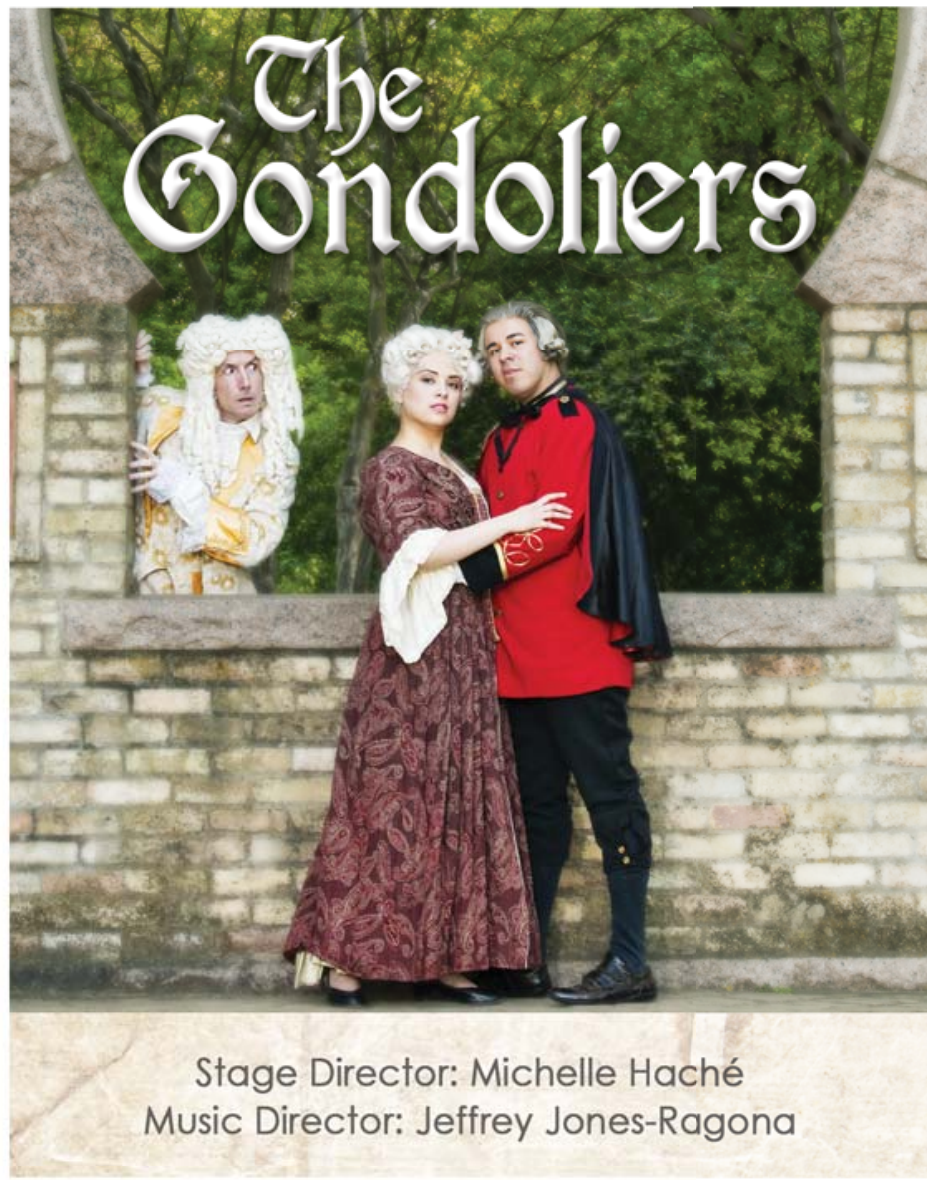


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& **SULLIVAN** *Society*  
OF AUSTIN

2016 Grand Production



June 16-26, 2016

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School  
Austin, Texas

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We are particularly grateful to the following for their valued assistance with this production of *The Gondoliers*:

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- Blackerby Violin Shop Recital Hall** for providing rehearsal space for our orchestra
- Brentwood Christian School Music Department** for lending music stands and chairs for the orchestra
- Chris Buggé** for providing tables for Act II
- Dianne Donovan** and **KMFA 89.5 FM**
- Lonnie Evans** for help with the Gondolier's pole
- Pam Fowler** for making flags and pennants
- Larry Greenhaw, David Gutman, Terri Hallenbeck, Bill Hatcher, and Ruth Sunil** for supporting the group sales program
- Andy Heilveil** for help with sets and props
- Kendra Hiller** and **Genesis Presbyterian Church** for all their help in making the rehearsals run smoothly
- Barb Jernigan** for designing T-shirts for *The Gondoliers*
- Kids Acting Studio** for help during set construction
- Monica Kurtz** for making props
- David Little, Allan Longacre, and Michael Meigs** for their outstanding leadership and support in our publicity efforts
- Talena Martinez** for props
- Travis Pollard, Tere Hager, Whitney Wick, and Michelle Alexander** for serving as hosts in the Worley Barton Theater
- Sandra Ragona** for merchandise item selection and for overseeing the sales table
- Lisa Rogge** for backstage help
- Mr. R. B. Rudy** for lending a car to our Artistic Director
- Mary Ruiz, Luke Fowler, and Whit Allee** for help during load-in
- Pat Turpin** for supplying the wonderful cakes and brownies for the June 17 gala with the cast
- Libby and Michael Weed** for providing lodging to our Artistic Director

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***The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin***  
***presents***

