



PRESS RELEASE

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin Presents Its Summer 2012 Grand Production

Patience

**One of the most lyrical and laugh-filled of the Gilbert & Sullivan operas
opening in Austin June 7th**

WHO: The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
WHAT: PATIENCE; OR, BUNTHORNE'S BRIDE
WHEN: June 7-17 / Thursdays-Sundays / 9 Performances.
Evening performances Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8pm.
Matinees at 3pm June 10, 16 & 17.
Special Children's Activities Sunday, June 10 at 2pm.
WHERE: Brentwood Christian School Performing Arts Center / 11908 N. Lamar
TICKETS: Purchase tickets at www.gilbertsullivan.org or call (512) 474-5664.
\$25 adults / \$20 students over 18 with i.d. / \$10 for 18 and under.
\$5 discount on adult & student tickets - \$3 discount 18 and under when purchased in advance. Additional discounts available for preview night Thursday, June 7.
Ticket service fees apply.
For group sales of 10 or more contact Michael Meigs at (512) 420-0888 or michael@gilbertsullivan.org

AUSTIN, TX – The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin is proud to present its Summer 2012 Grand Production of *Patience; or, Bunthorne's Bride*. *Patience* is the sixth operatic collaboration of fourteen by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. It was first performed in London in 1881, and was last performed in Austin in 1999. *Patience*, a hilarious and touching comic opera, satirizes the "aesthetic craze" of the 1870s and '80s, when the output of poets, composers, painters and designers of all kinds was indeed prolific but whose followers and admirers, some argued, were empty and self-indulgent.

Patience contains Gilbert's most trenchant satire on a contemporary fad, and he wrote it so well that it completely transcends his original target. *Patience* is, indeed, a universal comedy capable of delighting audiences who know nothing of Victorian aestheticism, at which Gilbert "aimed his shaft and knew no fear" in 1881. *Patience* has some of Gilbert's finest comedy and Sullivan's most captivating tunes, adding up to a masterwork fully equal to their very best. It has wit, charm, poetry . . . and a delightfully complicated love triangle - surely a perfect evening of musical entertainment for the whole family!

Artistic Director Ralph MacPhail, Jr. returns for his 12th summer with the Society, along with Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, enjoying his 16th season as Music Director. The society is thrilled that this production will be the first to appear on stage at the new Brentwood Christian School Performing Arts Center.



The cast includes: Holton Johnson (Archibald Grosvenor), Meredith Ruduski (Patience), Russell Gregory (Mr. Bunthorne's Solicitor), Janette Jones (Lady Jane), Arthur DiBianca (Reginald Bunthorne), Patricia Combs (Lady Angela), Robert L. Schneider (Colonel Calverley), Daytha Hulion (Lady Ella), Donald Bayne (Major Murgatroyd), Kate Clark (Lady Saphir), Wayne Davis (The Duke of Dunstable), and a Chorus of maidens and Dragoon Guards.

A free Opening Night Gala with refreshments follows the Friday, June 8 performance. Special Children's Activities precede the performance on June 10 at 2pm. All performances will have supertitles.

Synopsis:

The opening scene is set near "Castle Bunthorne," where twenty love-sick maidens reflect on the mysteries and hopelessness of their love for Bunthorne, an aesthetic poet. He loves Patience, they declare, and to them he remains indifferent. Patience, a simple dairy-maid, has never loved anyone except an aunt, and learns from one of the maidens that true love must be "utterly unselfish." Enter a dozen officers of Dragoon Guards, whose colonel introduces himself and his men with a rollicking, boastful song. The Dragoons had been much beloved by the twenty maidens, but now they are accorded a different welcome. Bunthorne has "idealized them" and "their eyes are opened." When alone, Bunthorne admits being "an aesthetic sham" who feigns aestheticism only to gain admiration.

Patience remembers a boy who was her childhood friend, and when Archibald Grosvenor appears she discovers it is he. They love each other, but Patience, in the belief that true love is "utterly unselfish," thinks she cannot marry one so perfect. Bunthorne, returning, has decided, since Patience does not love him, to put himself up to be raffled for, and just as the lot is to be drawn, Patience in her "utter unselfishness" says that she will marry him because "she detests him so." The disappointed maidens then return to the Dragoons, but when they see Archibald Grosvenor, immediately transfer their affections to him because "he is aesthetic!" As the act ends, Bunthorne is jealous, and the Dragoons are disgusted.

Act II is set in a glade near Castle Bunthorne. The middle-aged Jane bewails her lot: she is growing older staunchly loving Bunthorne, and she sings of the ravages time is wreaking on her physical beauty. Grosvenor is now adored by all the maidens. He is annoyed by their attentions, for they have followed him about for days. He pleads for "the usual half holiday on Saturday." Patience, meanwhile, muses upon love. Bunthorne, deserted and consumed by jealousy, has still one faithful admirer - the portly Lady Jane, whose charms decrease as her size increases. She implores him not to wait too long, but Bunthorne is determined to beat Grosvenor on his own ground.

At last the rival poets meet. Bunthorne threatens to "curse" Archibald unless he consents to cut his hair and become quite commonplace. Grosvenor outwardly appalled, but secretly relieved, consents to become an "everyday young man." Now that Bunthorne is happy, Patience, in her "utter unselfishness," breaks her engagement. Upon Archibald Grosvenor's return, in a tweed suit and bowler hat, she realizes that since he is now a commonplace young man, she can marry him.

Bunthorne finds that the twenty love-sick maidens have returned to their soldier-lovers. He decides to console himself with the middle-aged Lady Jane. But the Duke of Dunstable announces that to balance out one of life's inequities, he will marry and honor a plain woman, and chooses Lady Jane, so Bunthorne is left without a bride.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin was founded in 1976 with the purpose of education by preserving and presenting the works of Gilbert & Sullivan. Known for its highly acclaimed annual grand productions from the G&S repertoire, the Society is also dedicated to spreading and teaching the joys of G&S through school and community presentations.

GSSA 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 from the National Endowment for the Arts which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Media sponsors for *Patience* are Time Warner Cable's, YNN and Classical 89.5 KMFA.

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