



## ~ NEGASS Programs ~

### From the President

2026 has arrived, the year that marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society! The first edition of *The Trumpet Bray* was published in October 1976 and issued the call “Let the loyal legions gather round!” for the inaugural meeting that month. The agenda included everybody singing from *The Pirates of Penzance*, the Maynard Savoyards (now the Savoyard Light Opera Company) presenting excerpts from their production of *The Gondoliers*, and “refreshments and general G&S excitement.”

Operetta sing-alongs have stood the test of time, and remain NEGASS’s most popular events. We have also continued the fine tradition of having excellent refreshments at our meetings. NEGASS will be sponsoring two more operetta sings this year – or 14, if you’re counting operettas. In June, we will have a read-through of *Princess Ida* with full orchestra in conjunction with our annual meeting. Everyone will be the chorus and roles will be pre-cast closer to the event date. In September, we will host a sing-out of all 13 operettas in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We hope and trust that people from outside New England will be joining us for the three-day event. We will be casting all 13 operettas this spring, so now is a great time to think about your dream and bucket list roles.

The inaugural *Bray* also clarified that NEGASS is not a performing organization per se, but rather an appreciation society. Toward that end, we are looking forward to an upcoming group outing to that most jubilant of all G&S operettas, *The Gondoliers*, in Sudbury, MA. If you haven’t joined one of our group outings, please consider coming to the February 21<sup>st</sup> matinee with us. We enjoy getting a critical mass together to swap impressions and cheerful facts during the intermission and over dinner afterwards. And members get a small discount on tickets. Hope to see you there!

- Ann Ferentz

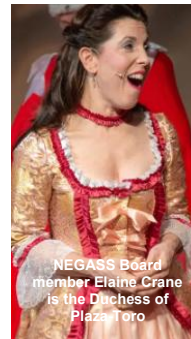
### Upcoming NEGASS Events

#### ♪ **Open Mic: Love Blighted and Unrequited - RESCHEDULED for February 8, Cambridge, MA**

The open mic event originally scheduled for Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> has been moved to February 8<sup>th</sup> due to a snowstorm. Same time (2:00 PM), same place (University Lutheran Church, 66 Winthrop Street in Harvard Square), same singers, and same wonderful accompanist (Dr. John Dreslin of the CT G&S Society)! If you couldn’t attend in January but would like to join us February 8<sup>th</sup>, please email [president@negass.org](mailto:president@negass.org).



#### ♪ **Gondoliers Outing - February 21, Sudbury, MA**



A NEGASS group will be attending the opening matinee of the Sudbury Savoyards’ production of *The Gondoliers*, directed by Sara Delong with musical direction by Aldo Fabrizi. The performance will be at 1:30 PM at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in Sudbury, MA and includes many NEGASS members on and off the stage. Depending on the interest of the participants, we may go out to

dinner after the performance.

NEGASS members may purchase up to two tickets at a \$5 discount (\$25 adults/\$20 seniors) by February 18 through our website: <https://www.negass.org/gs-events.html>. If you are unsure of your membership status, please email [contact@negass.org](mailto:contact@negass.org).

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**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.



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

NEGASS will hold its annual business meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, June 28 at Christ Lutheran Church in Natick, MA, followed by a read-through of *Princess Ida* with full orchestra assembled once again by Andrew Conway. Dr. John Dreslin of the Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society will conduct. Role requests will open with publication of the April *Trumpet Bray*. As usual, NEGASS members will have priority for casting.

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

We are actively working toward opening registration at the beginning of April for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary sing-out of all 13 operettas over Labor Day weekend at 51 Walden Street in Concord, MA.



Participants will be able to request roles and conducting and accompanying opportunities – or sing chorus for all or part of the weekend.

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 any questions, or to volunteer. We will need lots of NEGASS members to help out over the weekend, and in the weeks leading up to the event.

**Library Corner**

NEGASS has 18 extra, new Schirmer vocal scores of *The Pirates of Penzance*, which are available for \$10 each (more than 50% off list price). If you or a group you know would be interested in purchasing some or all of them, please contact [librarian@negass.org](mailto:librarian@negass.org).

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>.

As a reminder, one of the benefits of NEGASS membership is that vocal scores in our library are available for members to borrow, should they like to host a sing of their own. Please contact [librarian@negass.org](mailto:librarian@negass.org) to arrange a loan.