***The Gondoliers***  
***or, The King of Barataria***

Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School  
June 16-26, 2016

Written by  
**W. S. Gilbert**

Artistic Director  
**Michelle Haché**

Choreographer  
**Christine Jean-Jacques**

Producer  
Production Manager  
Stage Manager  
First Assistant Stage Manager  
Second Assistant Stage Manager  
Lighting Designer  
Light Board Operator  
Master Electrician  
Lighting Crew

Set Designer  
Set Construction

Costume Coordinator  
Wig Master  
Make-Up Designer

Videography and Sound Recording  
Cover Design  
Playbill Editor  
Rehearsal Photographer  
Still Photography  
Sales Manager  
Supertitles Preparation  
Supertitles Projection

Composed by  
**Arthur Sullivan**

Music Director and Conductor  
**Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**

Chorus Master  
**Andy Fleming**

Libby Weed  
Bill Hatcher  
Monica Kurtz  
Adam Gunderson  
Tim Ervin  
Jennifer Rogers  
Pixie Avent  
Sadie Langenkamp  
Monica Kurtz, Pixie Avent,  
Adam Gunderson,  
Ann Marie Gordon  
Ann Marie Gordon, Andy Heilveil,  
Gary Hernandez, Elaine Jacobs  
Pam Fowler  
Allison Lowery  
Pam Fowler

Jimmie Parker  
David Little  
Sue Ricket Caldwell  
Paul Halstead  
Cecily Johnson  
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## *A Memory Blesses This Production*

**Roberta Long**, a G&S board member since 2010, our Executive Vice President for several years, and a valued member of our Society for more than two decades, was looking forward to this production of *The Gondoliers* with happy anticipation. She and I discussed more than once the many aspects of this particular opera that we loved.



In late February Roberta suffered a heart attack that took her life on March 1. Her husband Mark and their sons Howard and Steven stayed close to her bed for the few days before her passing; friends and associates were stricken to hear the sad news. Roberta was a friend, supporter, volunteer, and board member *par excellence*.

If you have attended any of our summer productions or musicales throughout the years, you have seen Roberta, often sporting a classy chapeau, at the merchandise table. She was ready to assist guests with CDs, DVDs, books, T-shirts, or any memorabilia needed.

Roberta and her husband Mark have been Savoyards for decades. Mark has performed in the cast of almost every summer production for more than twenty years, while Roberta has supported our efforts through assisting with the budgeting process, writing grant applications, planning events, preparing refreshments, and attending virtually every performance. Roberta and Mark's son Steven has also appeared in G&S productions here and in Israel.

A legendary teacher and leader of Torah studies for Congregation Agudas Achim, Roberta was generous with her knowledge of Hebrew law and held many of us spellbound with her ability to expound eloquently on related subjects.

We lost a dear friend this spring, as last spring we lost our beloved Reba Gillman. But, like Reba, Roberta will be long remembered and her influence will continue to be felt throughout the coming years. Her memory blesses this production of *The Gondoliers*, which is dedicated in her honor.



*Libby Weed*



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# *The Gillman Light Opera Orchestra* (GLOO)

The orchestra is sponsored in part by a generous contribution from Miki Gillman in honor of her late parents, Leonard and Reba Gillman.

## *Orchestra Members*

Flute.....Barbara Mahler	Violin II..... Joseph Shuffield**
Oboe.....Allison Welch (6/16-20)	Violin II..... Joseph Alcocer
Lisa Edwards (6/23-27)	Violin II..... Laura Tiffany
Clarinet I.....Martha MacDonald	Viola ..... Iona Olive
Clarinet II.....Valerie Bugh	Viola..... Linda Johnson
French Horn.....Joel Bright	Cello ..... Tom Lawshae
Trumpet.....Brian Carr	Cello..... Hector Moreno
Trombone.....Steven Hendrickson	Bass..... Anna Macias
Violin I..... Laurel Lawshae*	Timpani &
Violin I..... Annette Franzen	Percussion ..... Tina Lake
Violin I..... Paul Robertson	**Principal
*Concert Master	

### *Rehearsal Accompanist:*

Jeanne Dayton Sasaki



Jeanne Dayton Sasaki, Collaborative Pianist and Vocal Coach, currently maintains her own private studio in Austin, Texas, performing, coaching and teaching solo singers and pianists. Ms. Sasaki has had a thirty-year career in music, performing/coaching/teaching collaborative piano at the University of Texas (Austin, TX), Le Chateau de la Voix (Champaign, IL), Taos Opera Institute (Taos, NM), and One Ounce Opera (Austin, TX), as well as working with the GSSA. She has recorded with her husband Ray Sasaki, trumpet,

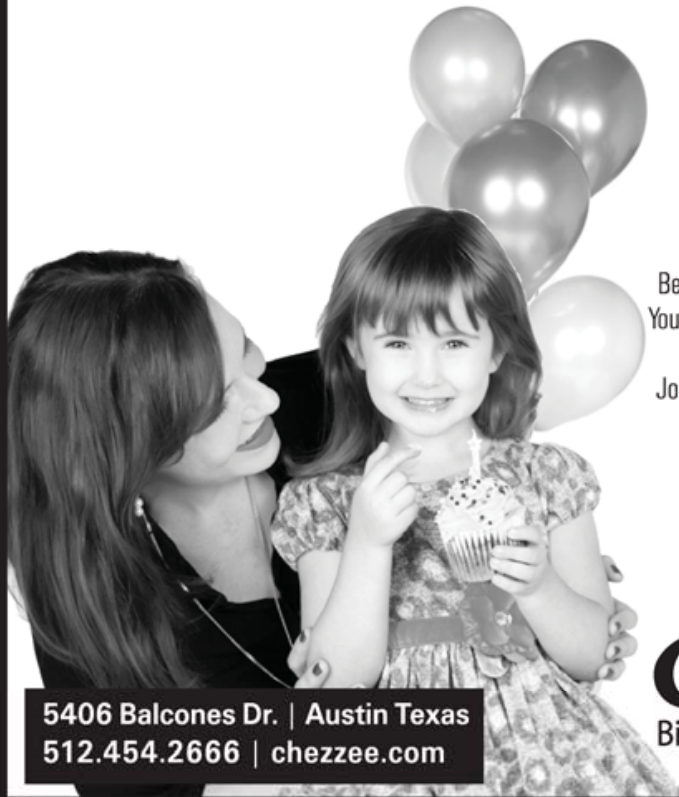
Adrian Griffin, trumpet, and Amy Gilreath, trumpet, and performed at the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the National Trumpet Competition, and Music Teachers National Association Competition. Ms. Sasaki earned her music degrees from Eastman School of Music and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her collaborative piano mentors have included John Wustman, Robert Spillman, and Anne Epperson.

