



PRESS RELEASE

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin Presents Its Summer 2010 Grand Production

The Yeomen of the Guard **Gilbert & Sullivan's Classic Operetta Opening in Austin June 10**

WHO: The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
WHAT: THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD
WHEN: June 10-20 / Thursdays-Sundays / 9 Performances.
Evening performances Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8pm.
Matinees at 3pm June 13, 19 & 20.
Special Children's Activities Sunday, June 13 at 2pm.
WHERE: Travis High School Performing Arts Center / 1211 E. Oltorf
INFO: Visit www.gilbertsullivan.org or call (512) 472-4772
TICKETS: \$25 adults / \$20 students over 18 with i.d. / \$8 for 18 and under
\$5 discount on adult & student tickets - \$3 discount 18 and under - when purchased online in advance. Additional discounts available for preview night Thursday, June 10.
Purchase tickets online at www.gilbertsullivan.org, or call 1-800-494-TIXS
For group sales of 10 or more, contact Michael Meigs at (512) 472-4772 or michael@gilbertsullivan.org

AUSTIN, TX – The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin proudly presents for 2010, *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Produced by the Society only once in its history in 1997, this richly textured show is the closest thing to grand opera in the G&S repertoire. Both Gilbert & Sullivan considered *The Yeomen of the Guard* to be their favorite collaboration. Its story is lofty and its score is magnificent, and yet it loses not one bit of the fun and frivolity that are hallmarks of G&S shows. Audiences of all ages will be captivated with its hauntingly beautiful tunes, its colorful pageantry, and, yes, its topsy-turvy storyline.

The Yeomen opened October 3, 1888, at the Savoy Theatre and ran for 423 performances. Possibly the most daring of the Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas, *Yeomen* ends with at least two reluctant engagements, rather than the usual armful of marriages. However, Gilbert's satire and hilarious one-liners abound, and many believe that the score is Sullivan's finest. Indeed, some enjoy *Yeomen* particularly because of its ever-changing emotional balance of joy and despair, humor and pathos.

Artistic Director Ralph MacPhail, Jr. returns for his 10th summer with the Society, along with Jeffrey Jones-Ragona enjoying his 14th season as Music Director.



The cast includes: Holton Johnson (Colonel Fairfax), Michelle Hache (Elsie), Russell Gregory (Sergeant Meryll), Janette Jones (Dame Carruthers), Arthur DiBianca (Jack Point), Patricia Combs (Phoebe Meryll), David Fontenot (Wilfred Shadbolt), Robert L. Schneider (Sir Richard Cholmondeley), Kate Clark (Kate), and Billy Alexander (Leonard Meryll).

Free Opening Night Gala with refreshments following the Friday, June 11 8pm performance. Special Children's Activities at 2pm prior to the Sunday, June 13 matinee. All performances will have supertitles.

Synopsis

The setting of *Yeomen* is laid in the Tower of London in Shakespearean times. The plot concerns Colonel Fairfax, a gentleman, soldier and scientist, who has been sentenced to be beheaded in an hour on a false charge of sorcery. To avoid leaving his estate to his accuser (a cousin), and with the help of the Lieutenant of the Tower, Fairfax secretly marries Elsie Maynard, a strolling singer.

The bride agrees to be blindfolded during the ceremony and expects to be a well-paid widow in an hour. With the help of the Meryll family, Fairfax escapes, throwing the Tower into confusion and the astonished Elsie (and her mentor, the jester Jack Point, who loves her) into despair. But Fairfax, disguised as Leonard Meryll, woos Elsie, and after a number of plot complications are worked out, she falls in love with Fairfax and leaves Jack Point broken-hearted.

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 *The Yeomen of the Guard* are News8Austin and KMFA 89.5 Classical Radio.

