

THE TRUMPET BRAY

NEGASS
The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society
P.O. Box 367, Arlington, MA 02476-0004



Vol. XXXIII No. 1
August, 2008

"Is this a time for airy persiflage?"

Longwood Opera Potluck
The Mikado
August 24, 2-5 PM
Christ Episcopal Church, Needham, MA

OUR NEXT MEETING

A Sing-through of *The Mikado*,
followed by a pot-luck supper, both to be shared
with the members of Longwood Opera.

August 24 from 2:00-5:00pm
Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland
Avenue, Needham

Cast:

Nanki-Poo -- Ethan Bremner
Ko-Ko -- Tom Frates
Yum-Yum -- Stephanie Mann
Katisha -- Angeliki Theoharis
The Mikado -- Scott Brumit
Pooh-Bah -- Thomas Dawkins
Pish-Tush -- Gary Thies
Pitti-Sing -- Jacque Wilson
Peep-Bo -- Martha Birnbaum

Dinner is pot-luck. Please bring something to share.

HOW TO GET THERE:

You may type the following url into your browser . . .
<http://longwoodopera.org/directions.html#needham>

Or

From the North: Rt. 128 (I-95): Take Exit 19B (Highland Avenue) towards Needham. The church is 1.1 miles from the exit, on the left hand side and opposite the Public Library. If you reach Rosemary Street you have gone too far. There is a large parking lot that you can use across the street, next to the library. There are a few handicapped parking spots next to the church itself.

From Boston: Take the Mass Pike or Route 9 west to Rt. 128 (I-95) South, and then follow it to Exit 19B as described above. **From the West:** Take the Mass Pike or Route 9 east to T. 128 (I-95) south and follow as above.

From the South: Take Rt. 128 (I-95) North to Exit 19B and follow as above.

Public Transportation

MBTA Bus #59 runs between Watertown Square and Needham junction and stops directly in front of Christ Episcopal Church.. On Sundays, it leaves Watertown Square at 1:05 and 2:35, and it leaves Newton Highlands at 12:35 and 2:05. The MBTA Green Line stops at the Newton Highlands subway stop. From there you can meet MBTA Bus #59 (see above).

It's always worth checking with a board member if you would like a ride (see masthead for contacts).

NEGASS Elections and Fantasy Day

A small, stalwart band of NEGASS were willing to forgo a bright, shiny spring day for the pleasures of participating in our annual elections and singing choruses in public. The members duly confirmed the official slate of candidates: Stephanie Mann/Rebecca Hains - Joint Program Chairs, Tony Parkes - Vice President, Marion Carroll - Secretary and Janice Dallas, Brad Amidon and Angeliki Theoharis as members-at-large. Great appreciation was expressed to outgoing Program Chair April Grant who took over the position in an emergency and ably filled it for three years. She also took over as Bray Editor on an emergency basis for about 6 months on the severe and final illness of Skyler Wrench (and at the same time she was Program Chair.) She will be missed but promises to attend meetings when she can as a 'regular' member when she doesn't have to worry about planning them.

After the elections we gathered around Juliet Cunningham at the piano to indulge in our favorite composer and librettist beginning with the Act I finale of *Pirates*. This was followed by numerous solos, duets and small ensembles. With more women than men present at Fantasy Day, for once, it was natural that we got an all-female "British Tar" with Marion, Angeliki and April. April also indulged herself as Koko to Angeliki's Katisha in the full scene between the two from the *Mikado*. Marion continued her traversal of the tenor literature with "The nightingale" and "A maiden fair to see" from *Pinafore*. She also became J W Wells to Juliet's Lady Sangazure for the duet from *The Sorcerer*. Not to be outdone Janice gave us "Free from his fetters grim."

Bass Art Dunlap became a tenor for the occasion with "I shipped d'ye see," so naturally tenor Brad Amidon became a baritone for "None shall part us" with Janice as Phyllis. Ensembles included the Madrigals from *Yeomen*, *Ruddigore* and *The Mikado*, the trio and quartet from *Yeomen* and the quintet from *The Sorcerer*. Most of the operas from *Sorcerer* through *Utopia* got at least one look and by the time we finished at 4:30, everyone wondered where the time had gone.