### *Rehearsal Covers:*

Marco.....Danny Castillo	Giuseppe.....Bruno Barbosa
Gianetta.....Jamieson Taylor	



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# GSSA 2016-17 Season

**Sunday, September 11, 3 pm – Season-Opening Musicale.** Janette Jones and June Julian are planning a smashing beginning to our season. The event will be a benefit for first-responders. Location: Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School. Watch our website and newsletter for details.

**Thursday, October 20 – Gala Celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin.** We will be inducting new members into our Hall of Fame and will enjoy beautiful music and delicious food and drinks. Location: Chez Zee American Bistro.

**Sunday, January 8, 3 pm – Annual Meeting with Sing-Along.** We can join in or just listen and enjoy. We'll also elect our board for 2017. Location: Genesis Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1507 Wilshire Blvd.

**Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26 – Auditions for *The Pirates of Penzance*.** Time: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Location: Brentwood Christian School, 11908 N. Lamar Blvd.

**Sunday, March 5 – Burnand and Sullivan's *Cox and Box*,** directed by Ralph MacPhail, Jr., and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. Location: Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School.

**Sunday, May 21, 3 pm – Preview Musicale for *The Pirates of Penzance*.** Get a taste of the joys to come in June as members of the cast present some solos, ensembles, choruses, and scenes from our summer grand production. Location: Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School.

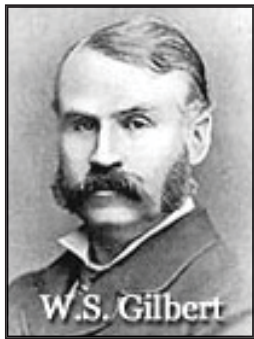
**Thursday, June 15, through Sunday, June 25 – Summer Grand Production: *The Pirates of Penzance*,** Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School.







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## Director's Notes

As the guest director for GSSA's exciting 40th season, it is my pleasure to present our Summer Grand Production of *The Gondoliers; or, The King of Barataria*. This is a significant year for the Society, and I can't possibly imagine a better way to celebrate than by presenting one of W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's most jubilant pieces. The twelfth comic opera collaboration of fourteen between Gilbert and Sullivan, this delightful libretto has been described as having a "bubbling, champagne quality" by the critics of its time. Set in Venice, *The Gondoliers* possesses perhaps the most sparkling and tuneful music of any composed by Sullivan. And because he borrowed from France the stately gavotte, from Spain the cachucha, from Italy the saltarello and tarantella, and from Venice the barcarolle, this Savoy jewel provides the most intricate and fast-paced choreography of the canon.

Gilbert & Sullivan's last great success, *The Gondoliers* was preceded by the most serious of their collaborations, *The Yeomen of the Guard* (a personal favorite of mine). At the time, Sullivan wished to compose something grander and more serious, while Gilbert was more than happy pursuing whimsical tales laced with social satire. Alas, the partnership was not destined to last much longer because of these deep-rooted artistic differences. Despite this fact, *The Gondoliers* was an immense success, and ran for an impressive 554 performances (at that time the fifth longest-running piece of musical theatre in history) after premiering at the Savoy Theatre on December 7, 1889. Earning more money than any other Savoy opera in its original run, *The Gondoliers* placed fourth longest of the series (after *The Mikado*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Patience*). Queen Victoria was so entranced by the show's infectious melodies that she requested a command performance for the royal family at Windsor Castle on March 6, 1891. This was quite an honor, because not only was this the first performance of a Gilbert & Sullivan opera ever requested by the English monarch, but it was also the first theatrical entertainment to take place at Windsor since the tragic death of Prince Albert thirty years earlier.

*The Gondoliers* takes us to the heart of Gilbert & Sullivan in their peak form; Gilbert bubbles with nonsensical ideas, and Sullivan produces some of his most charming, touching, intoxicating music. Complete with a chorus of fawning Contadine and dashing Gondolieri, and filled with fast-paced, tuneful dances, *The Gondoliers* takes us to the fictional kingdom of Barataria and tells the story of Casilda, a young Lady who suddenly learns that she is the true bride of the heir to the throne. Unfortunately, the heir cannot be identified because he was apparently kidnapped by a scheming Grand Inquisitor who entrusted the boy to the care of a drunken Venetian gondolier who, in turn, promptly dies after mixing up the identities of the prince with his own son. Which man is King and which man is the son of the drunken gondolier? Join us in post-Baroque era Venice as the story unfolds, and welcome to the 40th Season with The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin!