∞ **NEGASS NEWS** ∞

The **Sudbury Savoyards** invite the community to escape the chilly New England winter and join us in sunny Venice at our upcoming mainstage





production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* in their 65<sup>th</sup> year. The cast features some of Boston's top operatic talent, backed by a considerable community chorus, all accompanied by a full orchestra led by DASH award-winning musical director Aldo Fabrizi.



We invite attendees at each matinee (February 21, 22, and 28) to explore the



stage after the performance, with a chance to meet actors and orchestra members, get close-up views of the set and costumes, and learn how The Sudbury

Savoyards present "Gilbert & Sullivan on a Grand Scale." Tickets to *The Gondoliers*, available at the door or online at [www.SudburySavoyards.org](http://www.SudburySavoyards.org), range from \$18 to \$45 for general seating in the spacious, ADA-accessible **Kirshner Auditorium Theater at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln RD, Sudbury MA 01776**. Performances are Saturday, February 21, 2026, 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM, Sunday, February 22, 2026, 1:30 PM, Friday, February 27, 2026, 7:30 PM, and Saturday, February 28, 2026, 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM.

Stage Direction	Sara DeLong
Music Direction	Aldo Fabrizi
Choreography	Tess Klibanoff

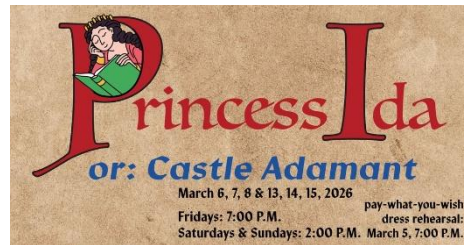
**Cast:**

The Duke of Plaza-Toro	Tom Frates
The Duke Cover	Matthew Garber
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro	Elaine Crane
Luiz	David Smyth
Don Alhambra	Blair Eig
Marco	Brad Amidon
Marco Cover	Liam Hefferman
Giuseppe	Santo Mammone
Antonio	Liam Hefferman
Francesco	Randy Glidden
Giorgio	Jeremy White
Annibale	Kai Fay
Casilda	Naré Kim
Gianetta	Danielle Shevchenko
Gianetta Cover	Alicia Boucher
Tessa	Gretchen Struckmeyer
Fiametta	Becca Bly
Vittoria/Giulia	Graham Daley
Inez	Martha Warren

**Chorus/Ensemble**

Matthew Behrle, Roy Benson, Alicia Boucher, Brendon Chetwynd, Kirsten Chetwynd, Dianne DeChellis, Debbie Crane, Jennifer Dohm, Art Dunlap, Meryl Eisenstein, Matthew Garber, Deborah Gaz, Cat Glidden, Christine Kann, Kimberly Kapner, Laurel Martin, Larry Millner, Aire Nifong, Mei-Lin Po, Tom Porcher, Karen Powers, Alan Rohwer, Cathy Sullivan, Kerry Tamm, Webb Tilney, Peter Welsh

Gondoliers Logo design by Marianne Orlando Illustrations. All photographs by Chris Pollari. Visit their website, [sudburysavoyards.org](http://sudburysavoyards.org) for detailed information.



The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Maine announced the cast for their upcoming production of *Princess Ida*:

King Hildebrand	Roland Dube
Hilarion	Jonas Rinkunas
Cyril	Andrew Phinney
Florian	Theodore Dumas
King Gama	Daniel Clement
Arac	Joe Marshall
Guron	Carl Faulstick
Scynthius	Mike Bromberg
Princess Ida	Sonia Berghoff
Lady Blanche	Shannon Elliot
Lady Psyche	Kahlan Hanle
Melissa	Emily Greene
Sacharissa	Lydia Reifsnyder
Chloe	Sophia Kane
Ada	Alison Cox

Performances of *Princess Ida* will be at **The Grand** (165 Main St., Ellsworth) on March 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15, 2026. Visit their website <https://www.gilbertsullivanmaine.org> for more information.

**Troupers** (a.k.a. Troupers Light Opera) is a Norwalk, CT based non-profit musical theater performing company, drawing volunteers and performers from the entire Tri-state area. Their Spring show is *Iolanthe*, to be performed at the Crystal Theater, 66 Bayview Ave, Norwalk, CT on April 11, 12, 18 and 19.



