



## ~ NEGASS Programs ~

### From the President



As I write this in mid-March, I am looking forward to the now twice-postponed NEGASS open mic in Cambridge on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Who would have thought that this “real” New England winter would bring not one, but two major snowstorms on exactly the weekends of our planned gathering? The event will include people from Massachusetts and Connecticut at every stage of their G&S life, some new to NEGASS and some old-timers, brought together by our delight in the music and lyrics of Gilbert & Sullivan. Thanks to everyone for their cooperation with the rescheduling to make this happen - it will be a grand time!

For the next six months, our focus will be working toward the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary sing-out on Labor Day weekend, but first we must pause and do our duty by conducting our annual business meeting in June. *Princess Ida* fans will be delighted to know that we will be casting *Ida* once for the read-through following the annual meeting and again as part of the sing-out! And instrumentalists should be aware that we will have an *Ida* orchestra in June and a *Gondoliers* orchestra at the sing-out.

With the publication of this edition of *The Bray*, I'm delighted to let you know that registration is now open for the sing-out. To sign up, please go to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary web page [negass.org/50<sup>th</sup>-registration.html](http://negass.org/50th-registration.html)

Everyone is invited to sing chorus for as much of the weekend as their voices will allow! We are in need of singers to cover all the roles in the canon, and conductors and accompanists for all the operettas. See below for more information and please plan to come!

- Ann Ferentz



## Upcoming NEGASS Events

### ♪ NEGASS Annual Meeting and *Princess Ida* Read-Through - June 28, Natick, MA

NEGASS will hold its annual business meeting at 2 PM on Sunday, June 28 at Christ Lutheran Church in Natick, MA followed by a read-through of *Princess Ida* with full orchestra. Dr. John Dreslin will conduct. Andrew Conway will contact instrumentalists about participating in the orchestra. If you would like to contact him proactively, please email [ahconway@gmail.org](mailto:ahconway@gmail.org).

Interested in a role? Email your request to Program Chair Lindsey Buccella by May 15<sup>th</sup> ([programs@negass.org](mailto:programs@negass.org)).

*Princess Ida* has roles of all sizes, including two speaking roles! All are welcome to apply for any role they fancy. As usual, members of NEGASS in good standing will receive casting preference; popular roles may be shared with one singer per act.

Roles available:

- King Hildebrand (bass-baritone)
- Hilarion, King Hildebrand's Son (tenor)
- Cyril, Hilarion's Friend (tenor)
- Florian, Hilarion's Friend (lyric baritone)
- King Gama (comic baritone)
- Arac, King Gama's Son (bass-baritone)
- Guron, King Gama's Son (bass-baritone)
- Scynthus, King Gama's Son (bass)
- Princess Ida, King Gama's Daughter (soprano)
- Lady Blanche, Professor of Abstract Science (contralto)
- Lady Psyche, Professor of Humanities (soprano)
- Melissa, Lady Blanche's Daughter (mezzo-soprano)
- Sacharissa, Girl Graduate (soprano)
- Chloe, Girl Graduate (speaking role)
- Ada, Girl Graduate (speaking role)

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**THE TRUMPET BRAY** is published six times a year on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, April, June, August, October, and December by the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS), PO Box 118, Arlington MA 02476. To contact the editor, see email address above. To contact all others, use the email [contact@negass.org](mailto:contact@negass.org)

#### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS

Send to [editor@negass.org](mailto:editor@negass.org)

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Annual NEGASS membership dues are \$25.00  
Please join NEGASS online at [www.negass.org](http://www.negass.org)

**THE TRUMPET BRAY:** Members receive the Bray as a PDF email attachment. All editions, including the current one, are available at [www.negass.org](http://www.negass.org)

#### DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL:

15<sup>th</sup> of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.



Everyone in attendance will be the chorus of soldiers, courtiers, girl graduates, daughters of the plough, etc. Bring your own score or borrow one from our library. The NEGASS Board will provide light refreshments. If you are unsure of your NEGASS membership status, please email [contact@negass.org](mailto:contact@negass.org).