*Michelle Haché*

# *The Production Team*



**Michelle Haché**  
(Artistic Director)

Michelle Haché is excited to be returning to GSSA for her directorial debut of *The Gondoliers*, after appearing as Elsie in *The Yeomen of the Guard* and as Ida in *Princess Ida*. Michelle moved to Austin after completing her graduate degree at the Juilliard School. Since arriving in Austin, she has been nominated for the B. Iden Payne Award four times, winning in 2010 and 2013 for her two roles with GSSA. Michelle is a reviewer for Broadway World, a national adjudicator for NATS, has been an award-winning instructor in voice for over 12 years and has directed opera and music theatre productions in Texas, Florida, Oklahoma and Oregon. She is an active member of The Juilliard Teacher Directory, The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and The Educational Theatre Association.



**Christine Jean-Jacques**  
(Choreographer)

Christine (O'Connor) Jean-Jacques studied musical theatre at Otterbein College and has since performed throughout China, Russia, the East and West Caribbean, and all over the U.S. with Disney Live, Disney Cruise Lines, Universal Studios Orlando, and American Family Theatre. Since relocating to Austin, Christie has performed with Zach Theatre, the Georgetown Palace, and Trinity Street Players. She has taught dance, music, and theatre for many organizations including Hawaii Children's Theatre and Austin Children's Theatre. Favorite roles include Nellie Forbush (*South Pacific*), Bombalurina (*Cats*), Betty Blake (*Will Rogers Follies*), and Peter Pan (years ago!). Best new role this year is motherhood! Christie is very excited to work with *The Gondoliers'* cast and production team.



**Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**  
(Music Director and Conductor)

Dr. Jeffrey Jones-Ragona began working with GSSA in 1994 as Music Director for *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and received the first of several B. Iden Payne nominations. In 2003, he received the B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Musical Direction for *The Pirates of Penzance*, and was named to GSSA's Hall of Fame in 2011. He has been nominated for a B. Iden Payne Award for the last three years in a row: for *Princess Ida* in 2013, *H.M.S. Pinafore* in 2014, and *The Sorcerer* in 2015. Jeffrey serves as Director for other notable ensembles, including The Capital City Men's Chorus, and regularly performs with La Follia Baroque Orchestra and the Texas Early Music Project. This is Jeffrey's 23rd production with the Society.



**Bill Hatcher**  
(Production Manager)

Bill has been a member of the GSSA since 1985 and has held several offices on the Board of Directors, including Treasurer, Vice-President, and President, and was named to the Society's Hall of Fame. He has been in the orchestra and on stage, appearing in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Gondoliers*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Some years prior he played Charley in *Charley's Aunt* and was in *The Apple Tree*, both with the Temple Civic Theater, and was also in the TCT orchestra. A graduate of The University of Texas and member of the Longhorn Band, Bill had a 37-year career in data processing with the U.S. Veterans Administration. Now a self-employed bookkeeper, Bill has been GSSA's Production Manager since 2009.

## *The Production Team*



**Monica Kurtz**  
(Stage Manager)

Monica is pleased to return to the Gilbert & Sullivan family. *The Gondoliers* marks her fourteenth production with the Society. In addition to G&S, Monica also works with The Vortex and the Capital City Men's Chorus. In 27 years of stage managing, her favorite productions include: *The North Project* (Refraction Arts, Austin); *Dangerous Liaisons* (Augsburg Community Theater, Augsburg, Germany); *Quilt* (Upstart Performing Ensemble, Colorado Springs, Colorado); and *Holy Well and Sacred Flame*, *Dark Goddess 2004*, and *Trickster* (The Vortex, Austin). Love and thanks to Pixie for her love, support, and laughter.



**Jennifer Rogers**  
(Lighting Designer)

Jen studied stage management at the University of Kansas with a design focus in lighting. She is a partner in the design firm Light Bastard Amber (LBA) and has worked all over Austin with companies including Teatro Vivo, The Vortex, The Rude Mechanicals, Fusebox Festival, Austin Summer Stock, and many others. She has been nominated for awards for her design work by the B. Iden Payne Committee and the Austin Critic's Table. Some of her favorite designs include: *Sweeney Todd* with Summer Stock Austin; *The North Project* with Refraction Arts; *Io: A Myth About You* with Shrewd Productions; *The Mariachi Girl* with Teatro Vivo; *The Suicide* with Paper Chairs; *The Tree Play* with Robi Polgar; and *Patience* and *The Sorcerer* with GSSA.

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## The Production Team



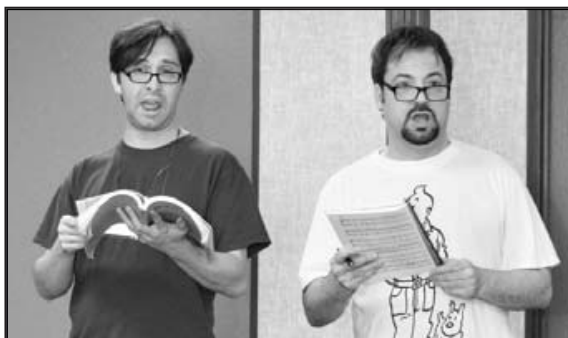
**Ann Marie Gordon**  
(Set Designer)

Ann Marie Gordon is always pleased to be working with GSSA. Some of her previous credits with GSSA include *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *The Mikado*, *Patience*, and *The Sorcerer*. Also, she received a B. Iden Payne award for her set design for the Vortex Repertory's production of *Sleeping Beauty* and has a Critics' Table nomination for *Sarah Silverhands*, also an original production presented by the Vortex.



