



## ∞ NEGASS Programs ∞

### From the President

As the winter days slowly lengthen, many NEGASS members are taking advantage of the extra hours of darkness to plunge themselves deep into rehearsal. *Ruddigore* or *The Witch's Curse* (or *Ruddigore*) is the operetta of choice this winter – however you want to spell it – with troupes in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts all in active rehearsal at this very moment! So wherever you live, there's no excuse to miss this ghostly funny favorite. First up, the Maenad Theatre Troupe will do a concert version in Quincy on February 8<sup>th</sup>; the Sudbury Savoyards' production is next, opening on February 22<sup>nd</sup> (a NEGASS group will be going on February 23<sup>rd</sup>); then, head on up to Ellsworth, Maine between March 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Maine's annual production in the historic Grand Theater; and finally, welcome spring with an outing to the Simsbury Light Opera Company's production the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May.

If sitting in the audience tapping your foot and mouthing the words doesn't satisfy you, please know that NEGASS continues to offer sing-along opportunities. Our open mic event was a great success and filled a cozy room with laughing song (though no merry dance) on a December afternoon. We have rescheduled the western Massachusetts *Iolanthe* sing originally planned for January to a time that suits more folks, so mark March 30<sup>th</sup> for that event! Finally, the NEGASS annual meeting will be on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will feature a read-through of *The Mikado* with full orchestra, assembled once again by Andrew Conway.

All this doesn't happen without you, our members, so as we always say, please let us know if you have ideas for future events ([programs@negass.org](mailto:programs@negass.org)).

Not a member? Join now! Visit <https://www.negass.org/membership.html>.

### Upcoming events

#### ♪ *Ruddigore* Outing – February 23, Sudbury, MA

Join a group of fellow Gilbert & Sullivan enthusiasts for the Sunday matinee of this ghostly operetta on a Grand Scale with over 40 actors on stage, full sets, costumes, lights, and the complete Sullivan orchestra. This performance will be at 1:30 PM (note the time of 1:30; traditionally Sudbury's afternoon shows have been at 2:00) at: Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln Rd, Sudbury, MA . NEGASS members may purchase up to two tickets at \$20 each by visiting our website: <https://www.negass.org/gs-events.html> before Thursday, February 20. We hope to see you there!

#### ♪ *Iolanthe* Sing – March 30, South Hadley, MA

We will hold a Western MA sing-through of *Iolanthe* (yes, we WILL hold it this time!) on March 30, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple Street in South Hadley, MA. Roles will be precast and all attendees are the chorus. Bring your own score, or borrow one from our library. Board member John Dreslin of the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society will accompany on the keyboard.

Interested in a role? Email Elaine Crane with your request by February 28 ([elainebcrane@gmail.com](mailto:elainebcrane@gmail.com)). As usual, NEGASS members receive casting preference.

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#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Laurence Weissbrot [editor@negass.org](mailto:editor@negass.org)

#### ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Brad Amidon, membership coordinator  
 Martha Birnbaum, technical support and member outreach  
 Elaine Crane, web mistress  
 Marianne Orlando, illustrator [www.marianneorlando.com](http://www.marianneorlando.com)  
 Ann Ferentz, Librarian [librarian@negass.org](mailto:librarian@negass.org)

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**THE TRUMPET BRAY** is published six times a year on the 1st 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)

#### GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS

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

**MEMBERSHIP:** Annual NEGASS membership dues are \$25. 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.



#### Roles available:

The Lord Chancellor (comic baritone)  
 George, Earl of Mountarat (baritone)  
 Thomas, Earl Tolloller (tenor)  
 Private Willis, of the Grenadier Guards (bass)  
 Strephon, an Arcadian Shepherd (baritone)  
 Phyllis, Shepherdess and Ward in Chancery (soprano)  
 Queen of the Fairies (contralto)  
 Iolanthe, a Fairy, Strephon's mother (mezzo-soprano)  
 Celia, a Fairy (soprano)  
 Leila, a Fairy (mezzo-soprano)  
 Fleta, a Fairy (speaking role)

- ♪ NEGASS Annual Meeting – June 22, Natick, MA  
 NEGASS will hold its annual business meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, June 22, 2025 followed by a read-through of *The Mikado* with full orchestra. Role requests will open in the spring.
- ♪ NEGASS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Sept 4-6 2026, Concord, MA  
 Ann Ferentz, Lindsey Buccella, John Dreslin, Carl Weggel, Martha Birnbaum, Sara DeLong, Angela Jajko, and Blair Eig continue planning for the NEGASS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary sing-out of all 13 operettas on Labor Day weekend 2026 at 51 Walden in Concord, MA, with open casting for all shows.