Stage director:	Marian Shulman
Music director:	Nicholas Sienkiewicz
Associate Music Director:	Ben McCormack

**Cast**

Phyllis	Anisa Kureishi
Iolanthe	Kathryn Rojas
Fairy Queen	McKayla Ferguson
Celia	Madonna Pedone
Leila	Melinda Bauers
Fleta	Addie Black
Lord Chancellor	Greg Suss
understudy	Jim Cooper
Strephon	Alan Briones
Lord Tolloller	Elias Levy
Lord Mountarat	TBA
Private Willis	Jeffrey Schwartz

**Chorus of Fairies**

Bella Germain, Amber Harris, Maribeth Johnson, Grace Kelley Kretzmer, Miki Nakahata, Alexandra Smith.

**Chorus of Peers**

Bill Abbott, Mark Callahan, Ben Dussault,  
Jim Cooper, John Hoover, Bill Kenyon, Jeff Rossman,  
Andrew Shand, Robert Strom.



**The Simsbury Light Opera Company**, has just announced the cast for their Spring production of *The Mikado*:

The Mikado	Mark McNally
Nanki-Poo	James Ring-Howell
Ko-Ko	Tim Colby
Pooh-Bah	Jay Wolman
Pish-Tush	Nate Brown
Yum-Yum	Haley Stoliker
Pitti-Sing	Elizabeth Boucher
Peep-Bo	Shira Flowers
Katisha	April Ackroyd

Directed by Deanna Swanson, the show will include "*The Mikado Re-Imagined, a Prologue*" by author and creator David Auxier-Loyola, used with permission of New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. More information on this and their vision for this production is available on the "Our Show" page at the SLOCO website [www.sloco.org](http://www.sloco.org).

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.

If you are interested in singing or volunteering with SLOCO, please email [sloco@sloco.org](mailto:sloco@sloco.org) and ask to be added to their mailing list! All show participants must be or become **Members**.



**The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society** is seeking a music director. Last October, with a collective tear in its eye and heartfelt thanks, CG&SS

announced the retirement of its long-time and highly esteemed Music Director, (and NEGASS Board member) Dr. John Dreslin. As a result of John's retirement, they are currently looking for a MUSIC DIRECTOR for their October 2026 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Those who wish to apply for this position, should email their CV, and list of references to [jfreedman@snet.net](mailto:jfreedman@snet.net), including in the email, links to any audios or videos of shows or other musical performances where they served

as the Music Director. The cut-off date for applying for the position is April 1, 2026. The selection committee will review candidate applications and set up dates and times to conduct interviews. Before applying, applicants should visit <https://bit.ly/CGSSMUSICDIRECTOR> for important additional information about this position. The decision and selection of a Music Director will be made no later than May 1, 2026.

Cast auditions for the show will be held Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> in Middletown, CT. Cast rehearsals will be held in Middletown each Sunday evening (6pm-9pm) and Tuesday evening (7pm-9pm) and begin Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>. Performance dates are Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and are at Valley Regional High School, Deep River, CT.

**G & S NEWS**

NEGASS member Michael Bromberg has passed along a couple of items to share:

His elder sister's theatre company (Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces, NM) is teaming up with the Gilbert & Sullivan Company of El Paso, TX for three performances of a fundraising program of G&S (and other) love songs on February 13 & 14 at 7:00 PM in El Paso and February 15 at 2:30 PM in Las Cruces. More information on performances from [ceil@zianet.com](mailto:ceil@zianet.com).

His younger sister has produced a series of six love-themed tiles, shown below, with G&S quotes and Bab Ballad illustrations, to accompany this production. Members may be interested in acquiring some of these tiles. Suggestions for other quotes are welcome. More information on tiles at [lucisings@gmail.com](mailto:lucisings@gmail.com).

The tiles are available to anyone and can be mailed.



Each year Stan DeOrsey publishes a list of new resources in the G&S world. Here is a summary of his 2025 updates. Full detailed information can be found in the G&S Archive of SavoyNet postings:

It is that time. I will attempt to list a variety of publications, events, and news about G&S in the past year.

I will start with new books, as there were some very interesting ones published.

