



∞ NEGASS EVENTS ∞

NEGASS members elect three to Board; gives New England more representation

The NEGASS annual business meeting was held virtually via Zoom videoconferencing on June 14 and brought three new members to the board of directors while others moved into new capacities. These changes can be found on the Masthead on page two. Joining the board of directors as members-at-large are **John Dreslin, Aldo Fabrizi, and Laurence Weissbrot**. Leaving the board are long-time members **Tom Frates** and **Graham Daley**. Thank you for your service.



From left to right: John Dreslin, Aldo Fabrizi, and Laurence Weissbrot.

John E. Dreslin has been music director for the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society for 30 seasons. He has participated in over 100 productions across Connecticut and the Eastern United States as music director, conductor, accompanist, or actor in various genres of musical theater, from opera to Broadway musicals. He has received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society and nine Eugene O'Neill awards for excellence in Community Theater

Mr. Fabrizi began his musical career as a double bassist playing with the prominent orchestras and

opera companies of Boston. The focus of his musical activities moved to the podium since he was appointed the Music Director of the Valley Light Opera in 2012 and the Greater Worcester Opera in 2016.

Laurence Weissbrot enjoyed a long career as an insurance actuary. While living in Hartford and studying for actuarial exams, Laurie attended annual performances of the Simsbury Light Opera Company, a group he joined after successfully completing the exams. After five years of chorus and understudy work with SLOCO, he moved on to the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society. He knows all the major baritone roles, and has performed about half of them. He went to the International G&S Festival in Buxton, England twice, once as a peer in *Iolanthe* and then as the Carpenter's Mate in *Pinafore*.

He and his wife, Charlotte, now live in Concord NH. Laurie has two very musical children and 6-1/2 grandchildren.

With these three new members, the board now has increased representation from western Massachusetts, as well as from New Hampshire and Connecticut. These changes also allow representation of directors, music directors, instrumentalists, vocalists, producers, organizers, and those with historical knowledge of NEGASS on the board.

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FIRST CONTACT

How did you first get introduced to the fun of Gilbert and Sullivan? Share your recollections with other readers of *The Trumpet Bray*. Send your story to dpdevries01@gmail.com.



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Aldo Fabrizi, member-at-large
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Lindsey Soboleski, member at large
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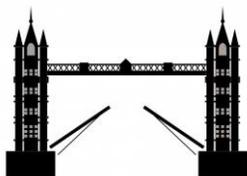
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GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS may be sent to dpdevries01@gmail.com

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www.negass.org



Upcoming virtual NEGASS events on Zoom

By **Jacqueline Haney**

With venues and performing groups temporarily shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic, NEGASS is working to provide virtual programs based on the works of our favorite composer and lyricist. We are particularly taking the opportunity to feature material other than the operettas. Watch for the latest information in your email and on the NEGASS Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4813208186/>

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern, Gilbert's "burlesque" in three short tableaux will be performed on August 15, 2020 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. This features some of Shakespeare's best known minor characters and was originally published in the periodical *Fun* in 1874. It was first performed in 1891 as part of a charity benefit.

Next, NEGASS will explore *The Bab Ballads*, with musical, spoken word and other interpretations of Gilbert's comic poems. This is currently planned for September 12, 2020 at 7 p.m. If you would like to contribute a song, a reading, animation, or even a sock-puppet extravaganza, please get in touch.

We are presenting programs on Zoom because it is free to use and easy to understand, and attending does not require a sign-up. You can use it on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Possible future programs include a discussion of *The Grand Duke* with Tony Parkes; G&S Austin's "A Day at the Savoy Theatre," introduced by Rafe McPhail; more of Gilbert's non-musical plays, and a celebration of Sullivan's Christmas music. To get involved with any of the above or if there are other topics you would like to help NEGASS explore, contact Program Chair Jacqueline Haney at JacquelineHaney@yahoo.com.

❧ NEGASS NEWS ❧

The Trumpet Bray archives are now complete!

By **Ann Ferentz**

With gratitude to **Rafe MacPhail**, NEGASS member and artistic director of Gilbert & Sullivan Austin, we are pleased to announce that the

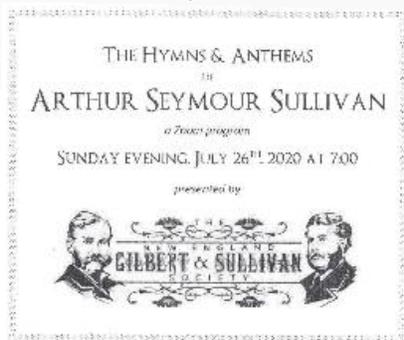
complete archive of *The Bray* is now available on the NEGASS website at: <https://www.negass.org/trumpet-bray.html>. Rafe provided many past issues and helped us untangle every knot in the numbering of some volumes. In addition, **Marion Leeds Carroll**, former NEGASS board member, longtime *Bray* editor, and person of many capacities, provided a key past issue to fill the last gap in the archive. We thank both of you most politely!

A note from the President Emerita:

The New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society has done so many great things, and I am so proud to be a part of this organization. We may not be able to come together live now, but our Sing-Outs, our acclaimed professional-level performances with organizations like Says You! and Cape Symphony, our readings, our support of sister organizations, our parties, and above all our friendships build on a mutual love for these brilliant shows will continue, even if for a while they're continued on Zoom. I'm sure W.S. Gilbert would have had some quite pithy verses for this situation (iPhone + trombone, I'm just saying), and his collaborations with Arthur Sullivan would have carried on virtually, just like ours. Raising a glass to NEGASS from California - I miss you all!

