary, Nancy McQueen, Laura Merrell, Marcus Merrell, Dan Merrell with Cheryl Cordell, Barbara Polomé & Milt Weiss, Martha Schumacher, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Jean Smootz, Paula Tyler with Sergey Tsalkov, David Wieckowski, and Theresa Wilson. The performers were Gloria Kim at the piano, Arthur Di Bianca – Baritone, Bruce Douglas – Tenor, Russell Gregory – Bass, Meredith Groeschel – Soprano, June Jillian – Soprano, and Brad Merrell – Tenor.

**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.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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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.

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:

Robert C. Sharron

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

Contributors to *The Mikado* 2005

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé • Lawrence Shepley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Michael & Libby Weed.** Contributors: **Anonymous • Richard & Jennifer Arndt • Ken & Emily Ashworth • Mr. & Mrs. John C. Besperka • Larry & Becky Brenner • Chris Bugge • John Dailey • Marion DeFord • Betty B. Evans • Charlotte & William Flynn • Len & Reba Gillman • Loel Graber • Russell Gregory • William P. & Naomi Haight • Bruce & Enid Hallock • Betty R. Hatcher • James A. Hitt • Karen & Bob King • Edward Kluth • George & Nancy McQueen • James S. Moore • Mr. & Mrs. James Plugge • Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts • Charles & Diane Radin • James Robinson • Dorothy A. Rutishauser • Lawrence Shepley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Earl R. Hunt & Susan C. Spruance • Still Water Foundation, Inc. • Jean Tolman • Paula Tyler • Bill & Mary Weaver • Michael & Libby Weed • Westminster Manor • Eve & John Williams • John & Betty Wood.** 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 • Randall McIntyre • Rosemary Russell-Vines • Cynthia Ryan & Valerie Ryan in memory of James C. Ryan • 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.



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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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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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.



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

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

Back by popular demand!

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or, The Town of Titipu

June 16 – July 3 — performances Thursdays, Fridays, and
Saturdays at 8:00 PM; Sunday matinées at 3:00 PM

Children's Matinee: Sunday June 26 (activities start 2:00 pm)
Thursdays: Half-Price Admissions!

For tickets call **1-800-494-TIXS**

or visit our website at www.gilbertsullivan.org

See front page for details

Next Musicale Monday September 12, 2005
Look for more information in the September Newsletter



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