

The

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Our major production of 2008

The Pirates of Penzance
Forrest Kline Performing Arts Center at
Crockett High School
5601 Manchaca Road

Thursday June 19, 8 PM, Preview
Friday June 20, 8 PM, Opening Night Gala (no extra charge)
Saturday June 21, 3 PM, Matinee with Captioning
8 PM, Evening Performance
Sunday June 22, 3 PM, Matinée; with Children's Activities at 2 PM
Thursday June 26, 8 PM, Evening Performance with Captioning
Friday June 27, 8 PM, Evening Performance
Saturday June 28, 3 PM, Matinée; with Children's Activities at 2 PM,
8 PM, Evening Performance with Captioning
Sunday June 29, 3 PM, Matinée and Closing Performance

Ticket Prices: \$25 adults; \$20 students over 18 with ID; \$5 for youths under 18; \$5 discount on adult and student tickets when purchased online in advance. For group sales of 10 or more, call Patricia Kaplan at 512/472-4772.

Principals

Major-General Stanley — **Frank Delvy**
The Pirate King — **David Fontenot**
Samuel — **Michael Borysow**
Frederic — **Holton Johnson**
Sergeant of Police — **Russell Gregory**
Mabel — **Carol Brown**
Edith — **Patricia Combs**
Kate — **Lisa Alexander**
Isabel — **Angela Irving**
Ruth — **Janette Jones**

Pirates and Police: **Chris Buggé, Tony Dominguez, Arthur DiBianca, Andy Fleming, Bill Hatcher, John Lopez, Spencer Reichman, Ariel Rios, Derek Smootz, Jay Young.**

General Stanley's Daughters: **Jennifer Adams, Nancy Arnold, Stephanie Blackwood, Christina Crater, Amanda Hatfield, Karlyn McCutchan, Rebecca Stokinger, Mandy Summers, Katherine Wiggins.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The Pirates of Penzance returns this summer. This is the sixth time that the Society has produced this show since the Company's inception in 1976. Undeniably one of the most popular of all Gilbert & Sullivan operas, *The Pirates of Penzance* continues to draw in audiences, new and old. Some would probably say it has to do with the popularity of "Pirates" in recent cinematic ventures. Others perhaps may say it is the extraordinary music of Arthur Sullivan that captivates us. Yet it is most possibly because of the enduringly witty and humorous storyline so masterfully crafted by W.S. Gilbert: a hard-of-hearing nursemaid who unwittingly commits her young master to a "Pirate" apprenticeship (instead of a "Pilot"), a throng of Pirates who are much too kind to fellow orphans, a Major General with a bevy of beautiful daughters, the Sergeant of Police whose bravery goes only as far as his words while his actions (and his crew) always seem to fall short, and a reluctant Pirate apprentice who by a twist of fate, finds that he may be apprenticed to piracy for the rest of his life!

Whatever the reason that people enjoy this musical comedy, you don't want to miss it! We have assembled a fine cast of characters that will keep you laughing throughout the show and beyond. Save the dates (June 19-29) and purchase your tickets soon. Ticket sales are now available online at www.gilbertsullivan.org. We thank all of you who attended Frederic's smashing birthday celebration in February. He now looks forward to his "38th" birthday, in 2012. Also, save the date for our May 12 musicale. More information coming soon...

Sincerely,
June Julian
President

We Need \$\$\$

*Come, friends, who plough the sea,
Truce to navigation,
Take another station;
Let's vary piracee
With a little burglaree!*

Or in this case, with some dollars to spend on the production of *Pirates*. Shows cost money, and even expensive tickets don't pay the whole bill.

Donations welcome!

\$\$\$ Save Money! \$\$\$ Organize Groups for 'Pirates' Now

Get 10 people from your church, business, senior center, social/service club, or even just your friends, to form a group. Individual members of the group can buy tickets to see our June production of *The Pirates of Penzance* at 20% off the advance sale price, and even more for "at the door" tickets. They (including family and friends of members) may attend either in a group at a single performance or come to a performance of their choice as individuals. Group rate tickets are valid at all performances except the final matinee on Sunday June 29.

For information about forming a group, call the Gilbert and Sullivan office at (512) 472-4772.



Russell Gregory and Rose Taylor perform at the February Musicale.

News of Members

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, our Music Director, reports that the 'Pirates' cast is hard at work on the music "and they are going to be fantastic." He is pleased to have some outstanding newcomers, in addition to the well-loved stalwarts. He also reports on his own busy schedule. On April 11 and 12 he will be performing some Irish and Scottish music with the Texas Early Music Project and local Irish and Scottish fiddlers (information at 371- 0099). On April 30 he will sing the tenor solo in *Carmina Burana* at UT in the Bates Recital Hall (information at (512) 471-0806).

Ralph MacPhail, Jr. our Artistic and Stage Director, is directing a student production of *The Mikado* at the Virginia Commonwealth University Opera Theatre in Richmond, VA. Performances are on Saturday April 26 and Sunday April 27 at 7:30 PM. For more information search on VCU Opera Theatre.

Glary Marie Posch has regretfully informed us that due to family commitments she cannot take the time this year to come to Austin for performances. We will miss her cheery presence and lovely voice.

Frederic's Birthday

Report by Reba Gillman

On Friday February 29, 2008 we celebrated Frederic's leap year day birthday with fun and frolic, delightful music, excellent performers, a delicious buffet, and, of course, birthday cake. The silent auction offered some wonderful prizes and all agreed that the Chateau Bellevue, Austin Woman's Club, was a perfect place for celebrations. The warm and receptive audience almost overflowed the charming hall. Our favorite Artistic Director, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., came from his home in Virginia to serve as MC, and one of the evening's more unusual entertainments was the sample of his Magic Act performed at the start of Act II. Incongruously, I will forever more call up visions of small pieces of rope in a variety of segments, to associate with Rafe, our endless source of Gilbert & Sullivan lore.