**Pam Fowler**  
(Costume Coordinator  
and Make-Up Designer)

Pam is the office manager at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, just across the street from the theater. She has been sewing and designing since the seventh grade, and continues to do alterations as her "side job." This is her fifth year to serve as Costume Coordinator and she is delighted to be part of this very talented company.



# The Production Team



**Adam Gunderson**  
(First Assistant Stage  
Manager)

Adam is excited to be working with GSSA for the fourth year. He has been working at the Vortex Repertory Company for the last eleven years doing anything technical that he can get his hands on. Some favorite shows include *Ghost from a Perfect Place*, both runs of *Sleeping Beauty*, and *R.U.R.* He is glad to be working again with Monica, his mentor.



Congratulations to the cast, crew and supporters of THE GONDOLIERS from

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# *Dramatis Personæ*

The Duke of Plaza-Toro ( <i>a Grandee of Spain</i> ) .....		<b>Bob Beare</b>
Luiz ( <i>his Attendant</i> ).....		<b>Jerry Cordova</b>
Don Alhambra del Bolero ( <i>The Grand Inquisitor</i> ) .....		<b>Arthur DiBianca</b>
Marco Palmieri }	{	<b>Holton Johnson</b>
Giuseppe Palmieri }	{	<b>Derek Smootz</b>
Antonio }	{	<b>Jake Jacobsen</b>
Francesco }	{	<b>Danny Castillo</b>
Georgio }	{	<b>Jay Young</b>
Annibale }	{	<b>Clint Cox</b>
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro .....		<b>Patricia Combs</b>
Casilda ( <i>her Daughter</i> ) .....		<b>Corinna Browning</b>
Gianetta }	{	<b>Priscilla Salisbury</b>
Tessa }	{	<b>Angela Irving</b>
Fiametta }	{	<b>Jennifer Garza</b>
Vittoria }	{	<b>D. Reimer</b>
Giulia }	{	<b>Sarah Manna</b>
Inez ( <i>the King's Foster-mother</i> ).....		<b>Janette Jones</b>

## *Chorus of Gondoliers and Contadine*

**Bruno Barbosa, Elizabeth Etter, Andy Fleming,  
Paul Halstead, Ezra Hankin, Jayda Maret, Erica Salinas,  
Sarah Steele, Jamieson Taylor, Tristan Tierney**

## *The Story of The Gondoliers*

**Act I** is set in The Piazzetta, Venice, where *The Gondoliers* opens with the chorus of Contadine awaiting Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri, their favourite gondoliers, to come and choose brides.

Enter the chorus of gondoliers, led by Antonio; they are selflessly content to wait for the remaining girls. Marco and Giuseppe enter and they and the girls greet each other. They announce their intention of choosing two brides, but tactfully ask to be blindfolded so that fate can decide their choice. After a game of blind man's buff, in which there

*continued on page 18*



# *Musical Numbers*

Overture ..... The Orchestra

## **ACT I**

### **The Piazzetta, Venice, in 1750**

“List and learn” .....Contadine and Gondoliers  
“From the sunny Spanish shore” ..... Duke, Duchess, Casilda, and Luiz  
“In enterprise of martial kind” ..... Duke, Duchess, Casilda, and Luiz  
“O rapture, when alone together” ..... Casilda and Luiz  
“There was a time” ..... Luiz and Casilda  
“I stole the Prince” ....Don Alhambra, Casilda, Duchess, Luiz, and Duke  
“But, bless my heart” ..... Casilda and Don Alhambra  
“Try we life-long” .....Casilda, Duchess, Luiz, Duke, and Don Alhambra  
“Bridegroom and bride” ..... Contadine, Gondoliers, and Tessa  
“Kind sir, you cannot have the heart” (*Finale of Act I*).....The Ensemble

## **INTERMISSION**

## **ACT II**

### **Pavilion in the Palace of Barataria**

*(An interval of three months is supposed to elapse between Acts I and II.)*

“Of happiness the very pith” ..... Men, Marco, and Giuseppe  
“Rising early in the morning” ..... Giuseppe and Men  
“Take a pair of sparkling eyes” ..... Marco  
“Here we are, at the risk” ..... Contadine and Gondoliers  
“Dance a cachucha” .....Contadine and Gondoliers  
“There lived a king” ..... Don Alhambra, Marco, and Giuseppe  
“In a contemplative fashion” ..... Gianetta, Tessa, Marco, and Giuseppe  
“With ducal pomp” ..... Men, Contadine, Duke, and Duchess  
“On the day when I was wedded” ..... Duchess  
“To help unhappy commoners” ..... Duke and Duchess  
“Here is a case unprecedented” (*Finale of Act II*).....The Ensemble

## **The Story of *The Gondoliers*** (continued from page 16)

is a certain amount of cheating, Marco catches Gianetta and Giuseppe catches Tessa.

The Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro, with their daughter, Casilda, and their attendant, Luiz, arrive. The Duke and Duchess tell Casilda that she was married, as a baby, to the infant future King of Barataria, who was abducted soon afterwards and brought to Venice. He has now unknowingly succeeded to the throne.

Immediately the Duke and Duchess have departed, Luiz and Casilda rush into each other's arms and she tells him of her newly discovered marital status. The Grand Inquisitor of Spain arrives with the news that the new ruler of Barataria is in Venice, living as a common gondolier with his supposed brother.

At their departure, the chorus enter, singing the joys of the newly celebrated double marriage. Don Alhambra overhears that Marco and Giuseppe are married and also that they are republicans. He explains that one of them is a king, but suggests royalty is incompatible with their republican ideals. In Gilbert's world, however, ideals can quickly change with altered circumstances, so the gondoliers decide to sail immediately to claim their kingdom jointly and "abolish taxes and make everything cheap, except gondolas." Don Alhambra forbids the girls to accompany them until the identity of the king is discovered. The gondoliers depart by boat leaving the contadine.

