

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER



Ruddigore
or The Witch's Curse

presented by the
Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin

Directed by Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Musical Direction by Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

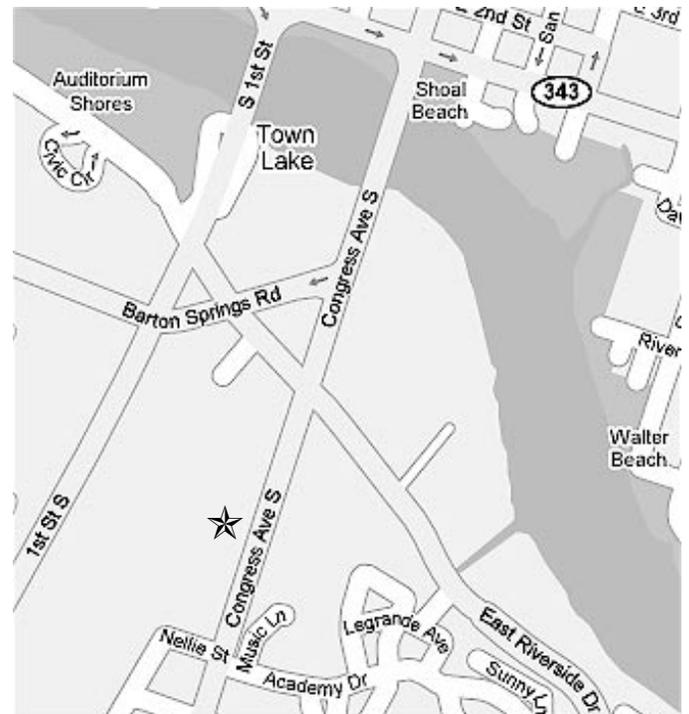
Message from Your President

Dear Friends:

The month of June is a very special month for me, not only because it is the month of my birthday and wedding anniversary, but also because this month heralds the beginning of summer and our new production of *Ruddigore*. After months of intensive planning, we were extremely glad to have had the opportunity the other day to hear the cast and orchestra in their sitzprobe rehearsal. I was thrilled to hear once again the familiar musical elements and dialogue that make Gilbert & Sullivan so special. I can hardly wait to see Ralph MacPhail's finishing touches on stage. We certainly could not have come this far without the combined efforts of so many people. It is always so rewarding to see it all come together.

We are also very thankful to all of you who continue to send in donations to help us meet our show expenses. Without your continued support, it would not be possible to put together another fine show and for this we are extremely grateful. Please tell all your friends, family and co-workers about *Ruddigore* and help us grow our audiences so we can continue to share in the phenomenal tradition of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Yours truly, *June Julian*



★ Please use the Congress Avenue entrance

Our major production of 2007:

Ruddigore

The Texas School for the Deaf
1102 South Congress Avenue (see map at right)

June 7 – June 24 (See inside for more details)

Group Tickets for *Ruddigore*

It's time to sell those tickets to Gilbert and Sullivan's witty, tuneful musical melodrama *Ruddigore*! All G&S members, friends, and readers of this newsletter have contacts, whether members or not, with numerous groups throughout the Austin area. Please encourage those you know to participate in the group project for performances of *Ruddigore* in June. If you can't sign them up yourself, please refer them to **Pat Hobbs** (512) **259-9169** for an introduction to the project and the discount benefit to those who attend *Ruddigore* as a group (10 or more).

Last Musicales

Reba Gillman

On Monday May 7, 2007, 24 lucky people gathered in the Jay's comfortable home to enjoy a preview of our revived outreach program, now known as "The Wand'ring Minstrels." President June greeted us all, and turned affairs over to Eva Laskaris, who not only performs in the Wand'ring Minstrels but who with Janette Jones was instrumental in creating the show from the opera *Ruddigore*. Eva told us that the show had been cut down to 40 minutes for presentation to school groups. "Pretend you're 15 years old and have never heard Gilbert and Sullivan before," she said. She added that because there were only four singers in the production, they ask for volunteers from the audience to fill other parts, which the children love. From our more adult and self-conscious group she found three chorus volunteers — Katy Fontenot, Donna Delvy, and Eve Schwartzman — who were guided gently to their positions and functions. The last volunteer was Gaylon Oswalt (pianist Lynda's husband — a good sport). He stood in for the very important, but non-speaking, non-singing, role in this show, Robin Oakapple. Wearing a large sign with his name, he stood stolidly on stage and was sung to by other characters, but never uttered a sound himself. Surprisingly this was very effective, and apparently involving the children in this way is very satisfying to the youthful audience.

