



PRESS RELEASE

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Media Inquiries: David Little
Phone: (512) 970-5883
E-mail: dilittle@gilbertsullivan.org
www.gilbertsullivan.org

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin Presents Its Summer 2015 Grand Production

The Sorcerer

**There is magic in the air as *The Sorcerer* casts its spell on Austin audiences.
Opening in Austin June 18th.**

WHO: The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
WHAT: *The Sorcerer*
WHEN: June 18-28 / Thursdays-Sundays / 9 Performances.
Evening performances Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 7:30pm.
Matinees at 2pm June 21, 27 & 28.
Special Children's Activities Sunday, June 21 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 presents its summer 2015 Grand Production of *The Sorcerer*. Nine performances will be presented at the Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School, June 18-28. This popular classic was W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's third comic opera of their fourteen. *The Sorcerer* is a charming story with characteristic hilarious Gilbert & Sullivan topsy-turvydom. It tells a tale of young love, magic potions, and comic mix-ups that only W. S. Gilbert could devise, along with magnificent music composed by Arthur Sullivan.

Artistic Director Ralph MacPhail, Jr., returns for his 15th summer with the Society, along with Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, enjoying his 19th season as Music Director. Bill Hatcher returns as Production Manager.

The plot is based on a Christmas story, *An Elixir of Love*, that Gilbert wrote for a magazine in 1876. *The Sorcerer* opened in November of 1877 at the Opera Comique in London, where it ran for 178 performances. It was a success by the standards of that time and encouraged the collaborators to write their next opera, *H.M.S. Pinafore*. *The Sorcerer* was the first G&S opera to use all the major character types and typical range of songs that would appear in their later collaborations, such as comic duets, a patter song, and novel ensembles. The chorus is essential, taking part in the action and often acting as an important character in its own right.

Special children's activities precede the performance on June 21 at 1pm.





All performances will have supertitles for dialogue and lyrics. A complimentary buffet with the cast follows the Friday, June 19 Gala Performance.

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 *The Sorcerer* are Time Warner Cable News and Classical 89.5 KMFA.

This project is funded and supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and in part by the City of Austin Economic Development Department/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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