**Act II** is set in the Pavilion of the Palace of Barataria, where Marco and Giuseppe are ensconced, regally attired, in Barataria, busily cleaning the royal regalia and surrounded by their court of gondoliers who are amusing themselves without any social distinctions. Tessa and Gianetta run in, with the contadine. They are enthusiastically welcomed and are celebrating with a dance when they are interrupted by Don Alhambra, horrified at the brazen lack of social distinctions. He reveals that one of the two gondoliers is married to Casilda, much to the horror of Tessa and Gianetta.

Finally all is resolved by Inez, the infant prince's nurse, who reveals the truth in true Gilbert and Sullivan style.

*Summary based on [ebos.org.uk/shows/gondo/synopsis.html](http://ebos.org.uk/shows/gondo/synopsis.html)*



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# The Principals



**Bob Beare**  
(The Duke of Plaza-Toro)

This is Bob's first appearance with GSSA. Recent local roles include Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* (CTX Excellence in Theatre best actor nomination), Admiral Peary in *Ragtime* at ZACH theatre, Leduc in Arthur Miller's *Incident at Vichy*, and directorial credit for *Blood Brothers* and *Three Viewings* (B. Iden Payne best director nomination). Other regional credits include: *Camelot* (with Robert Goulet – Arthur not Lance!) and *Phantom* (original cast) at Theatre Under the Stars in Houston, the Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Petruccio/Graham in *Kiss Me Kate*, and composer/lyricist of the romantic musical comedy, *The Three-Cornered Hat*. The role he takes most seriously however is grateful dad to a great kid and artist, 13-year-old Angelina.



**Jerry Cordova**  
(Luiz)

Jerry Cordova is excited to perform in his first production with GSSA. Some of his favorite roles include: *The Mikado* (Nanki Poo), *H.M.S Pinafore* (Ralph Rackstraw), *Masterclass* (Tony), *Carousel* (Mr. Snow), and *A Little Night Music* (Mr. Earlanson). Jerry is a member of the Austin Opera chorus and recently appeared in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Floyd's *Of Mice & Men*, and Verdi's *Aida*. Jerry has also performed with Opera San Antonio, Long Beach Opera and Los Angeles Opera. He holds a M.M. from the University of Southern California and a B.M. from The University of Texas at San Antonio. When he's not performing on stage, he shares his love of music with his choir students.



**Arthur DiBianca**  
(Don Alhambra del Bolero)

Arthur DiBianca has appeared in many productions with GSSA since 1994. Most recently he has played Reginald Bunthorne in *Patience* (2012), King Gama in *Princess Ida* (2013), and J.W. Wells in *The Sorcerer* (2015). He is also a clarinetist with the Austin Philharmonic and the St. Edward's University Orchestra.



**Holton Johnson**  
(Marco Palmieri)

Holton is excited to be performing the role of Marco, after having previously played his brother, Giuseppe. Holton has performed extensively in Boston, as well as in Tucson, San Diego, and Los Angeles, winning numerous awards for his singing and acting. He was last seen as Alexis in last year's production of *The Sorcerer*. Some of his favorite roles performed with GSSA are Prince Hilarion, Ralph Rackstraw, Nanki-Poo, and Colonel Fairfax. He won a B. Iden Payne Award as best actor in a musical for his portrayal of Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Holton is a graduate of the University of Arizona, having studied with Charles Roe and Grayson Hirst. Special thanks to his furry roommate for helping him stay sane.



# The Principals



**Derek Smootz**  
(Giuseppe Palmieri)

Derek is delighted to be performing in his 11th GSSA summer production (previous roles include Florian in *Princess Ida* and Strephon in *Iolanthe*). He recently won Broadway World Austin's Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Inspector Hanratty in the Wimberley Players' production of *Catch Me If You Can*. When not in a show, Derek surrounds himself with synthesizers and produces Downtempo/Chillout music such as "Longing for Orpheus." He and director Michelle Haché recently collaborated on an album as "Zephyrium," which features Electronic Pop arrangements of arias from the operatic canon. He extends his love and thanks to wife Rebecca and son Malcolm for letting him take the time to do this show.



**Jake Jacobsen**  
(Antonio)

Jake Jacobsen, baritone, is in his third production with GSSA, having performed in *The Yeomen of the Guard* in 2010 and *The Mikado* in 2011. Jake has a Master's degree in Opera Performance at the University of Texas. Previously, he completed his Bachelor's in Vocal Performance at Boston University under the tutelage of Professor James Demler. He made his operatic role debut in 2010 as Don Alfonso in the Butler Opera Center's production of *Così fan tutte*. He has appeared in the chorus for Austin Opera's productions of *La Bohème* and *La Traviata*, as well as the chorus for UT's production of William Bolcom's opera *A View From the Bridge*.



**Danny Castillo**  
(Francesco)

Tenor Danny Castillo returns for his second GSSA production after appearing in last summer's production of *The Sorcerer*. He appeared in Austin Opera's recent productions of Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Verdi's *Aida*. He will participate in Spotlight on Opera's young artist program this summer and will appear in Austin Opera's *The Manchurian Candidate* this September. Previous roles include Danny Zuko in *Grease* (Laredo Community College) and Enjolras in *Les Misérables* (Harbor Playhouse), for which he received a Sammy Award nomination. He is a musician at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, a private voice teacher, and an HEB Partner. Education: M.M. (The University of Texas at Austin); B.M. (Texas A&M University-Kingsville). Teachers: David Small, Dr. Melinda Brou.