J. Donald Smith



Bruce Eglinton Montgomery 1927-2008



Bruce (Monty) Montgomery, one of America's leading authorities on Gilbert & Sullivan, died suddenly at his summer home on the coast of Maine on June 21st, 2008. The Chestnut Hill resident had celebrated his 81st birthday the previous day.

Mr. Montgomery hailed from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he directed musical organizations, many of which were dedicated to Gilbert & Sullivan. He was a long-time member of the Orpheus Club, where he was also named an honorary member for his appearances as guest conductor. He was a true renaissance man: painter, poet, composer, lyricist, author, choral arranger and conductor. He also served on the boards of the Theodore H. Presser Foundation and the Edwin B. Garrigues Foundation. A colorful and vibrant man until the very end, he was beloved by the countless performers and audience members whose lives he touched over a long and distinguished career.

Montgomery served as director of the University of Pennsylvania Glee Club for 44 years (1956-2000), writing, directing, choreographing and conducting their shows on many tours around the world. He published a memoir in 2005 entitled *Brothers, Sing On: My Half-Century Around The World With The Penn Glee Club* published by University of Pennsylvania Press, relating many of his favorite stories from his tenure as director of the Glee Club, as well as reminiscences about his Gilbert and Sullivan activities. Montgomery served for many years as director and/or music director of Penn's Mask & Wig Club, the University Band, the Penn Players, and many other musical and theatrical groups at Penn before his retirement in 2000. In 1971 he helped to create the Penn

Singers, a student light opera and musical theatre company, and continued to serve as their director until his death.

Montgomery was the Artistic Director of the Gilbert & Sullivan Players of Philadelphia - a group founded by his father, tenor James Montgomery - for over three decades after his father died in 1955. Under his guidance, the group produced over 65 productions. He directed and performed leading comedic roles in each of the 14 Gilbert and Sullivan operas. He then served as stage director for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County, PA from 1987 until 2007.

Montgomery's works have been performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and many other performing groups. The music he wrote for Gilbert and Sullivan's *Thespis* in the 1950s, for which most of Sullivan's original score was lost, was produced on several occasions, including the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England in 2000.

After his 1963 Irish folk opera, *Spindrift*, was performed by the Penn Players, he wrote the music and lyrics for a hit 1964 off-Broadway show, *The Amorous Flea*, receiving rave reviews in the New York papers as "the greatest melodist since Jerome Kern and the greatest lyricist since Larry Hart." The show is still performed in regional theater around the globe.

In 2005 Montgomery received an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, Bethany College, in Lindsborg, Kansas. He was also named "Man of the Year" by the Friars Club of Philadelphia in 2006.

After this long and distinguished career Monty was honored by The University of Pennsylvania, where the studio theater at The Annenberg Center was renamed the "Bruce Montgomery Theatre." The newly renovated theater was unveiled at a gala celebration on May 10, 2008, marked by live performances of his original compositions. It was the crowning achievement in the life of an amazing and gifted man and was his last public appearance.

Montgomery was looking forward to directing a "Gilbert & Sullivan Entertainment" this autumn in honor of Charles Spencer, the Ninth Lord Spencer, brother to Princess Diana, at a benefit for Studio Incamminati.

Montgomery is survived by an older brother, James Montgomery, two younger sisters, Constance Cook and Elizabeth Thomas, ten nieces and nephews, ten great nieces and nephews, a great-great nephew and a great-

great niece.

Montgomery's burial will be private and a memorial Celebration of Life is planned for early Autumn in Philadelphia. A date will be announced on Monty's website, <http://www.montyart.com>.