Angela Jajko

A virtual program based on Sullivan's hymns is hosted by NEGASS



Before he was known as the “second half” of our “dynamic duo,” Sullivan was also a well known and accomplished composer of hymns from the middle to late 1800’s. He composed the music for more than 70 hymns including “Onward Christian Soldiers” and “The Lost Chord.” While he was a contemporary of Fanny Crosby (who wrote the words for

more than 8000 titles) Sullivan also composed ten choral works and oratorios including “The Light of the World,” and “The Prodigal Son,” and two cantatas including “The Martyr of Antioch” and “The Golden Legend.”

On Sunday, July 26, NEGASS presented “Hymns & Anthems: performances and interpretations of church music by Sullivan.” Performers and audience gathered via Zoom and enjoyed a variety of Sullivan’s music presented in videos, with each introduced by a performer.

Solos included Ben Morse singing “To Thee, O Lord” while accompanying himself on the piano and Elaine Crane singing “I need thee,” accompanied by her daughter Paige on piano. Juliet Cunningham shared her four-part arrangement of “I Will Lay Me Down in Peace” on screen and invited all to sing along (on mute!).

A women’s ensemble of Janet Pohli, Sara DeLong, and Carolyn Kelly Schwartz (vocalists), Taylor Joy Sabado (Flute), and Kathryn Denney (piano) performed Morn, Happy Morn, which was originally composed for the play *Olivia* by W. G. Wills.

Tom Dawkins as the Royal Street Recorder Consort & Chamber Singers performed several songs, using his talents in voice, piano, and many and various recorders and double reeds to play all the parts! His performances included “Ever Faithful”, “The Lost Chord” (in which double reeds played the part of the harmonium), and “Sweet Saviour, Bless us ere we go.”

The evening concluded with a full ensemble “driveway choir” of 17 voices singing “Onward Christian Soldiers,” led by Kathryn Denney, with a video showing the singers in their cars with microphones, Kathryn conducting in her driveway, and Bryce Denney at the mixer!

It was great to see so many NEGASSers using their talents in many and various ways for this event.

∞ G&S EVENTS ∞

Piccola Opera of Concord NH to present *Trial by Jury*

By Laurie Weissbrot

Piccola Opera of Concord, New Hampshire will present a live performance of *Trial by Jury* on August 9, 2020 at 6 P.M. at The Gardens at Uncanoonuc in Goffstown NH. Tickets are \$25 and are available on line at www.piccolaopera.org or by calling 603-781-5695. NEGASS Board member Laurie Weissbrot will sing the role of The Learned Judge.

Sudbury schedules *The Grand Duke*

Sudbury Savoyards is scheduling *The Grand Duke* at a date to be announced in February 2021 at their venue Lincoln-Sudbury High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

The CG&SS is producing "A Brief Overview of the Works of Gilbert and Sullivan"

By John Dreslin

In place of its usual October production, Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society is producing a video showcase entitled "A Brief Overview of the Works of Gilbert and Sullivan". It will feature one selection from each of the 14 operas (including *Thespis*) performed by a different featured soloist from past casts. In between musical numbers there will be interesting background material. The video will be sent to the various senior and educational facilities where the Society normally appears during the course of the year, as well as being featured on our web pages and YouTube. Also during the summer, one full length video of a past production will be released complete with subtitles. July's selection is the 2015 production of *Iolanthe*.

NYGASP has tentative plans for 2020-2021 season

From NYGASP website

You may have received notice of our plans to produce *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Gondoliers*, and *Patience* as part of our 2020-2021 season. We will follow further guidance from New York State and our nation as to best practices for large gatherings. We acknowledge that due to safety concerns we may not be able to realize all of this planned season. We are researching alternative ways of bringing Gilbert & Sullivan to you, including virtual performances, masterclasses, and live

streaming concerts or even full productions should modified restrictions allow our artists to congregate, but prevent large audiences from doing so. Please check back for updates.



∞ CAST SPOTLIGHT ∞

Neil Flores is a trouper with Troupers Light Opera



Neil Flores

From Troupers Light Opera website

Neil Flores has appeared with Troupers Light Opera Company for at least four seasons including the roll of Leonardo in their production of *Il Mikado*. He previously appeared on stage for *Thespis* (2016) and *The Magic Knight* (2017) in the chorus, and *H.M.S. Pinafore* (2017) as the Carpenter's Mate. A classical pianist by training, Neil currently cantors and plays organ as a ringer for various churches in the Fairfield County area. He sings at Sacred Heart Church as their primary tenor. He thanks Gregory Freilino for continued vocal guidance.

∞ We Have a Little List ∞

The editor wishes to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including Angela Jajko, Jacqueline Haney, Laurie Weissbrot, Ann Ferentz, John Dreslin and the websites of NYGASP and Troupers Light Opera. (Please forgive any omissions!).

NEGASS Events

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern
NEGASS

August 15, 2020
negass.org

Zoom

The Bab Ballads
NEGASS

September 12, 2020
negass.org

Zoom

G&S Events

Trial by Jury
Piccola Opera

August 9, 2020
www.piccolaopera.org

The Gardens at Uncanoonuc
452 Mountain Road
Goffstown NH 03045