## The Principals



**Jay Young**  
(Giorgio)

Originally from Kansas City, Jay has lived in Austin the past 24 years and is happy to call it home. This is his fourteenth production with the GSSA. Some of his other performance credits include singing for the chorus in several Austin Opera productions; performing in several Trouble Puppet Theatre productions, most recently as Uriel in *Wars of Heaven: Smackdown*; and having roles in three recent independent film projects. He holds a Bachelor's in Music Education from Texas State and a Master's in Information Studies from the University of Texas. As always, he is proud to be part of this company, and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Clint Cox**  
(Annibale)

Clint is thrilled to be making his debut with GSSA. Most recently he performed as Sir Sagramore in *Camelot* and as The Creature in *Young Frankenstein* at the Georgetown Palace Theatre. Other favorite roles include Richard Sumner in *The Desk Set* and Andrew in *Corpus Christi* (Austin Critics Table award nominee for best ensemble cast). Clint lives in Round Rock and would like to thank his beautiful wife Tori for her love and support.



**Patricia Combs**  
(The Duchess of Plaza-Toro)

Patricia Combs, mezzo-soprano, is thrilled to be cast in her tenth production with the GSSA. Previous roles include Constance in *The Sorcerer*, Lady Blanche in *Princess Ida*, Lady Angela in *Patience*, Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado*, Phoebe in *The Yeomen of the Guard* (2010 B. Iden Payne nomination), Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Dame Hannah in *Ruddigore*. Her first G&S role was as Ruth in the UT-El Paso production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Patricia is an active member of the Austin Opera Chorus, with double-shotgunned guns and colours nailed unto the mast.



## The Principals



**Corinna Browning**  
(Casilda)

Born and raised on a ranch near Channing, Texas, Corinna spent her young life essentially feral and dreamt of growing up to be a skunk—the closest she could get was a B.A. in Theatre and an M.M. in Vocal Performance. New to Austin, Corinna works as a performer, set designer, and scenic painter. Recent credits include Metanoe in *Persephone*, Aunt Anna in *TEXAS!*, Susannah in Floyd's *Susannah*, Monica in *The Medium* and Inez McCormack in *Seven*. Corinna will appear in *Postville* with Last Act later this summer and with Present Company this fall as Fabian in *Twelfth Night*. Love to Nathan for his constant comfort and encouragement.



**Priscilla Salisbury**  
(Gianetta)

Soprano Priscilla Salisbury is emerging as a sought-after soloist in the Texas area. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from The University of Houston. She was a member of the Houston Grand Opera chorus for three consecutive seasons and finished her final season performing in Weinberg's *The Passenger* at the Lincoln Center Festival in New York City. She will be receiving her Master's Degree in Opera Performance from The University of Texas at Austin. She has performed the role of Zerbinetta in The Butler Opera Center's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Barbarina in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Dew Fairy in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, and Sister Constance in Poulenc's *Dialogue of the Carmelites*.



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# The Principals



**Angela Irving**  
(Tessa)

Angela is delighted to perform in her eighth GSSA production! By day, she teaches voice lessons at various Austin-area high schools, where she generates fresh batches of G&S enthusiasts. By evening/weekend, Angela sings with the Austin Opera, One Ounce Opera, as soloist at the Christian Science Church downtown, and various other engagements. Notable roles include Laetitia in *The Zoo* (2015), Melissa in *Princess Ida* (2013), Peep-Bo in *The Mikado* (2011), Isabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2008), Sister Claire in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (Austin Opera), and Millie in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Wimberley Players' Theatre). Angela hopes you will become as enthusiastic about G&S as she and so many other cast and GSSA members are!



**Jennifer Garza**  
(Fiametta)

Jennifer Renee Garza, soprano, is a graduate student at Texas State University in San Marcos, working toward a Master of Music Degree in Performance. She is also a voice teacher in Leander ISD and Clavier-Werke. She has performed with the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Opera Workshop as Laetitia in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Gasparina in Haydn's *La Canterina*, and Gianetta in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. With Texas State Opera, she premiered the role of La Virgin de Guadalupe in Henry Mollicone's *Children of the Sun* and performed the role of Sister Mathilde in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She has appeared in the chorus with Sparkling City Light Opera and Opera Piccola of San Antonio. Jennifer is a student of Cheryl Parrish.





# The Principals



**D. Reimer**  
(Vittoria)

D. is excited and looking forward to her debut with GSSA. She has been seen in the roles of La Ciesca from *Gianni Schicchi* and Inez from *The Gondoliers*, to name a few. She also performed for several years as a professional chorister with the San Antonio Opera. As a singer, D. has been finalist and semi-finalist of some of the most competitive competitions for singers, and she remains active as a performer in the operatic (most notably in the style of *verismo*), recital hall, and jazz settings. D. also serves as a trumpeter and songwriter in a variety of styles in the jazz and contemporary genres. She also enjoys teaching piano and voice in the her private studio.



**Sarah Manna**  
(Giulia)

Sarah Manna is delighted to make her debut with the GSSA. Sarah is originally from Maryland and has a Bachelor's of Music degree, specializing in musical theatre, from Catholic University in Washington, DC. Sarah moved to Austin two years ago and loves Texas. Past Austin area credits include Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes* at Georgetown Palace Theatre, Shy in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at Georgetown Palace Theatre, and Hedy LaRue in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at The Archangel Community Theatre. Sarah thanks God, her family, and the talented cast and crew for making this performance experience such a special one!



