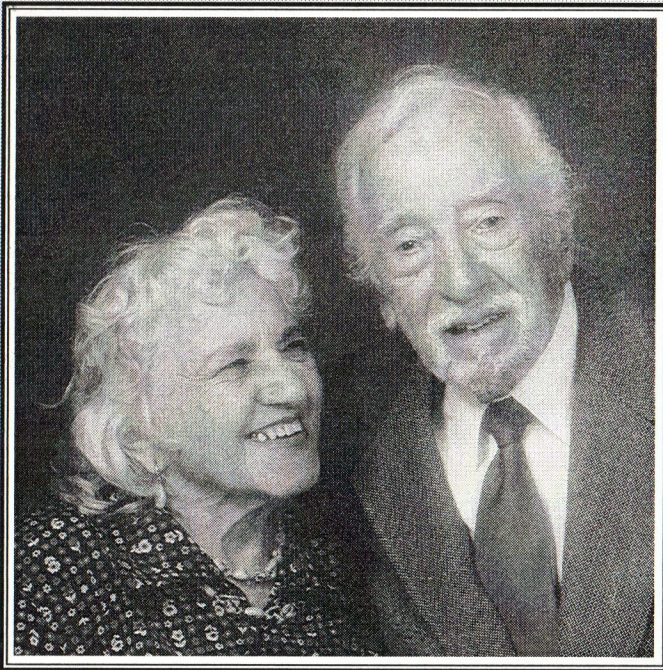


THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN  
SOCIETY OF AUSTIN PRESENT



# Musical Tribute Gala



JESS & EMMA WALTERS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1998, AT 8:00 P.M.  
HELM FINE ARTS CENTER THEATER AT ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

## About Jess & Emma

Jess was born in Brooklyn of immigrant parents. His father was a portrait painter and opera buff. During a childhood of various pursuits, Jess won prizes for singing in several contests, including Major Bowes' Amateur Hour. Finally, at the age of 25, he began to study voice. His first big break came when he sang the title role in *Macbeth*, and he began his 12 year career at Covent Garden in London in 1947. From 1960 to 1965, Jess sang at the Nederlands Opera in Amsterdam. In 1965, Jess came to teach and perform at UT Austin.

In Austin, Jess has performed with the UT Opera program, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, and for such worthy causes as the yearly Mostly Music Marathon benefit for AIDS. In the 1980s, Jess directed chamber performances of opera at Capitol City Playhouse. His program paved the way for the very successful Austin Lyric Opera.

When Emma heard Jess vocalizing as a student, she was smitten before she even saw him. They married in 1943, and Emma has shared the triumphs and vicissitudes of operatic life ever since. Jess gives her credit for encouraging him: "She's the foundation for my whole career."

### We thank the following for help with this event:

Technical Director: Richard Brown

Stage Manager: Natalie George

Photography: Ernie Welsh, Capitol Photographers

Larry Shepley for playbill layout

Reba Gillman for concession sales

Libby Weed for setting up the buffet

Chris Buggé for Rolls Royce chauffeur service

Randall's for a donation to the buffet

Texas French Bread for a donation to the buffet

Coca-Cola of Austin for beverages

Chip Howe for beverage service

Alpha Phi Omega (APO) service organization

Barbra Horak of Kinko's on Bee Caves Road

Neysan Moshref, Craig Dehnam, & Scott McAfee  
of GSD&M for graphics

**HEB**

**A Sponsor of this Event**

## The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been dedicated to spreading the joys of Gilbert & Sullivan through performances and in-school programs.