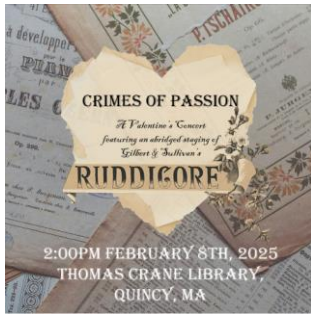
Mark Leibold has designed this beautiful logo. If you are a member of a performing group, let us know about program ad opportunities, as we will place ads in your program books as part of our publicity for the event.

Do you have a passion for project planning or organizing things? (We know you are out there...) Or do you just want to help us make this happen on the weekend of the event? Please be in touch! Email us at [programs@negass.org](mailto:programs@negass.org) so we can add you to our little list. We'll need the most help in the weeks and days leading up to the event, but we're already building our list of potential volunteers.

- Ann Ferentz

#### ❧ NEGASS NEWS ❧

If you have never seen *Ruddigore*, or *The Witch's Curse* before, this is your chance. The Maenad Theatre Troupe will do a concert version of *Ruddigore* on February 8. Sudbury Savoyards will present *Ruddigore* starting February 22. The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Maine's late winter production of *Ruddigore* starts on March 7, and Simsbury Light Opera will present, you guessed it, *Ruddigore* in late April and early May.



**The Maenad Theatre Troupe** is a nascent artistic project bringing classical music and theatre to Boston's South Shore, according to their FaceBook page, which describes their foundational principles as anti-elitism,

collaboration, and a healthy amount of tomfoolery. We were unaware of their existence until two of their number attended the Open Mic event in December. Lee Ellis, director of their *Ruddigore*, did a very good Mad Margaret as she sang "Cheerily carols the lark." "Crimes of Passion" will be a free concert version of this G&S operetta performed at the Thomas Crane Library, 40 Washington Street, Quincy, MA at 2:00 PM February 8, 2025. Go see it and send us a review!

The last Bray featured The **Sudbury Savoyards** cast and crew for *Ruddigore or The Witch's Curse*, their main stage production at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln RD, Sudbury MA 01776.

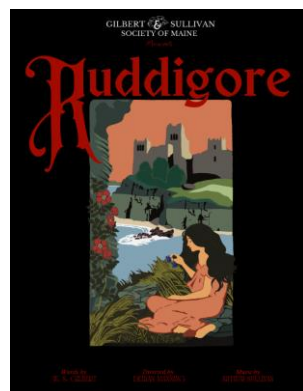
**Performances:**

- Saturday, February 22, 2025, 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 23, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Friday, February 28, 2025, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, March 1, 2025, 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM



They are also looking for ushers and concession staff. Volunteers must arrive an hour before performance start time and will assist patrons to the ticket table, hand out playbills, sell concessions, help the audience to their seats once the auditorium doors open, and clean up after the performance. Those interested should contact Hersch Clopper, House Manager at [hsclopper@comcast.net](mailto:hsclopper@comcast.net) or call/text (508)380-0178.

The **Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Maine** will present *Ruddigore* at The Grand Theatre on Main Street in Ellsworth on March 7 (Fri) at 7:00PM, March 8 (Sat) at 2:00PM, March 9 (Sun) at 2:00PM, March 14 (Fri) at 7:00PM, March 15 (Sat) at 2:00PM, March 16 (Sun) at 2:00PM.



Join **Simsbury Light Opera Company** for their 78<sup>th</sup> season's production of *Ruddigore or The Witch's Curse*.