In lieu of flowers Monty's family requests that contributions be made to: The Glee Club Endowment Fund #402396, c/o Platt Student Performing Arts House, 160 Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (For further information, phone 215-898-2312). Known as the "150 x 150 Campaign," this fund was established to honor the Penn Glee Club's 150 years of continuous operation. Gifts can also be made online at https://galaxy.iscseo.upenn.edu/pls/devadmin/dvvpk0100.nv00?p_school=GLC&p_fund=402396 or by going to www.makinghistory.upenn.edu, clicking give now on the right, click "I am ready to make my credit card gift", then find the Glee Club Endowed Fund under Cultural Resources & Student Life.

For additional information, please contact Ty Furman (Platt Student Performing Arts House at 215-898-2312).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

M'Luds! The business of the day is to renew your membership!

The majority of our members are "Yeomen". Those who wish to contribute a bit more are invited here to do so, in the following titles and increments:

\$20 - YEOMEN

\$30 - PEERS & PERIS

\$50 - BUCKS & BLADES

\$100 - FLOWERS OF PROGRESS

(Note: *SPRITES OF EARTH & AIR* has been discontinued)

Members currently receive a password on their membership card that allows them to access the current issue of *The Trumpet Bray* on our website, <http://www.negass.org>. **Coming soon:** That password will not be required. Instead, members who prefer to receive *The Trumpet Bray* electronically will get issues as email attachments. *See article on page 6 for details.*

Remember, there is still a "Please You, Do Not Hurt Us" category for students and others for whom even \$20 a year is a struggle. Please contact Membership Officer Janice Dallas <membership@negass.org> to explore these details.

Each year we print a list of Members Extraordinary - those who chose a category higher than Yeomen for the previous year. These are special people to us . . . here they are:

FLOWERS OF PROGRESS

Nancy Burdine Fred Hughes
Rebecca & Tyler Hains Miles Cary Leahey

BUCKS AND BLADES

Peter Ambler Marc Shepherd
Brad Amidon Ed Simches
Mike Bromberg J. Donald Smith
Janice E. Dallas Jonathan Strong
Dean S. Edmonds, Jr. Harold Trinkoff
Robert & Ursula Haslun Carl Weggel
John & Irene Howard Jane S. Young
Jim Miller Srphen Zykofsky

PEERS & PERIS

Martha Birnbaum Jon Klarfeld
Nancy & Philip Burstein Mr. Erwin H. Miller
Ms. Judith Chasin Tony Parkes
Thomas Drucker Lee Patterson
Barry E. Garden David Stieber
Alan Harwood Fred Ward
Sheldon & Alice Hochman Tom Weber
Charlee Hutton Dr. and Mrs. Charles
Alessandra Kingsford Wilder

Finally, NEGASS would never have been in existence if it weren't for our much appreciated Charter Members.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Eleanor Babikian Mr. and Mrs. Alan
Harry Benford Hopfenberg
Van Pelt Brower Walt Howe
Ruth E. Colson Larry C. Littlefield
Juliet Cunningham Richard N. Sewell
Dean S. Edmonds, Jr. William C. Venman
Jim Ellis Jeff Weisenfreund
Alexander Nicoll Gerli Peter Zavon

Janice Dallas, Membership Officer



For those of you who may have lain awake late in these hot, rainy summer evenings wondering about the structure and organization of NEGASS, here's where you can find a copy of the NEGASS constitution:

<http://www.negass.org/Pages/Constitution.html>

FUTURE NEGASS EVENTS

As this issue of the Bray goes to press Fall NEGASS events are as yet unscheduled. Both NEGASS Program Chairs are working hard on new projects. One involves the expansion of our local population of opera singers and audience members. The other involves planning a joint party with the Harvardians. However, due to understandable summertime lethargy the Cantabs were hard to pin down. Keep an eye out for Between-Brays notices that will tell of progress in both these activities at the appropriate time.

NEGASS Meetings, Fall 2008	
Saturday. October 25	Proposed RUDDIGORE sing with Harvard/Radcliff G&S
Mid- December	Proposed HOLIDAY Party

NEXT BRAY DEADLINE: October 5, 2008

Next Bray Stuffing: Sunday, October 12, 3:00 pm, at the home of **Janice and Ron Dallas**, 63 Everett Street, Arlington, MA. E-mail or phone for directions: (781) 643-2537, or membership@negass.org.



