



PRESS RELEASE

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin Presents Its Summer 2013 Grand Production

Princess Ida

Feminism meets masculine pugnacity and militarism in this hilarious battle of the sexes. Opening in Austin June 13th.

WHO: The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
WHAT: *Princess Ida, or Castle Adamant*
WHEN: June 13-23 / Thursdays-Sundays / 9 Performances.
Evening performances Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 7:30pm.
Matinees at 2pm June 16, 22 & 23.
Special Children's Activities Sunday, June 16 at 1pm.
WHERE: Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School / 11908 N. Lamar
TICKETS: Tickets \$7-\$25
Purchase tickets at www.gilbertsullivan.org or call (512) 474-5664.
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 2013 Grand Production of *Princess Ida, or Castle Adamant*. We are performing this classic, which was Arthur Sullivan & W.S. Gilbert's eighth comic opera out of fourteen, for the first time in our history. Sullivan's score is majestic, and many consider Gilbert's libretto one of his funniest.

Nine performances will be produced at the Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School, June 13-23, 2013. Artistic Director Ralph MacPhail, Jr. returns for his 13th summer with the Society, along with Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, enjoying his 17th season as Music Director. The outstanding cast is headed by B. Iden Payne multiple nominees Michelle Haché (Princess Ida), Holton Johnson (Hilarion), and Arthur DiBianca (King Gama).

Princess Ida satirizes feminism, women's education, masculine pugnacity and militarism, grand opera, and Darwinian evolution – all controversial topics in conservative Victorian England. It is based on a narrative poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson called "The Princess" (1847).

This melodic and hilarious comic opera features proto-feminist Princess Ida, the daughter of King Gama. The princess founds a women's university from which all men are barred, and she and her faculty teach that women are superior to men and should rule in their stead. Romantic Prince Hilarion, to whom Ida had been engaged in infancy, sneaks into the university along with two friends with the aim of claiming his bride. They disguise themselves as women students but are soon discovered, their male invasion instigating a hilarious war between the sexes.



This is the only three-act Gilbert & Sullivan opera. *Princess Ida* opened at the Savoy Theatre on January 5, 1884, for a run of 246 performances, and since that time it has never been out of the standard repertory of Gilbert & Sullivan (or Savoy) operas throughout the English-speaking world.

A free Opening Night Gala with refreshments follows the Friday, June 13 performance. Special Children's Activities precede the performance on June 16 at 1pm. All performances will have supertitles.

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.

Media sponsors for *Princess Ida* are Time Warner Cable's, YNN and Classical 89.5 KMFA. GSSA is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office/Cultural Arts Division believing an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin's future. Visit Austin at NowPlayingAustin.com

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