With Janette Jones playing both Dame Hannah and Mad Margaret, Eva Laskaris as sweet Rose Maybud, David Fontenot as Sir Despard and Old Adam, and Michael Borysow as the dashing, but not altogether trustworthy, Richard Dauntless, a delightful short version of *Ruddigore* was presented. Material was almost entirely from Act I, and came to a conclusion with what seemed like a very satisfactory ending.

But Eva stepped in to say, "This seems like a happy ending, but Gilbert & Sullivan won't leave it at that. To find out how it really ends come to see our production of *Ruddigore* in June."

Eva then introduced David Fontenot to sing the Pirate King's lead in, and we finished up all singing "Hail Poetry" as is our wont. And then all off to munch on delightful morsels brought by our talented audience. Many thanks to our welcoming hosts, Benny and Nancy Jay.

Those present were: Lucian Chimene, Frank & Donna Delvy, Katy Fontenot, Len & Reba Gillman, Russell & Kay Gregory, Benny & Nancy Jay, June Julian, Chris Laskaris, Allan & Barbara Longacre, John Mast, Nancy McQueen, Gaylon Oswalt, Charles & Diane Radin, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Andrée Sjoberg, and Libby Weed; and performers Lynda Oswalt, Piano; Eva Laskaris, Soprano; Janette Jones, Mezzo; Michael Borysow, Tenor; and David Fontenot, Baritone.

Note: A very good time was had by all. It is too bad that unusually slow delivery of the May Newsletter reduced the attendance, because some people did not get their Newsletter until after the event.

Member of the Month

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month". The Member of the Month (who is randomly selected) is entitled to receive a CD of our 2005 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

Theresa Wilson

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

Donors

We are most pleased to thank the following donors, whose generous support will help make *Ruddigore* a resounding success! These names and those of additional donors will be recognized and thanked in the Playbill.

Stanley G. Bullard • Lucian Chimene • Candice Clark • Marion Wier DeFord • Douglas & Yvonne Vautier DeLay • Art DiBianca • Frank DiBianca • Carol Whitcraft Fredericks • David E. & Roslyn Gutman • William & Naomi Haight • James A. & Mary Hitt • Dudley & Mari Houghton • Earl Richard Hunt • Norman & Emilia Martin • Col. George & Nancy McQueen • Ms. Mary Metz • Austin H. & Irene Phelps • Ida C. Scott • Ernest & Lenoir Seelhorst • Katherine Shields • Andrée Sjoberg • Susan C. Spruance • Patricia Spurr • Becky Blake Stewart • Eileen Crain Sullivan • Cleve Tandy Foundation • Mary & William Weaver • Patricia Wedel • Michael & Libby Weed • M. Wayne Wilson



We are grateful to our media sponsors,
News 8 Austin and KMFA 89.5.



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.



ElderHostel — Incarnation Center, Connecticut

Now that Ralph MacPhail, Jr. is retired he can work on a more flexible schedule. He reports that the two ElderHostel summer Sessions in Connecticut have been rescheduled for a less hot and humid time. First comes the so called Reunion Week program, this year featuring *Patience*, September 23 – 28, 2007. Second is the usual "introductory" program: *Gilbert & Sullivan and Pira-Mika-Fore; or The Big Three*, October 7 – 12, 2007. For more information address Rafe directly through his email: RMacPhai@Bridgewater.Edu.

Rafe to Serve on Gilbert & Sullivan Board

Ralph MacPhail, Jr., Professor of Theatre and Communication Studies Emeritus of Bridgewater College, has been invited by Broude Brothers Limited of Williamstown, MA, to serve on its editorial board for the critical edition of the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan. According to the invitation, "Members are from time to time called upon for advice, asked to assist editors by providing copies of source material they may have in their files, and given preliminary versions of introductions, source descriptions, appendices, etc. to review." The project, which has been under way for over three decades, has published critical full scores, vocal scores, and orchestrations of *Trial by Jury* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The other 11 extant Savoy Operas are in various stages of preparation.