### What we do

**Annual Grand Production**  
**School Outreach Concerts**  
**Free Monthly Musicales**  
**Musical Scholarships**  
**Monthly Newsletter**  
**Holiday Season Show**

Proceeds from this production will go to support our  
School Outreach Concerts

### Jess Walters & The Gilbert & Sullivan Society

In the fall of 1981 Len Gillman, music director of our production of *Trial by Jury*, persuaded Jess to undertake the role of the Learned Judge. Jess was, of course, a tremendous drawing card, and our eight performances in January 1982 at Zachary Scott Theater were well attended despite the cancellation of one show on account of ice. In June we revived the production, complete with Jess, and performed at the newly reopened theater, Capitol City Playhouse. Everybody loves Jess, and from the moment he strode on stage he had the audience eating out of his hand. He scanned the crowd, with a special eye for the ladies, and began his song: "When I, good friends, was called to the bar," and that was the beginning of a long, happy relationship.

Jess says he thoroughly enjoyed the performances, and he and Emma loved all the people, so they became loyal friends and supporters of The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin. In February 1988 Jess repeated his role as Learned Judge in our production at Concordia Lutheran College. He has sung in every Gala Revue Fund Raiser since and attended all our shows and most of our Musicales, where he often lifts his wonderful voice to entertain us. Since 1994 Jess has been a founding member of the Society's Advisory Board. Jess, we love you!

Reba Gillman, Secretary

# An Austin Musical Tribute for Jess & Emma Walters

Master of Ceremonies: Robert Mellin

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Lord High Accompanist: Bob Wall      Conductor of the Choral Sequences: Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

## Prologue

The Honorable Jackie Goodman, Mayor Pro-tem of Austin  
For the University Ladies Club, Mrs. Elberta Hunter  
President of the Wednesday Morning Music Club, Bonnie Fielder  
The Honorable Thom Farrell, Mayor of Rollingwood  
President of The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, Libby Weed

## Program

### Act One

Selections from *The Mikado*

If you want to know who we are ..... Men's Chorus  
A wandering minstrel I ..... Dan Girardot  
Comes a train of little ladies ..... Ladies' Chorus  
Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted  
.....Amy Baker Stinson & Dan Girardot

Gilda Cruz-Roma

Accompanist: Eldon Little

Pueblito, mi pueblo..... Carlos Guastavino  
Zapateado .....Anonymous (18th century Spain)

William Rhodes

Accompanist: Ann Whitworth

In praise of women ..... Stephen Sondheim

Jess Walters

Accompanist: Don Crandell

Go down Moses.....H.T. Burleigh  
Serenata gelatta..... Buzzi Peccia

There will be a fifteen minute intermission.

### Act Two

Frank Delvy & Janette Jones

Alone and unobserved (*Patience*) ..... Frank  
Sad that woman's lot (*Patience*) .....Janette  
I once was a very abandoned person (*Ruddygore*)  
..... Frank & Janette

Leonard Johnson

Accompanist: Stephen Burnaman

Ich liebe dich.....Beethoven  
And this is my beloved (*Kismet*)...Robert Wright & George Forrest

Rose Taylor

Accompanist: Danielle Martin

Send in the clowns (*A Little Night Music*)..... Stephen Sondheim  
Ah, Paree (*Follies*)..... Stephen Sondheim

Russell Gregory

Accompanist: Eldon Little

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.....Robert MacGimsey  
The green-eyed dragon ..... Woolsey Charles

Finale from *The Mikado*

Stacy Amorous, Amy Baker Stinson, Dan Girardot, & Chorus

Jess Walters & Ensemble

When I, good friends, was called to the bar .....(*Trial by Jury*)

Please be our guest at a Gala Buffet reception following the performance.

## A Message from Robert DeSimone

The opera world has been enriched with the wonderful talents of Jess. During his most active years, Jess was one of the leading, if not the leading, baritones at Convent Garden. What he brought to that theatre will never be replaced or forgotten. The breadth of his repertoire and number of performances is astounding — from Mozart to Verdi to Alban Berg.