🎵 **NEGASS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - September 4-6, 2026, Concord, MA**

Registration is now open for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary sing-out of all 13 operettas over Labor Day weekend at 51 Walden Street in Concord, MA! Please visit the event website at [www.negass.org/50th-anniversary](http://www.negass.org/50th-anniversary) to start your registration today.

Because of several generous sponsors we are able to offer registration for the whole event (Friday evening through Sunday afternoon) for a \$100 fee, which includes a reception on Friday, three meals on Saturday, and two meals on Sunday. Discounts are available for students, conductors, accompanists, and those who cannot attend for the whole weekend.

All participants are welcome to sing chorus all weekend. Singers interested in roles will be able to submit role requests from now until June 15<sup>th</sup>. You will have the opportunity to indicate your top three choices (unranked), all roles you would be interested in, and any roles that you could cover at the last minute. Requests for conducting and accompanying will also be open through June 15<sup>th</sup>.

After June 15<sup>th</sup>, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee will be hard at work and will “well and truly try” to honor as many requests as possible and settle all assignments by the middle of July.

General registration for chorus/audience will remain open until two weeks before the event.



The detailed schedule and answers to some frequently asked questions are available on the event website ([www.negass.org/50th-anniversary](http://www.negass.org/50th-anniversary)). Please email [50thanniversary@negass.org](mailto:50thanniversary@negass.org) with questions.

#### Library Corner

NEGASS continues to rent out orchestral parts for the operettas and other works by Sir Arthur Sullivan. The full list of available scores may be found at <https://www.negass.org/lending-library.html>. If you or a group you know would be interested in renting material for an upcoming production, please contact [librarian@negass.org](mailto:librarian@negass.org).

## ❧ NEGASS NEWS ❧

**Troupers** (a.k.a. Troupers Light Opera) has its Spring show, *Iolanthe*, coming up on April 11, 12, 18 and 19 at the Crystal Theater, 66 Bayview Ave, Norwalk, CT. <https://wp.trouperlightopera.org/>

The **Simsbury Light Opera Company** is rapidly approaching their Spring production of *The Mikado*, directed by Deanna Swanson. Performances will be at the Henry James Memorial School, 155 Firetown Road, Simsbury, CT 06033 on Saturday, April 18, 2026 7:30PM, Sunday, April 19, 2026 2:00PM, Saturday, April 25, 2026 7:30PM and Sunday, April 26, 2026 2:00PM.

**The Methuen Young People's Theatre** provides summertime educational and cultural experience in musical theater to the youth of area communities. Each summer, students about to enter grades 4 through 12 learn and rehearse a full-scale Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, which they perform for the public in a fully costumed production in early September. The summer program starts in mid-June and runs all summer long. Auditions are held in early June for youth who wish to be considered for principal roles. Chorus participation requires no audition. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings throughout the summer. The performances take place the weekend following Labor Day. The participation fee is \$150 for one youth and \$225 for two or more members from the same immediate family. MYPT keeps the cost low through help from parents who volunteer to lend a hand with things like measuring and sewing costumes, painting scenery, putting together the program book for the show, etc.

The main focus of MYPT is to provide a worthwhile educational experience in music and theater to the youth, to expose them to challenging material which may be new to many of them, and to provide this in a positive social context. Many students have been with MYPT for years and have made good friends through it. MYPT loves to have cast members ask at the end of the last show in September, "What are we doing next year?" Well, MYPT has announced *Ruddigore* as their Summer 2026 production. Performances will take place September 11 -13, 2026. Visit their website <https://mmmh.org/young-peoples-theatre-mypt/> for more details.

By now **The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society** is probably busy evaluating candidates to be its new music director. They can then turn their attention to the upcoming auditions for *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Cast auditions for the show will be held Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> in Middletown, CT. Rehearsals will be held in Middletown each Sunday evening (6PM-

9PM) and Tuesday evening (7PM -9PM) beginning Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>. Performance dates are October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Valley Regional High School, Deep River, CT.