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Reviews-Reviews-Reviews

But first, an editorial comment:

G&S producers, reviewers, and editors perennially remark on the timeless humor and social commentary of the G&S canon but wring our hands about the advancing age of our audiences. We agonize about how to get the next generation involved. Well, Brown University, in Providence RI, is doing it . . . here's how:

Brown University Gilbert and Sullivan (BUGS) was founded in fall 2004 by a pair of graduate students who, in their words, "thought it was lame that there was no G&S at Brown." Now in its fourth year, Brown University Gilbert & Sullivan is the only active G&S society in Rhode Island.

Each November and April they produce a fully staged and fully orchestrated work from the canon; they also host an annual sing-in in late April, patterthons and goodness only knows how many spontaneous singings of choruses in public. This year, for the first time, BUGS put on a summer show, *Trial By Jury*, which went up in July. Although the board is composed of Brown and RISD students, community members are welcome attendees and participants in all their affairs. The fall show, *Patience*, is scheduled for late November with auditions to be held during the second week of September. If you'd like more information on these events or wish to join the BUGS mailing list, email bugs@brown.edu or visit the website: <http://www.brown.edu/Students/BUGS>

"TRIAL BY JURY" at BUGS

Brown University Gilbert and Sullivan (BUGS) presented its first summer production, a charming and high-energy rendition of *Trial By Jury*, in Providence on July 12th and 13th of this year. This start-up company has now produced eight fully-or-mostly-staged shows (including two very different *Mikados*) and will stage *Patience* in the fall. This reviewer has seen them all, and has been impressed by the spirited performances and the evident joy that this new generation of Savoyards takes in the material.

Performing in a shallow space in a lecture hall, the small cast and reduced chorus made the most of every inch, including one entrance from an external door (luckily, it wasn't raining) and one, amazingly, from inside the sliding blackboard system. Under Director David Duell, who also sang in the chorus, the blocking and choreography were admirable, and all the ensemble work was very tight.

The cast included BUGS veterans and newcomers. Jonathan Ichikawa, who sang a glorious Pirate King two years ago, returned to Providence on short notice to dispatch the Usher in grand style. Newcomer Nicole Page was a suitably tawdry and strident Angelina. Peter Goldstein (born a G&S baby in the Sudbury Savoyards orchestra) sang Edwin with clarity and panache. In a modernist twist that worked out well both dramatically and musically, the Counsel was sung up an octave by Maggie Machaiek, looking in wig and gown like the lady barristers from "Rumpole." Experienced G&S hand Ken McPherson was guest star and elder statesman as a peppery and lecherous Learned Judge.

Music Director for this production was Thew Elliot, a visitor to Providence who spends the school year as a high school music director in the DC area. He led a reduced but well-balanced orchestra of eight (some doubling on percussion) that was sometimes stymied by rapid key changes but mostly kept up with Sullivan's non-stop score.

As in previous productions, BUGS projected running supertitles above the "stage." Even though I know the lyrics, I always appreciate these, and they certainly are a great boon to novices! Producing these supertitles is just one project of the hard-working people behind the scenes who really make BUGS and other Gilbert and Sullivan organizations possible.

Marjery Goldstein



NEW MEMBER!

Paul Eagan of Plymouth, MA, writes that he was a member much earlier, back in the 70's, and now a friend has brought him back to us. Thanks, friend!! He says that he is an enthusiastic audience member. (*More memories from Paul in a later issue!*)

NOW YOU CAN GET THE TRUMPET BRAY BY eMAIL

We hope you've been enjoying your subscription to *The Trumpet Bray*, the newsletter of the New England G&S Society. We're glad to send you notices and articles about local auditions, performances, and other G&S-related activities, since that's what NEGASS is all about: supporting and encouraging the performance and study of the works of G&S!

