



PRESS RELEASE

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THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE **Gilbert & Sullivan's Classic Musical Comedy To Entertain Austin Audiences beginning June 19**

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

WHO: The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
WHAT: *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE*
WHEN: Preview June 19. Opening Night June 20. Runs thru June 29 on Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8pm, with matinees on both Saturday and Sunday at 3pm. Special Children's Activities begin at 2pm prior to matinees on Sunday, June 22 and Saturday, June 28.
WHERE: Forrest Kline Performing Arts Center at Crockett High School / 5601 Manchaca Road
INFO: Visit www.gilbertsullivan.org or call (512) 472-4772
TICKETS: \$25 adults / \$20 students over 18 with i.d. / \$5 for young people under 18
\$5 discount on adult and student tickets when purchased online in advance
Purchase tickets online at www.gilbertsullivan.org, or call 1-800-494-TIXS
For group sales of 10 or more, contact Patricia Kaplan at (512) 472-4772

AUSTIN, TX – Set sail with a band of tenderhearted pirates, a modern Major-General, a bevy of Victorian maidens, and a bunch of bumbling British bobbies in Gilbert & Sullivan's musical comedy classic for all ages, *The Pirates of Penzance*. Upon reaching his 21st year and the fulfillment of his indentures, the hapless young pirate apprentice, Frederic, vows to devote his life to the extermination of piracy. Young Frederic promptly falls for Mabel, one of the lovely daughters of the Major-General, but a ludicrous leap year snag threatens to keep him apprenticed to piracy for life.

First performed in 1879, *The Pirates of Penzance* joins *The Mikado* and *HMS Pinafore* as one of the most popular of Gilbert & Sullivan's fourteen musicals, and has been continuously performed since then throughout the world. A movie version was created in 1983 starring Kevin Kline as the Pirate King and Linda Ronstadt as Mabel. Parodies of *The Pirates of Penzance* have included those performed on *Saturday Night Live*, *The Muppet Show*, and *Frazier*.

Artistic Director Ralph MacPhail, Jr. returns for his 8th summer with the Society, along with Jeffrey Jones-Ragona enjoying his 12th season as Music Director. The cast includes: Holton Johnson (Frederic), Frank Delvy (Major-General Stanley), David Fontenot (Pirate King), Carol Brown (Mabel), Russell Gregory (Sergeant of Police), and Janette Jones (Ruth).

An Opening Night Gala will immediately follow the performance on Friday June 20. Special Children's Activities begin at 2pm prior to matinees on Sunday June 22 and Saturday June 28. Captioning will be available on June 21 at 3pm, June 26 at 8pm, and June 28 at 8pm.



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* is sponsored in part by the City of Austin's Cultural Arts Division, The Texas Commission on the Arts, News 8 Austin, and KMFA 89.5 Classical Radio.

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.