### We know it isn't, but ...



NEGASS Board member Elaine Crane's **Greater Worcester Opera** will present *1776 The Musical*, June 4 - June 7 at 150 Main Street, Boylston MA. Directed by Richard Monroe (stage) and Aldo Fabrizi (music), Stage managed by Katelyn Geary. For tickets and information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/244spevf>

## ❧ G & S NEWS ❧

Marisa Green writes: On behalf of the entire production team, I am pleased to announce the cast for SavoyNet's production of *The Sorcerer* on 13 August 2026 at the 32nd International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton:

Sir Marmaduke	Andrew Smith
Alexis	Chazmond Peacock
Dr. Daly	Colin Safley
Notary	Kay Byler Kelm
John Wellington Wells	Alex Kirstukas
Lady Sangazure	SarahAnn Sutter
Aline	Christina Krawec
Mrs. Partlet	Lindsey Lefler
Constance	Alyssa Mener
Deaf Old Man	Thomas Landsbert-Noon
Hercules	Richard Pennicard

### Ensemble

Joshua Carpenter, Alexander Conway, Laurence Cox, Carol Davis, Risa de Rege, Rick DuPuy, Paul Ensell, Beth Garrett, Larry Garvin, Samuel Garvin, Manya Gaver-Holmes, Victoria Goulden, Robert Gray, Christopher Hall, Sarah-Jane Hall, Robert Hall, Joe Levine, Lauren-May Lomas, Julie-Anne Lomas, Oliver McDonnell, Christopher McInnis, Kathryn Noonan, Stephanie Oh, Sarah Robinson, Ashley Saferight, Marc Shepherd, Sheila Skipper, Natalie Taylor, Kelsey Thornton, Christopher Wain, Sandra Wain, Jane White, Denise Wicken, Maria Zicos, Victoria Zicos

The Festival will be held 1 - 15 August, 2026 at the beautiful and historic Buxton Opera House in the United Kingdom. Visit <https://gsfestivals.org/>



**CORRECTION:** The last issue of the Trumpet Bray carried a review of Ralph MacPhail's article *Bab and the Bard*, published in the W. S. Gilbert Society Journal. At the end were directions to order a copy of the Journal from the W.S. Gilbert Society. Unfortunately, the contact email address was incorrect. To purchase a copy, write to Andrew Crowther directly at [ajcrowth@yahoo.com](mailto:ajcrowth@yahoo.com). Your editor apologizes for the error.

## ❧ REVIEW ❧

### Sudbury Savoyards' *The Gondoliers* Review by Ben Morse:

I had the pleasure of attending the opening performance of the Sudbury Savoyards' production of *The Gondoliers, or the King of Barataria* on Saturday February 21, 2026 at 1:30 PM. From the Overture to the Finale, the experience was joyful and appreciated. A good-sized audience was there, and all in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. The orchestra, under the able direction of Aldo Fabrizi, were as much a part of the fun as the cast, and executed the music with energy and enthusiasm.

The cast matched the orchestra's energy and enthusiasm, and gave us, the audience, a colorful spectacle, and drew us into each story (that drove the larger story) that played out on stage. The non-auditioned chorus managed the music, choreography, and blocking well. There were very few out-of-synch moments, none of which diminished the overall stage picture and fun of each scene.

The lead players were all talented and likewise all embraced the spirit of Gilbert and Sullivan-ness that draws devotees and general theater enthusiasts to these productions, year after year. The two main Gondoliers, one of whom was thought to be the potential King of Barataria, hence the show's subtitle, played by Santo Mammone (Giusseppe) and Brad Amidon (Marco), had good chemistry, and played off each other well. Their love interests, portrayed by Danielle Shevchenko (Gianetta) and Gretchen Struckmeyer (Tessa), played their characters with just the right blend of seriousness and humor, and each one sang with accuracy and joy.

The Entourage of the Duke of Plaza-Toro (the Duke was played by the inestimable Tom Frates) managed to interact and weave a "family portrait" both dysfunctional and delightful. The Duchess (Elaine Crane) was every inch the Duke's equal and her portrayal was flawless. Their daughter, Casilda (Naré Kim) flitted, musically-speaking, through her songs, and showed great comedic timing. As she is introduced to the idea of being betrothed to the infant king when she was also a baby, Kim manages to exhibit a good range of emotions, from confusion to consternation. Casilda's love interest, Luiz (David Smyth) was also fun to watch, as his own emotions were stretched with each new revelation. His singing was also pleasing and his acting spot-on.