Loving this Victorian pair as we do, NEGASS isn't usually the shop for innovation. But things have changed, as they do over the centuries: We don't publish the Bray in moveable type on a hand press; we use computers. In fact, we make the Bray available on line, in PDF format, so you have the choice of printing a paper copy, or just saving paper and reading on-line. But now we have an innovation: we've decided to offer the Bray in PDF format as an **email attachment**.

Receiving a pdf attachment means you won't need to open your browser, visit the NEGASS web site, surf to the right page, or remember a password ... all you need do is Get Mail, and open the attachment. Then you can save it to a convenient folder on your hard disk and revisit it whenever you like. Or you can print it out and read it at the breakfast table, and it will still be available on our web site in case you want to access it from a different computer.

This saves trees: you print only what you want and leave the rest in e-format. And NEGASS saves on postage, and can use the savings for our meetings and activities.

It's easy to opt out of receiving the Bray by mail, and arrange to receive it as a PDF attachment. Simply send an email message to membership chair Janice Dallas:

To: membership@negass.org
Subject: NEGASS: e-mail Bray
Content: Your full name
Reply to: Your preferred email address

If you have any questions or comments, just let us know.



CALENDAR

ॐ MIT G&SP Interviews for *Pirates* ॐ

The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players is seeking a Music Director, a Stage Director and a Stage manager for their Fall 2008 (Twentieth Anniversary Production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, or *The Slave of Duty*).

Auditions will be September 2, 3, and 4 with callbacks on September 6. Rehearsals begin on September 8, and performance dates are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Friday, December 5 | Thursday, December 11 |
| Saturday, December 6 | Friday, December 12 |
| Sunday, December 7 | Saturday, December 13 |

To schedule an interview or to ask questions, please e-mail gsp-board@mit.edu.

Please see <http://web.mit.edu/gsp/www/> for more info about the MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players.



THE 4th GREAT ROCKVILLE SINGOUT ॐ

It's a wonderful weekend-long party with G&S fans from all around the country. There's nothing like the thrill of singing in a chorus of 100 or more voices! It will take place Labor Day weekend, August 29, 30 and 31, 2008, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater. Beginning Friday evening, we will gather on stage and sing all 13 shows with piano accompaniment and no dialogue, with this one exception: VLOC will present its **FIRST EVER Grand Duke**, performed in semi-staged concert style, with orchestra, on Saturday evening.

For those who haven't experienced a Sing-Out, the process is this: You can sign up for the whole weekend or any part of it, and sign up to sing in the choruses or sit in the audience and listen and enjoy. Casting has already been announced, but attendees are still welcome. Email **Maureen Roul**t at <singndance@verizon.net>, or visit <http://www.vloc.org/>

The VLO 2008 fall production will be *Princess Ida* (subtitled *or, Castle Adamant*), with performances on Nov. 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional High School. (*Please note: this is a change from the dates that were previously announced.*) Tickets will be sold starting in September. See <http://www.vlo.org/>



🎭 **College Light Opera Company** 🎭
Highfield Theater, Falmouth, MA

By the time this newsletter appears there will only be one more production by the College Light Opera Company at Highfield Theater this summer, and it's not G&S. However, since CLOC is such a reliable source of G&S in our local summer scene we have decided to follow the lead of Grand Duke Rudolph and "push the sale" to help their program.

August 19-23: *A Little Night Music* (Sondheim)

Tickets are \$30.00, box office opens June 9 (508-548-0668). Mail orders: CLOC, PO Box 906, Falmouth, MA 02541



🎭 **CONNECTICUT G&S SOCIETY** 🎭

"Loudly Let the Trumpet Bray"

The Connecticut G&S Society production for this Fall will be *Patience*, OCTOBER 24-26, at the "Old" MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL,. For reservations, call 1-800-866-1606 or see www.ctgilbertandsullivan.org



The Sudbury Savoyards will hold auditions for *Utopia* in early November, with performances scheduled for late February, 2009. www.sudburysavoyards.org



The Harvard Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan Players will put on *Iolanthe* this fall. The directorial teams are in place but performance dates and auditions have not yet been announced. See <http://www.hrgsp.org/>



Finally, we know it isn't all G&S, but it probably will be some G&S; besides, it's for such a good cause!