**Janette Jones**  
(Inez)

Jan is a native Austinite who learned to love Gilbert & Sullivan while performing with the Light Opera of Manhattan. Since returning home, she has performed in over 20 productions with GSSA. Among her favorite roles are Mad Margaret in *Ruddigore*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance*, The Duchess in *The Gondoliers*, and Lady Jane in *Patience*. Last summer she was Mrs. Partlet in *The Sorcerer*. Janette was inducted as a charter member of the GSSA Hall of Fame in 2006.



# The Chorus



## Bruno Barbosa

Bruno Barbosa is a recent graduate from The University of Texas at Austin, with dual degrees in English and Vocal Performance. This is his third show with GSSA.



## Elizabeth Etter

Elizabeth is proud to be performing in her first GSSA production, in the chorus of the *Contadine*. She most recently was dually cast as Mrs. Potts and the Wardrobe in *Beauty and the Beast* at the Georgetown Palace Theatre. She was seen as Jewel in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, also at The Palace. Last summer she performed with Lake Travis Music Theatre as Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Elizabeth has also performed at Zilker Theatre Productions in the ensemble of *The Sound of Music*. She sings in the choir and leads the children's choir ministry at Bethany United Methodist Church. She is the mother of two beautiful college-age daughters, Catherine and Tori, and the wife of Neil.



## Andy Fleming

(Chorus Master)

Andy is happy to be back for his 13th year with GSSA. He has previously appeared as Æsculapius Carboy in *The Zoo*, Earl Tolloller in *Iolanthe*, and the Counsel in *Trial by Jury*. He has also recently performed as Reverend Parris in *The Crucible*, and Don Basilio/Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Spotlight on Opera. Andy completed his Master's degree in Vocal Performance at The University of Texas Butler School of Music last year.



## Paul Halstead

Paul's list of credits is long ... but most are yellowed with age! After over 20 years on the sidelines, Paul woke up and came back to the arts. *The Gondoliers* is Paul's second appearance in the GSSA chorus, having first swabbed the decks on the *H.M.S. Pinafore* in 2014. Paul has been a member of the Austin Opera Chorus for three years and has also sung with the Capital City Men's Chorus since 2012. Before that he sang with the Alamo City Men's Chorus for four years. A financial services executive, Paul would much rather be looking at footlights than spreadsheets and is very grateful his husband Tony encourages his consuming hobby.



# The Chorus



## Ezra Hankin

Ezra Hankin is a senior Musical Theatre major at the McCallum Fine Arts Academy. Recent credits include: Mr. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*, Dan in *Next to Normal*, Euan Morton in *Sondheim on Sondheim* and Harold Bride in *Titanic the Musical* (for which he received a nomination for Best Actor in a Supporting Role from the *Greater Austin High School Musical Theatre Awards*). He would like to thank his cast mates for their hard work and dedication to this project, the audience for their contributions and support, and his family for their encouragement.



## Jayda Maret

Jayda Maret is pleased to be performing in her first Gilbert and Sullivan show. Favorite past performances include Wendy in *Peter Pan* and Jemima in *Cats*, both at Georgetown Palace Theater. Jayda is an incoming Junior at Cedar Ridge High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts and she studies voice with Michelle Haché.



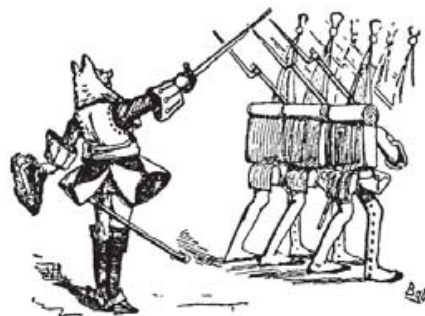
## Erica Salinas

Erica Salinas, originally from Laredo, TX, moved to Austin in 2013. She is excited to be making her GSSA debut as a member of the soprano chorus. Previous roles include Fräulein Kost in *Cabaret* (Laredo Institute for Theatrical Education), Countess Rosina Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Texas A&M International University), Casilda in *The Gondoliers* (Laredo Community College), and Maria in *West Side Story* (Laredo Musical Theatre International). In 2012, Erica received a Bachelor of Music degree from Texas A&M International University, and is currently a faculty member at New School of Music in Austin, TX. Primary voice teachers include Cindy Sadler, Suzanne Ramo, and Dana Crabtree.



## Sarah Steele

Sarah is a native Austinite in her second year with GSSA. She's honored and excited to be appearing in this hilarious show with so many talented musicians! Sarah grew up as a violinist, but a wrist injury helped her discover that she actually prefers singing opera. During the rest of the year she can be found singing with the St. John's UMC chancel choir and the Austin Sängerrunde Damenchor. Starting in the fall she will be studying German and Russian at UT.



# The Chorus



## Jamieson Taylor

After many years away from performing—and a truly indecent amount of time away from Gilbert & Sullivan—Jamieson Taylor is rapturously happy to be in her third straight production with the GSSA. She has sung with the Austin Opera chorus for several years, most recently in their production of *Aida*, and she has also appeared in several performances for Spotlight on Opera's Summer program in 2015. Jamie works as a voice teacher and singer in several Austin schools and churches.



## Tristan Tierney

Tristan is a junior theatre/musical theatre major at McCallum Fine Arts Academy. He has appeared in several shows, including *Shrek*, *Titanic*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Next to Normal*, and in McCallum's UIL One Act Play, *The Yellow Boat*. Tristan was also selected to compete in the National Theatre Festival with Mosaic Theatre at Disney World in February, 2015. This is his first show with GSSA. He hopes you enjoy the show!



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