

The

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

## COME TO A PERFECTLY PIRATICAL PARTY

**Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:30 PM**  
At the home of Benny and Nanci Jay  
4305 Hyridge Drive -- phone 343-8408

Please Bring Your Favorite Piratical Munchies

Our next Musicale will be a Perfectly Piratical Party with movie clips from various shows and movies influenced by Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular work ever, *The Pirates of Penzance*. You can also take your chances at winning a piratical treasure-- two tickets to this summer's show! Of course, what would the evening be like without your delicious refreshments to share with our friends and guests? We look forward to seeing you all there!

## 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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

It was nearly 5 years ago that I "set foot" on the G&S stage as Edith in our 2003 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. I am quoting, of course, from one of the lines Edith spoke when she and her sisters first come into the scene, "Climbing over Rocky Mountain," and carrying on in conversation about Mermaids, "who can't be said strictly to set *foot* anywhere. Tails they may, but feet they *cannot*." The girls have wandered ahead of their father, the Major-General, and have come upon the seashore. This is perhaps unusual for girls from that era to meander beyond the watchful eye of their guardian, yet playful, mischievous Edith is excited about this moment of freedom: "We are quite alone, and the sea is as smooth as glass. Suppose we take off our shoes, and stockings and paddle?" To which her sisters reply wholeheartedly, "Yes, yes! The very thing!"

This spirit of mischief and playfulness is entirely Gilbert & Sullivan-esque, and it is largely these particular themes that play throughout their works, whether it be in words or music. With that, we are always guaranteed that no matter how harrowing a situation may be, the show leaves us with a joyful finale.

Speaking of which, we invite you to join us on May 12 for bit of mischief and playfulness at the Perfectly Piratical Party, where we will view short clips from Pirates-influenced movies, sing-along to some favorite Pirates tunes, and enjoy the company of some of our Pirates cast members, all at the lovely home of Benny and Nanci Jay. And don't forget to purchase your tickets for *The Pirates of Penzance* which are now available online at [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org). Here's to another joyful summer!

Yours truly,  
June Julian  
President



## MONEY

I am the very model of a Modern Major-General,  
I understand equations, both the simple and quadratical,  
About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot of news --

This summer's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*  
needs YOU!

Your generous donations allow our production equations  
to come out on top. Please contribute now,  
So this summer's show can be our best yet!

## News of Friends and Members

**Alpha Music Center** has sold the Society our vocal scores for many years. Now Alpha has moved north to 1739 West Anderson Lane, in the same building as Encore CD'S and Videos.

Same phone: (512) 477-5009

**Frank Dely** continues to have some recurring health problems. He underwent successful surgery and was recovering well, but some after-effects kept him in the hospital longer than expected. Frank is a true trouper, and promises "I won't let anything keep me from doing what I love!" Keep him in your thoughts and we'll all be enjoying his Major-General in June.

**Glary Marie Posch** has been hired to direct CyFair College Lyric Opera's 2008 fall production -- "Nothing But Opera." This includes auditions, set, music, staging-choreographing, etc. -- the works! She is very excited about this opportunity. She has directed children's plays, but never work at the college level.

**Ralph MacPhail, Jr.** reports a wonderfully enthusiastic reception to *The Mikado* he directed in Richmond, VA for the Virginia Commonwealth Opera Theatre. He also reports that Alice is healing slowly and was able to attend the performances on April 26 and 27. The news came in too late for our last newsletter that Alice had suffered a miserable and unusual accident. Early in April she and Rafe were leaving a church parking area when a car drove out wildly, went up on the sidewalk knocking down Alice and ended up crashed into the air conditioning unit. Considering the unpleasant possibilities, Alice was lucky to escape with only three broken ribs and some bruises. However, there is nothing to do about broken ribs except suffer as they slowly heal, so this has been a very unpleasant experience.

Our members are involved in a variety of outside activities. **Eva Laskaris** and **Kristin Burritt** perform often with Conspirare and as Voce Divina, most recently singing for a posh wedding at Laguna Gloria. Both plan to be involved in the formation of the new Hill Country Christian Conservatory of Music in Northwest Austin, opening in the fall of 2008.

**Arthur diBianca** plays the clarinet in the Austin Philharmonic Orchestra. On April 30 he performed in their free concert at the School for the Blind. Their concerts are always free of charge, and are usually open to all. Art says the Austin Philharmonic Orchestra welcomes volunteer instrumentalists. For more information, see their website: <http://www.austinphilharmonic.org>.