The character who plays the "spoiler" in this show – in that he spoils almost everyone's well-laid plans – was Don Alhambra (Blair Eig). The Grand Inquisitor threatens, cajoles, and coerces with glee, and Eig fully displays the ambivalent heart of a great G&S character. Martha Warren's brief appearance as the mother of Luiz and the former Nursemaid of the unknown King,

wrapped up the story with aplomb, and put a fine exclamation point on a fine story.

Kudos to the Stage Director, Sara Delong, for taking on a beloved story and treating it with respect and just the right amounts of parody, humor, seriousness, and satire, to make for an enjoyable afternoon. As mentioned earlier, the amazing Aldo Fabrizi always gets the most out of the orchestra, and the members of the orchestra all deserve a round of applause as well. The choreography was prolific, and Tess Klibanoff filled the stage well, keeping the pace and picture up tempo and colorful, respectively.

Thanks, Sudbury Savoyards for a fun, entertaining, and worthwhile afternoon!

## ❧ EDITOR'S CORNER ❧

I greet the announcement of the cast for SavoyNet's *The Sorcerer* with a mixture of joy and melancholy. It is a delight to see the names of so many of the people with whom I have sung over the decades of my G&S "involvement." Many I knew through SavoyNet long before I met them, usually at QWERTs in New York or elsewhere. Then there are the ones I performed with. When I first met Alex Kirstukas at CT Gilbert & Sullivan Society, I predicted he would have a great future in G&S performance. Now here he is playing John Wellington Wells at the Festival! I met Christina Krawec just last year at Erica Rome's BaltiQWERT, where she played Iolanthe, mother to my Strephon. No half-fairy could ever wish for a more beautiful, talented parent. I will have to order a video of the show just to see what magic she brings to the role of Aline.

The majority are those I met on my two trips to Buxton in the early 2000's. Since then, I have dreamed of returning, but at our present advanced age, my wife and I can no longer visit that town, with its long walks, many up and down hills, to get around. Not to mention the trek through the Manchester airport to get to the bus, and then the frightening bus ride because all those crazy Brits drive on the wrong side of the road and you expect to crash into every oncoming lorry!

I envy everyone making the trip in August. Have a blast! If you've never been, you don't know what you are missing.

- Laurie Weissbrot

### ❧ We have a Little List ❧

The editor wishes to thank those who contributed to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray*, including Ann Ferentz, Ben Morse, Andrew Crowther, Marisa Green, and Rebecca Hains.

(Please forgive any omissions!)

≈ CALENDAR ≈

**NEGASS Events**

**Annual Meeting  
and Sing-through**  
*Princess Ida*

June 28, 2026 2:00PM

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
113 Union Street  
Natick, MA

**NEGASS**  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Labor Day Weekend**  
September 4-6, 2026

**51 Walden**  
Concord, MA

**G&S Events**

**Troupers**  
*Iolanthe*

April 11 & 18, 2026 7:30PM  
April 12 & 19, 2026 3:00PM

**Crystal Theater**  
66 Bayview Ave  
Norwalk, CT

**Simsbury Light Opera Company**  
*The Mikado*

Saturday, April 18, 2026 7:30PM  
Sunday, April 19, 2026 2:00PM  
Saturday, April 25, 2026 7:30PM  
Sunday, April 26, 2026 2:00PM

**Henry James Memorial School**  
155 Firetown Road  
Simsbury, CT 06033

**Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan  
Society**  
Auditions for *Pirates of Penzance*

Sunday, June 14, 2026  
Tuesday June 16, 2026

**Congregation Adath Israel**  
8 Broad Street  
Middletown, CT

**The Maenad Theatre Troupe**  
*Iolanthe*

Saturday, June 27 2:00PM&7:00PM  
Sunday, June 28th, 2026 2:00PM

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
Stoughton, MA

**32nd International  
Gilbert & Sullivan Festival**

August 1 - 15, 2026

**Buxton Opera House**  
Buxton UK

**Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan  
Society**  
*Pirates of Penzance*

Saturday, Oct 17, 2026  
Sunday, Oct 18, 2026

**Valley Regional H.S.**  
256 Kelsey Hill Road  
Deep River, CT