**The Cast**

- |                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Bart Bales       | Richard Dauntless          |
| Jay Wolman       | Sir Ruthven/Robin Oakapple |
| David Belew      | Sir Despard Murgatroyd     |
| Cassandra Pease  | Ruth                       |
| Deborah Jacobson | Dame Hannah                |
| Mark McNally     | Sir Roderic Murgatroyd     |
| Haley Stoliker   | Rose Maybud                |
| Kathleen Archer  | Zorah                      |
| Emily Trudeau    | Mad Margaret               |
| Mark Callahan    | Old Adam                   |

Performances are April 26, 7:30PM & April 27, 2:00PM and May 3, 7:30PM & May 4, 2:00PM at Henry James Memorial School, 155 Firetown Road, Simsbury CT. For tickets call 860-325-0766 or go to [www.SLOCO.org](http://www.SLOCO.org).

**Valley Light Opera's 50th Anniversary Gala!**



**Be a part of VLO history.** In March of 1975, a group of G&S devotees gathered together at the home of Bill and Sally Venman and founded the Valley Light Opera. On March 15, 2025 the VLO will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a community theater.

Come and enjoy dinner, entertainment, VLO museum, and story telling of the last 50 years. We hope you can join us at the Red Barn at Hampshire College at 893 West St, Amherst, MA for this momentous and historic occasion!

VLO members past and present will be performing musical selections from most of the G&S canon with orchestra, led by NEGASS Board member and VLO music director Aldo Fabrizi. A limited number of tickets will be available through [the VLO website](http://theVLOwebsite.com).

The **Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan Players** are back. On December 6 2024 they gave a free concert of some of the most beloved G&S songs to reignite enthusiasm for G&S on campus. They are set to produce *H.M.S. Pinafore* in the spring of 2025.

The **Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society** will hold auditions for their 2025 show, *Iolanthe*, at Congregation Adath Israel, 8 Broad Street, Middletown, CT on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 from 6PM to 9PM and on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 7PM to 9PM. Look for more details in the next issue of The Trumpet Bray.



## ❧ G & S NEWS ❧

The 31st **International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival** takes place at the stunning Buxton Opera House in



August 2025! Enjoy the wit, charm, and joy of exceptional performances, all accompanied by the acclaimed National Festival Orchestra.

The Festival presents a brilliant mix of top amateur societies

alongside superb professional productions by the renowned National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company and Charles Court Opera.

Take in a jam-packed fringe programme and round off each evening at the lively Festival Cabaret Club. The fun never ends! Go to [gsfestivals.org](http://gsfestivals.org) for complete information.

Marisa Green heads up the SavoyNet Performing Group's production of *The Zoo* (Wednesday, 6 August) and *HMS Pinafore* (Thursday, 14 August). Unfortunately the audition notice for these shows came out too late to be mentioned in the December Bray, and the January 21 extended deadline is before the publication date for this issue. This marks the first time SavoyNet has ventured to mount two shows at the festival.

Rick Joyce will direct *HMS Pinafore*. Andrew Smith will direct *The Zoo*. Eric Peterson is music director.

If you plan to travel to Buxton this summer, be aware that you will need to apply for the ETA (you don't need to have your flights in order to do this, and it's good for two years). This is a new update since last summer – it just went into effect January 1. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

If you are a regular user of the G&S Archive (and if you're not, why not?!) you know that Marc Shepherd's G&S Discography, which went missing for a while, has been made available once again. Here is the link:

<https://oakapplepress.net/gasdisc/index.htm>

Mitch Orman posted the following to SavoyNet:

Since the Discography is back online, I thought it might be useful to post a list of all of the recordings that have been released on CD since the last update. This list is from CDs in my collection; it is possible that I have missed one or two but sadly there haven't been a high number of new releases.



Ohio Light Opera:

- *Patience* 2010 Albany Records Troy 1241/42
- *The Pirates of Penzance* 2011 Albany Records Troy 1331/32
- *HMS Pinafore* 2013 Albany Records Troy 1459/60

BBC National Orchestra of Wales:

- *The Beauty Stone* 2013 Chandos 10794

Victorian Opera Northwest:

- *On Shore and Sea/Kenilworth* 2014 Dutton Epoch CDLX7310

BBC Concert Orchestra:

- *The Tempest/Macbeth/Marmion Overture* 2016 Dutton Epoch 2CDLX7331
- *The Montebanks* 2018 Dutton Epoch 2CDLX7349
- *The Light of the World* 2018 Dutton Epoch 2CDLX7356
- *Haddon Hall/Captain Billy/Mr. Jericho* 2020 Dutton Epoch 2CDLX7372
- *L'ile Enchantée/Procession March/Day Dreams/The Sapphire Necklace Overture* 2022 Dutton Epoch CDLX7404

Scottish Opera:

- *HMS Pinafore* 2016 Linn Records CKD522

David Owens Norris:

- *Sir Arthur Sullivan Songs* 2017 Chandos 10935
- *The Harmonious Echo* 2021 Chandos 20239

Erica Rome and Michael Blum will host **BaltiQWERT 22** on May 31, 2025 at the Towson Universalist Unitarian Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville MD.