- Elaine Richardson published "Frederic Sullivan, The Original Learned Judge." It tells Fred's story, including the relationship with his younger brother, Arthur Sullivan, through letters, other original documents, and from people who knew him. I suspect if Fred had not been so successful as the Judge in *Trial by Jury*, the G&S partnership might never have continued.
- And after years of no books about the D'Oyly Carte family there comes another, "The Lost Heirs – The Rise and Fall of the D'Oyly Carte Dynasty" by James W. Stebbings. This book gives details about Rupert's brother and son.
- David Mackie has published another volume of his memoirs, his third, "Not a Lot of Work or Life Before D'Oyly Carte." He calls it "positively the last!"

Greg Anderson posted many excerpts from Sullivan's diaries with extensive annotations concerning what the entry was truly about. They are online at <https://tinyurl.com/3b6mfwbp>. Most are extremely fascinating and well worth reading. If you only read one, start here <https://tinyurl.com/43phmzxu>.

2025 was a year in which many full Sullivan scores were published. Marc Shepherd is the leader in this category creating multiple full scores available as free downloads.

- He started the year with *The Gondoliers*. Visit IMSLP's *Gondoliers* page.
- Marc shifted his process when he next edited a full score of *The Mikado*, posting comments and questions song by song, so people could follow his progress and understand the work needed. It was truly fascinating to watch.
- Marc is now doing *Trial by Jury* in a similar fashion to *The Mikado*.
- Colin Jagger has edited the full score, vocal score, and band parts of *Trial by Jury*, available on Amazon.
- A new full score of *Princess Ida*, edited by Madeleine Madrigal, is available for free download on IMSLP, the first free full score of this opera.
- The copyist's full score of *The Yeomen of the Guard* used in the American premiere in New York in 1888 was digitized and placed online by Daniel Miller.
- Daniel also digitized a copy of Sullivan's autograph manuscript of *The Sorcerer*; however, this is the 1884 revival version. The original version has never been published; it exists and should be published. The revival version is available on the Internet Archive and IMSLP.
- Daniel Miller also posted the autograph manuscript of *The Chieftain*, composed by Arthur Sullivan to a libretto by F. C. Burnand, available on the Internet Archive and IMSLP.

The Scottish Opera production of *Utopia Ltd.* from 2022, was recorded in a studio with a similar, but not identical cast. This CD, on the Naxos label, includes a second recording of the *King Arthur* music as a bonus.

Maybe this qualifies as a new format: YouTube. Laurence Leng continued to tour the UK to interview former D'Oyly Carte members and to record and post their memories of the Company. Many interviews are with people who were behind the scenes and are far less known but equally interesting.

On a sad note, vice-president of the Sir Arthur Sullivan Society, Dr. Anne Stanyon, passed away July 17, 2025. She was the expert and much more on Sullivan. She knew every concert he conducted, whom he interacted with, and much more.

We do hope 2026 continues to successfully showcase G&S.

- Stan DeOrsey [jsmd@att.net](mailto:jsmd@att.net)

## ❧ REVIEW ❧

### **Bab and the Bard: Gilbert's *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern* by Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**

Any NEGASSers eager to expand their knowledge of Gilbert's wider oeuvre should turn to Rafe MacPhail's magazine-length study in the autumn 2025 issue of the W. S. Gilbert Society Journal. In it he traces the genesis, composition, publication, and long delayed stage premiere of the great librettist's ironic satire on Shakespeare's play. Here Hamlet is a failed playwright and Ophelia survives in the arms of Rosencrantz. But far



from being a mere takeoff, hilarious as it is (and the complete text is printed at the end of the 92-page magazine), Gilbert turns what could have been a one-off spoof into something universal about not only Shakespearean drama but about theater itself. Think of how *Patience* is no outdated parody of aestheticism but an ever-relevant commentary on faddishness and

hypocrisy. MacPhail leads us through every aspect of Gilbert's "*Tragic Episode in Three Tableaux, founded on an old Danish legend*" with scholarly thoroughness and his customary light touch. Having directed the play first at the Gilbert Sesquicentennial Symposium at M. I. T. in 1986 and presented there an earlier version of this paper, he's delved further into his subject, including a correspondence with the late Tom Stoppard who approached the same characters in a somewhat different vein.