The 6th annual Sing To Cure MS concert is coming up, and ready for your support:

Members of Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Boston, and other classical singers donate their glorious talents; local eateries donate refreshments for intermission and gift certificates to raffle: Enjoy a concert and go out to dinner to cure MS!

Sunday, October 26, 2008 from 3-5 PM

Pleasant Street Congregational Church, 75 Pleasant Street, Arlington, MA Phone number: 781-643-0553

Building is fully handicap accessible. Call the church office for more information.

Public Transport:

Take the Red Line outbound and either:

- Get off at Harvard and take bus #77 to Arlington Center.
- Get off at Alewife and take #79 or #67 bus to Arlington

Also: a raffle for concert and opera tickets, gift certificates to Arlington restaurants, and more! Raffle ticket prices: \$2 = 1 ticket, \$5 = 3 tickets, \$10 = 7 tickets, \$25 = 30 tickets

Gourmet cookies and Best Friends cocoa will be for sale during intermission. Halloween costumes are welcome, for adults and older children.

For more information about this concert series, visit singtocurems.org

Ticket sales information will be available in September. To donate *now* to the concert in support of the Accelerated Cure Project, visit www.expansion.bostoncure.org/Sing .

Supported in part by a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Other NEGASS board member activities: *Mass Theatrica*, whose artistic director is NEGASS board member Angeliki Theoharis, plans *The Medium* by Gian Carlo Menotti on Saturday, November 8, 8:00 pm, featuring board member Stephanie Mann. Visit <http://www.masstheatrica.org/> for more information.



THE ONLINE BRAY

Current PDF issues of **The Trumpet Bray** On-Line are now available to NEGASS members through use of a password for a membership payment of \$20 or more. To get your password, please contact our Membership Chair, Janice Dallas, at membership@negass.org (see pg 6 for plans to switch to attachments rather than passwords!)

Visit the NEGASS Web Site at <http://www.negass.org>.

Past issues of **The Trumpet Bray** can always be read online at http://negass.org/Bray/Trumpet_Bray.html or downloaded at <http://negass.org/bray/pdf/>. You can receive our special **Between-Bray E-Mails** by joining us and signing on to the NEGASS email list at <http://www.negass.org/Pages/EMail.html>

Visit the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive at <http://diamond.boisestate.edu/gas/>

NOTE: To subscribe to **SavoyNet**, the G&S mailing list, send a plain text email to listserv@bridgewater.edu with nothing in the subject line and SUBSCRIBE SAVOYNET *Your Name* in the message body.



THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

PO Box 367, Arlington, MA 02476-0004
Send electronic contributions to editor@negass.org

Officers of the Organization

- President **J. DONALD SMITH**
(617) 494-0305; president@negass.org
- Vice-President **TONY PARKES** vp@negass.org
- Secretary/Webmistress **MARION LEEDS CARROLL**
negass@leedscarroll.com, <http://www.leedscarroll.com>
- Treasurer **RICHARD FREEDMAN**
(978) 667-0222; treasurer@negass.org
and <http://www.rfreedman.org>
- Co-Program Chairs **STEPHANIE MANN**
and **REBECCA HAINS**
programchair@negass.org

Members at Large

- Trumpet Bray Calendar Editor: **BRAD AMIDON**
calendar@negass.org
- Membership Officer **JANICE DALLAS**
membership@negass.org; (781) 643-2537
- Member Without Portfolio: **ART DUNLAP**
art@negass.org
- Trumpet Bray Editor: **JIM PARMENTIER**
editor@negass.org; (781) 259-0798
- Publicity Chair: **ANGELIKI THEOHARIS**
publicity@negass.org

NEGASS membership dues are \$20, \$30, \$50 or \$100 annually.
Please contact Membership Chair **Janice Dallas** to review the advantages of the various membership categories
63 Everett Street, Arlington, MA