The program will include the music from:

*Trial By Jury*  
*Utopia Ltd*  
*Yeomen of the Guard*  
*Sorcerer*  
*Iolanthe*

and the madrigal from *Ruddigore!*

Pianists are Erica Rome and Florrie Marks. Role requests are due March 15, 2025, with casting in early April. Send role requests to [michaelblum71@gmail.com](mailto:michaelblum71@gmail.com)

In addition to your role requests:

1. Please list your first and last name as you'd like it to appear in the program, what state or province you live in, and voice type (soprano/alto/tenor/bass.)
2. If we don't have enough roles to go around, are you willing to sing chorus only?
3. Can you stay for the whole day? We prefer this so we have enough chorus people for all the shows.

**\*\*ACCESSIBILITY NOTE\*\*** There are 8-10 steps into the entrance. There is a way around this (a ramp and a side entrance) but it is not as easy. Bathrooms are down a full flight of stairs.

Email questions, comments, or concerns to Erica at [erica@ericarome.com](mailto:erica@ericarome.com)

If you want to attend a QWERT but Baltimore is too far, consider the following SavoyNet posting from Sam Silvers in New York City:

Dear Savoynetters:

I am planning to host a QWERT on Saturday, May 17, 2025. We will sing through all the music of *Iolanthe*,

*Yeomen, The Zoo, Trial by Jury and H.M.S. Pinafore.* Please mark your calendars! Accompanists will be Erica Rome [yes, that Erica Rome! – ed.], and Cathy Miller.

*Iolanthe* will start at 11 AM and *H.M.S. Pinafore* should end the day around 6PM. The QWERT will be at my apartment on Broadway near 125th St. (near the #1 train).

Please let me know if you will attend, and tell me your voice part, so I can get an idea of the likely headcount. Please do not send role requests yet! I will ask for role requests in March and will give more information about that at the time. Everyone will eventually be assigned one or more principal roles. Just music, no dialogue. If you have any questions, feel free to send me a private e-mail.

- Sam Silvers [ssilversgs@gmail.com](mailto:ssilversgs@gmail.com)

Savoynetter **Marc Shepherd** has also been busy:

As some of you may know, I've for several years been preparing full scores and parts of the G&S operas for a group in Tennessee. At least, that's the impetus – I would not do it without the belief that they would eventually be used elsewhere. I am on my fourth one now.

My score and parts of *The Grand Duke* have already been used in several productions with others upcoming. I am working on completing the introduction and appendices, but in the meantime the edition is available now to those who may need it. When finished, it will be available to purchase for those who want a bound copy, but the download at [imslp.org](http://imslp.org) will always be free.

In the same vein: *The Gondoliers* is now posted to [imslp.org](http://imslp.org). There are no extant "lost songs" in *The Gondoliers*, but there are several optional passages offered, such as the "Yankee Doodle" quotation in "There lived a king" and an extra four bars preceding Don Alhambra's entrance in the Act II finale that were in the original production but later deleted; and a few others.

I think this is the only modern edition of *The Gondoliers* with a full score and parts from the same source, and therefore agreeing on such things as measure numbers, rehearsal letters, and so forth. It is Sullivan's full orchestration, with optional transpositions for Clarinets and Cornets and B-flat and Horns in F.