- Jonathan Strong

Copies of the journal can be purchased with PayPal by writing [Gilbertsociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Gilbertsociety@yahoo.co.uk)

## ✧ EDITOR'S CORNER ✧

In this issue we have a review of an issue of the W. S. Gilbert Society Journal whose paragraphs were written and contributed by G&S scholar and stalwart Ralph MacPhail. Rafe sent me a copy of the issue in question, which I read cover to cover.

While this is a must for the G&S completists in the audience, it is very dry reading. Also, a true scholar, Mr. MacPhail uses copious endnotes (73 of them), a full bibliography, and an addendum. As a personal habit, I tend to flip back and forth with every endnote, making this tedious reading. My personal preference is footnotes. Also, some comments that could have been notes were included as parenthetical remarks instead.



*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* by W. S. Gilbert

In the pages of *Fun*, December 1874

At Virginia Commonwealth University, March 1972

Besides the play itself, my favorite lines from the volume came on page 55, endnote 72, which describes the Samuel French Inc. catalogue discussing *Hamlet II (Better than the Original)*: "A New Comedy by Sam Bobrick; Original Story by William Shakespeare." "There's wordplay, there's discussion of Hamlet's (in)sanity, and there's enough irreverence toward Shakespeare to delight Gilbert (though he would be shocked by some of the language). There is even

a much happier and (in the author's opinion) more satisfying ending. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come off like Groucho Marx, Ophelia is a loose woman and alas, poor Yorick is turned into a crazed one-liner comic. ... And what of Prince Hamlet? ...It's highly recommended that people order a copy of this play before the world ends and the mail service gets even slower."

That was in 1987. I don't think mail service has improved in the almost 40 years since then.

Thank you, Rafe and Jonathan.

On a different subject, I am very happy to see the number and variety of singing opportunities NEGASS is providing this year. The first is the Open Mic Event, moved to February 8<sup>th</sup> because of the snow (that I am watching accumulate as I type this.) This is the epitome of informal, low-pressure, completely free places to showcase your talents. So, if you want to sing something (anything – it doesn't have to be G&S) in front of a small, non-judgmental audience, this is your chance.



Next, we have the Princess Ida read/sing-through at the Annual Meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have never experienced the joy of singing while backed by a full orchestra (or if it has been a long time since you did), this is the shop for it. The audience will be larger than for the open mic event, but just as friendly.



Finally, we have the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. We expect a large turnout, but there are parts of all sizes available for a large number of singers. Here, the folks doing the casting will be trying to distribute the roles equitably while eliciting the best presentations. From

past experiences at the Rockville, MD Sing-Outs, I know that great performances are well appreciated, and I believe we will be treated to many such displays.

So warm up your voices, choose what you would like to sing, and plan for an eventful year with NEGASS!

- 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, Jonathan Strong, Rafe MacPhail, Stan DeOrsey, Greg Anderson, Michael Bromberg, John Freedman, John Dreslin, Ralph Sherman, Lee Ellis, Diane DeChellis, Marianne Orlando, and Chris Pollari. (Please forgive any omissions!)

**NEGASS Events**

**Open Mic Event**

**February 8, 2026  
2:00 PM**

**University Lutheran Church  
66 Winthrop Street in  
Harvard Square  
Boston MA**

**Outing to  
Sudbury Savoyards  
*The Gondoliers***

**February 21, 2026, 1:30PM**

**Lincoln-Sudbury  
Regional High School  
390 Lincoln Road  
Sudbury MA**

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

**June 28, 2026**

**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**

**Sudbury Savoyards  
*The Gondoliers***

**February 21, 2026, 1:30&7:30PM  
February 22, 2026, 1:30PM  
February 27, 2026, 7:30PM  
February 28, 2026, 1:30&7:30PM**

**Lincoln-Sudbury  
Regional High School  
390 Lincoln Road  
Sudbury MA**

**Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Maine  
*Princess Ida***

**March 6, 7, 8, 2026  
March 13, 14, 15, 2026**

**The Grand  
165 Main Street  
Ellsworth, ME**

**Troupers  
*Iolanthe***

**April 11, 12, 18 and 19**

**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***

**June 14 and 16, 2026**

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

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

**Oct 17 and 18, 2026**

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