Our major production of 2007:

Ruddigore

Or, The Witch's Curse

The Texas School for the Deaf
1102 South Congress Avenue

Thursday June 7 (Reduced-price preview), 8 pm
Friday June 8, 8 pm
(With complimentary opening night gala)
Saturday June 9, 8 pm*
Sunday June 10, 3 pm (Children's Day - See back page)

Friday June 15, 8 pm
Saturday June 16, 8 pm
Sunday June 17, 3 pm*

Friday June 22, 8 pm*
Saturday June 23, 8 pm
Sunday June 24, 3 pm

*Captioning available at these shows

Ticket Prices

Thursday
Advance: Adults \$15, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$10
Walk-up: Adults \$20, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$15

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Advance: Adults \$20, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$15
Walk-up: Adults \$25, 18 and under \$5, students with ID \$15

Group sales (10 or more): Adults \$18

For advance sales, call 1-800-494-TIXS or visit our web site
www.gilbertsullivan.org



The Cast of *Ruddigore*

Principals

Robin Oakapple/Ruthven Murgatroyd — **Trey Deason**
Richard Dauntless — **Michael Borysow**
Sir Despard Murgatroyd — **Frank Delyv**
Old Adam Goodheart — **David Fontenot**
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd — **Russell Gregory**
Dame Hannah — **Patricia Combs**
Mad Margaret — **Janette Jones**
Rose Maybud — **Glady Marie Posch**
Zorah — **Christine Walsh**
Ruth — **Mandy Summers**

Chorus & Ghosts

Stephanie Blackwood • Daniel Brookshire • Art DiBianca
Andy Fleming • Janet Forman • Taylor Garrison • Meagan Higgins
Angela Irving • Alicia Jumonville • Bob Kieras • Mark Long
John Lopez • Ann Moeller • Christy Munger • Rain Nox
Erin Pivek • Ariel Rios • Mark Rodman • Jordan Smith
Derek Smootz • Katherine Wiggins • Jay Young



The theater has an assistive listening system, which is compatible with telecoil-equipped (T-switch) hearing aids, cochlear implants, and induction loop receivers. A limited number of headsets will be available without charge (a driver's license or ID will be needed as a deposit).

The Wand'ring Minstrels

Our new outreach program for schools, businesses, and community organizations is a 40 minute — tight, short, and delightfully funny — introduction to G&S, featuring *Ruddigore* and including audience participation, which is especially popular with children. **Michael Borysow, David Fontenot, Janette Jones**, and **Eva Laskaris** are the singers, with **Lynda Oswalt** at the piano. Eva is in charge of the project. Bookings are managed by Allan Longacre, and he welcomes help and suggestions. Please contact him at 301-5611 or alongacre@austin.rr.com.

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 with your check, payable to "GSSA":

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
P.O. Box 684542
Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

Name & Address:

Phone(s): _____

E-mail address: _____

Employer: _____

Does your company match donations? _____

I'd like to volunteer. I'm interested in: _____

Please check a membership category.

- Individual** (\$20-\$29)
- Family/Group** (\$30-\$49)
- Patron** (\$50-\$99)
- Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249)
- Major General** (\$250-\$499)
- Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999)
- Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499)
- Savoyard** (\$2500 & up)

We are proud to list our members in our programs, but if you would prefer NOT to be listed in our programs, please check here:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of G&S through
**Annual Grand Productions • G&S in School
Musicales • Musical Scholarships
Monthly Newsletters • Holiday Season Shows**

G&S Office: 6901 N. Lamar Blvd. #139, Austin, TX 78752

Mail Address: P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542

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

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. 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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Database Manager
Web Master

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Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
Arthur DiBianca
Cecily Johnson

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Libby Weed	Volunteer Coordinator	837-5441

Special performances of

Ruddigore

Friday, **June 8th** will be our **Opening Night** with no extra charge for Gala refreshments after the performance. This is your chance to meet the cast at a lovely party for audience and performers.

The Sunday matinee on **June 10th** will be **Children's Day**. The program will start at 2 PM, although curtain time is not until 3 PM. Gary Hallock does a great job organizing fun activities for this event, which is always very successful.

Our Grand Production, June 7 - 24, 2007:

Ruddigore
Or, The Witch's Curse

A Gilbert & Sullivan send-up of Victorian Melodrama— with Wicked Baronets, a Damsel in Distress, a Jolly Jack-Tar, a Virtuous Maiden, and an entire gallery of Ghostly Ancestors that comes to life at midnight! And lots of Sullivan's sparkling music! Plus a Family Curse.

The
Gilbert & SULLIVAN Society
OF AUSTIN

PO Box 684542
Austin TX 78768-4542

Return Service Requested

Are you the Member of the Month?
See inside!

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Top line of mailing label is date when your membership expires

June 2007