As this is still a draft, I would be eager to receive any comments that could make the final published version better. You can visit [imslp's Gondoliers](http://imslp.org/wiki/The_Gondoliers_(Sullivan,_Arthur)) page here: [https://imslp.org/wiki/The\\_Gondoliers\\_\(Sullivan,\\_Arthur\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/The_Gondoliers_(Sullivan,_Arthur))

- Marc Shepherd

## ✧ EDITOR'S CORNER ✧

On Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 a small but enthusiastic group filled a room at Christ Lutheran Church in Natick MA for our open mic event, with John Dreslin accompanying on the piano. As usually happens with these events, the amount of enjoyment among the participants is unrelated to any



skipped words or wrong notes. They are a chance for singers with the "wrong" physical appearance to perform a role or song they could never do on stage in front of a paying audience. They are an opportunity to meet new members of the G&S Brotherhood. If you've never attended one, you don't know what you are missing. We have a similar opportunity coming up: the sing-through of *Iolanthe* on March 30 in South Hadley, MA. I strongly urge you to attend. Photos courtesy of Francesco Buccella.

Here is Mike Bromberg, whose real name, apparently, is John Wellington Wells from *The Sorcerer*.



John Freedman, Lindsey Buccella, and Brad Amidon gave us a lively "Never mind the why and wherefore" from *HMS Pinafore*.



Also from *Pinafore*, John Freedman, your editor, and Gabriel Ellsworth sang the glee ("A british tar.")



A many years ago, when she was young and charming, Joan Toone sang Tom Lehrer's "The Elements" to the tune of A modern major general." She reprised that performance for us here.

We had two representatives from The Maenad Theatre Troupe, Angela Maloney and Lee Ellis (who sang a terrific "Cheerily carols the lark"). Here Angela gives us "If somebody there chanced to be" from *Ruddigore*.



Randy Glidden was not getting much sleep that night, suffering through a nightmare in *Iolanthe*. Then almost everyone got involved in the *Iolanthe* Finale. Here are yours

truly, Joan, Gabriel, Lindsey, Michelle Markus, John, and Randy.



- 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, Jacqueline Haney, Aldo Fabrizi, Dan Kravetz, Sam Silvers, Marc Shepherd, and Lindsey and Francesco Buccella.

(Please forgive any omissions!)

**NEGASS Events**

Outing to Sudbury <i>Ruddigore</i>	February 23 2025 1:30 PM	Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School 390 Lincoln Road Sudbury MA
<i>Iolanthe</i> sing-through	March 30, 2025 2:00 PM	Wesley United Methodist Church 98 North Maple Street South Hadley, MA
Outing to SLOCO <i>Ruddigore</i>	Late April 2025 Date and time TBD	Henry James Memorial School 155 Firetown Road Simsbury, CT 06070
2025 Annual Meeting and <i>Mikado</i> sing-through	June 22, 2025 2:00 PM	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**

The Maenad Theatre Troupe Crimes of Passion Featuring <i>Ruddigore</i>	February 8, 2025 2:00 PM	Thomas Crane Library 40 Washington Street Quincy, MA
Sudbury Savoyards <i>Ruddigore</i>	February 22, 2025, 1:30 & 7:30 PM February 23, 2025, 1:30 PM February 28, 2025, 7:30 PM March 1, 2025, 1:30 & 7:30 PM	Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School 390 Lincoln Road Sudbury, MA
Simsbury Light Opera Company <i>Ruddigore</i>	April 26, 2025, 7:30 PM April 27, 2025, 2:00 PM May 3, 2025, 7:30 PM May 4, 2:00 PM	Henry James Memorial School 155 Firetown Road Simsbury, CT 06070
Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Maine <i>Ruddigore</i>	Friday March 7, 2025, 7:00 PM March 8 & 9, 2025, 2:00 PM, March 14, 2025 7:00 PM March 15 & 16, 2025, 2:00 PM	Grand Theatre 165 Main Street Ellsworth ME
Sam Silver's NYC QWERT	Saturday May 17, 2025 11 AM	3117 Broadway Apt 28 NYC NY
BaltiQWERT	Saturday May 31, 2025 9 AM	Towson Universalist Unitarian Church 1710 Dulaney Valley Road Lutherville MD
Harvard-Radcliff Gilbert & Sullivan Players <i>HMS Pinafore</i>	Spring 2025	Agassiz Theatre 5 James Street Cambridge MA
Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society <i>Iolanthe</i> auditions	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025 from 6PM to 9PM June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 from 7PM to 9PM	Congregation Adath Israel 8 Broad Street Middletown, CT
31st International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival	August 2 - 16, 2025	Buxton Opera House Buxton UK