## 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:

**Pat & Paul Ehrler**

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

## THE CARL ROSA TOURING OPERA COMPANY

### *The Mikado*

Report by Reba Gillman

As expected the British touring company production of *The Mikado* was delightful, and very well attended. The enthusiastic presence of so many people of all ages confirms our belief that the Gilbert and Sullivan operas remain alive and well, and enduringly popular long after a hundred years. The implication for our own productions is that we need to find ways to convince the public that we're doing a great job, and that our shows should not be missed.

Personally, I was amazed at the rapid pace taken for many of the choruses, and noted that clever up-to-date words were inserted in most of the famous "I've got a little list" song. Traditionally a few changes have always been made, but this version was almost totally present-reality oriented, and incidentally very funny. A good laugh was the response to the statement (in the second act) that Nanki Pooh had gone abroad to Esther's Follies.

It was a jolly good show, but several of us local G&Sers staunchly proclaimed that many of our singing actors were just as good, if not better. It was, indeed, a very affirming experience as we recognized the excellence of our own productions.



**Russell Gregory, David Fontenot, Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Eva Laskaris, Holton Johnson** perform at *Frederic's Birthday Musicale*, February 29, 2008.  
Photo by **Nanci Jay**

## WAND'RING MINSTREL NEWS

Let Austin G&S Entertain You

Learn how to bring the magic of Gilbert and Sullivan to your school, business meeting, or party. We perform condensed versions of G&S classics and customize programs to suit your special occasion.

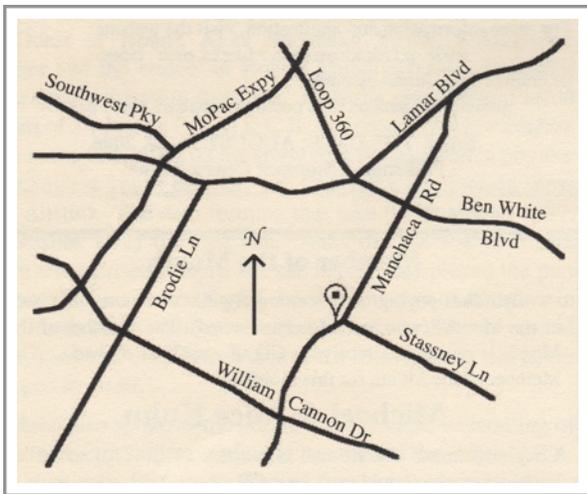
For information or booking call Eva Laskaris at (512) 350-4935, or email us at [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:info@gilbertsullivan.org).

**\$\$\$ 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.

Directions to Crockett High School  
5601 Manchaca Road



Right: **Ralph MacPhail, Jr** and **Libby Weed** enjoy *Frederic's Birthday Musicales*, February 29, 2008. Photo by **Nanci Jay**

**Contributors to *The Pirates of Penzance* 2008**

We wish to thank the following donors, whose generous support will help us produce a fantastic *Pirates of Penzance*. More donors will be listed in June in the *Pirates* playbill.

Ola Bell • Stanley Bullard • Roslyn & David Gutman • Ralph & Alice MacPhail, Jr. • Randall McIntyre • Diana Phillips • Paul D. Shannon • Grace & Gary Silcott • Trudy Tommeraasen • William & Mary Weaver • Carol Whitcraft Fredericks



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



This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award by the National Endowment for the Arts which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



**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

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of G&S through

**Annual Grand Productions**  
**Educational/Community Outreach**  
**Musicales**  
**Musical Scholarships**  
**Newsletters**  
**Holiday Season Shows**

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

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

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

Our web site: [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

E-mail: [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto: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**

### Board of Directors

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	Database Manager	Arthur DiBianca

## The Pirates of Penzance



photo by Kenneth Gall

## 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](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org), or call 1-800-494-TIXS.

See page 1 and map on page 3.

### SAVE THE DATE!

The September Musicale will take place on Sunday September 14, 2008 at 3 PM. We will put on an exciting First of the New Season show. Look for further information in the September Newsletter.

Upcoming Musicales on May 12.

See page 1 for information. It's sure to be Fun!

The  
**& Gilbert**  
**SULLIVAN Society**  
OF AUSTIN  
P. O. Box 684542  
Austin, TX 78768-4542  
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