We have all been blessed that Jess chose to settle in Austin, Texas. While not New York or Europe, Austin has embraced Jess and his wife Emma with a respect for his contribution to opera and the human voice and to the rich sense of humanity he has brought to this community. His presence has permeated every cultural aspect of Austin. Today when so many are looking to retirement Jess continues to remain active as a performer, teacher, husband and friend looking toward a new dawn.

Personally, I am blessed in knowing Jess and Emma. Together we are family, sharing our cultural heritage and joy of the arts.

Maestro Jess: Thank you for the joy and meaning you have brought to so many lives with your voice and art. And to Emma, thank you for the years of love, support, and being a “career wife.” Both of you bask in this richly deserved tribute.

With love and deep affection,

*Robert DeSimone*  
Professor of Music & Director of Opera  
Music School, The University of Texas at Austin

## The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin Executive Board

President	Libby Weed	837-5441
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Newsletter Editor                      Reba Gillman  
Layout                                      Larry Shepley

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309  
Austin, Texas 78705  
(512) 472-4772

<http://members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa/home.html>

## A Musical Tribute for Jess & Emma Walters

with

### **Gilda Cruz-Romo**

Popular soprano from San Antonio &  
Associate Professor of Voice, UT Austin

### **Frank Delvy**

G&S roles include Jack Point, Major-General Stanley,  
Captain Corcoran, & the Duke of Plaza-Toro

### **Dan Girardot**

Nominated for a B. Iden Payne award for best male lead in a  
musical for Nanki-Poo in The G&S Society's *The Mikado*

### **Russell Gregory**

Has played the title roles in The G&S Society's  
*The Mikado* & *The Pirates of Penzance*

### **Leonard Johnson**

Associate Professor of Voice, UT Austin, &  
Dr. Daly in The G&S Society's *The Sorcerer*

### **Janette Jones**

Favorite G&S parts include Katisha,  
Phœbe, & Mrs. Cripps (Little Buttercup)

### **William Rhodes**

Nationally known baritone &  
Associate Professor of Voice, UT Austin

### **Amy Baker Stinson**

G&S roles include Mabel and Yum-Yum, for which she was nominated  
for a B. Iden Payne award for best female lead in a musical

### **Rose Taylor**

Austin's favorite mezzo soprano &  
Associate Professor of Voice, UT Austin

starring

### **Jess Walters**

and cast members from last summer's hit, *The Mikado*:

Stacey Amorous, Nancy Arnold, Kelly Blacknall, Scott Boland, Clark Boykin,  
Arthur DiBianca, Harold Gilbert, Marie Elise Girardot, Michael Girardot, Sheila  
Glenn, Adriana Gonzalez, Laura Groh, Andrew Hallock, Mandy Lynn Henderson,  
Greg Jay, Teresa Kim, Peter Langlois, Mark Long, Corey Rooney, Anna Torres,  
Davis Tucker, Christine Walsh

### **Producer, Director, & Master of Ceremonies: Robert Mellin**

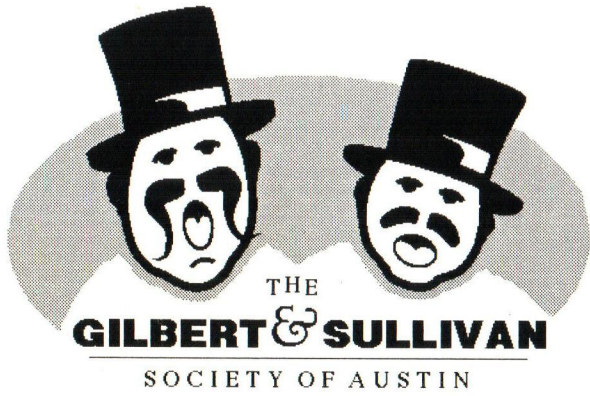
Former President & Former Executive Director of The G&S Society

### **Accompanist: Bob Wall**

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society's Lord High Accompanist

### **Conductor of the Choral Sequences: Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**

B. Iden Payne nominee for best musical director for *The Mikado*



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