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, our favorite Music Director, assisted Eva Laskaris in planning the musical program. It was a splendid mix of the loved old familiar, the expected, and the surprising other aspects of our performers' talents. Who will ever forget Diva Rose Taylor tipsily performing "Vodka," a work by George Gershwin that is probably not well known? Or Ms. Julian, capable President of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, doing a magnificently sultry come-on in "Ain't Misbehavin'?"

The rest of the program contained a number of familiar pieces from *The Pirates of Penzance*, and one song each from *Ruddigore* and *The Mikado* (well, how could we have Rose Taylor and Russell Gregory on the same program and not do "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast?"). Other songs were from "*The Music Man*," "*My Fair Lady*," "*I Love You, You're Perfect. Now Change*," "*Oklahoma*," and "*Les Miserables*," with one kiddy-thriller "*The Green-Eyed Dragon*," which I'm told Russell has been singing with enthusiasm for years. Singers were **Holton Johnson, Kristin Burritt, David Fontenot, Russell Gregory, Janette Jones, Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, June Julian, Eva Laskaris, and Rose Taylor**. The excellent accompanist was **Karl Logue**.

Much praise and many thanks should go to the Committee in charge: Eva Laskaris, Chair; June Julian, Co-Chair; Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Music Director; Jean Smootz, Silent Auction and Volunteers Coordinator; and David Little, Publicity and Design. Thanks also to the volunteers, Ellen Boillot, Pat Hobbs, Patricia Kaplan, Nanci Jay, Nancy McQueen, Ed Smootz, Libby Weed, Frank Wicker, Teri Wilson, and Dave Wieckowski. We couldn't do it without you!

WAND'RING MINSTREL NEWS

The Wand'ring Minstrels will be touring this Spring with the "Pirates in the Schools" program. This educational show will be a mini production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Students will have the opportunity to be part of the cast as the Major General's daughters, policemen, or even pirates! In addition, the Wand'ring Minstrels will continue to offer customized programs for special events and community outreach that encompass music from various Gilbert and Sullivan works.

If you are interested in booking the Wand'ring Minstrels for an upcoming event or educational program, please contact **Eva Laskaris** at (512) 350-4935, or email us at Info@gilbertsullivan.org.



Karl Logue (piano), Janette Jones, Dave Fontenot, and Holton Johnson perform at the Musicale on February 29 (Leap Day).

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month." The "Member" (who is randomly selected) is entitled to receive a CD of our 2005 *The Mikado*, or 2006 *HMS Pinafore*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

William B. Hooper

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

Jack Mandel Shepley

We learn with sorrow of the death of Jack Shepley on March 1, 2008, in Washington D.C. at the age of 96. He was a member of our Society and, with his wife Ida, a substantial donor to last year's *Ruddigore*. He was the father of our long-time active member Larry Shepley. We send our sympathy to Larry and his family.

Contributors to Ruddigore 2007

We wish to express our thanks to the following donors, whose generous support helped to make *Ruddigore* a resounding success!

Charles Antonie • Richard L. Black • Stanley G. Bullard • Barbara Buttrey • Lucian Chimene • Candice Clark • David & Patricia Davidson • Marion Wier DeFord • Douglas & Yvonne Vautier DeLay • Frank DiBianca • Jewell Ellis • Charlotte Flynn in memory of Bill Flynn • Carol Whitcraft Fredericks • Len & Reba Gillman • David & Roslyn Gutman • Cecil Hale • William & Naomi Haight • The Hallock Family, Enid, Chris & Gary • Tom & Barbara Hamff • James A. & Mary Hitt • Dudley & Mari Houghton • Earl Richard Hunt • Benny & Nanci Jay • Blain & Debbie Keith • Layton B. Keith, Jr. • Donald & Mary Lindholm • Norman & Emilia Martin • Col. George & Nancy McQueen • Ms. Mary Metz, MBE • Austin H. & Irene Phelps • Diana Phillips • William & Susan Reid • Ida C. Scott • Ernest & Lenoir Seelhorst • Katharine Shields • Andrée Sjoberg • Susan Spruance • Patricia Spurr • Becky Blake Stewart • Eileen Crain Sullivan • Jill Thomas • William R. Trutna • Mary & William Weaver • Patrica Wedel • Michael & Libby Weed • M. Wayne Wilson • Cleve H. Tandy Foundation



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

We encourage you to join our Society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal 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", or call to join (512) 472-4772 (GSSA).

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)

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

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

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

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Phone: (512) 472-4772 (GSA-GSSA)

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org



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The Society holds nonprofit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Artistic Director
Music Director

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

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Database Manager Arthur DiBianca

Our Next Musicale

will be at 7:30 PM on
Monday, May 12

Watch for information on place and program in
the May Newsletter
Save the date -- it's sure to be fun!

The Pirates of Penzance

Forrest Kline Performing Arts Center
at Crockett High School
5601 Manchaca Road

Performances June 19 through June 29

Buy tickets online at www.gilbertsullivan.org, or call 1-800-494-TIXS.

See page 1

See *The Mikado* at the Paramount!

April 12, 8 PM and April 13, 2 PM

This production by the Carl Rosa Opera Company of Great Britain has been touring the U.S. and receiving rave reviews. Buy your tickets online at www.AustinTheatre.org, or at the Paramount box office, or by calling 1-866-4GET-TIX. To receive a \$5 discount for each ticket use "GANDS" as the promotional code.

The
 **Gilbert**
SULLIVAN *Society*
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