



THE

TRUMPET BRAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY



~ NEGASS EVENTS ~

Annual meeting will be via Zoom on June 14; *Gondoliers* sing postponed

By Elaine Crane

Join NEGASS for our annual business meeting on Zoom on June 14 at 7:00 PM. The *Gondoliers*



sing has been postponed until face-to-face events can happen again. The agenda for this “virtual” meeting will include:

- Approval of previous year’s minutes
- treasurer’s report
- last year in review
- future plans
- board elections

A slate of candidates for the Board will be presented to the membership for their consideration. The results of the election will be presented in the August *Bray*.

The ZOOM annual meeting will be followed by live video submissions from our membership. Members may sign up (in advance) for a 3-4 minute

slot, during which they may entertain or enlighten in any way that would amuse or edify the other members. (Please keep all material appropriate for a general audience.) Members may sing, play, recite, read, review, parody, or show some other skill such as costuming, a special insight into anything G and/or S... creativity is encouraged! If you would like to request a slot, please send an email to: negass.org@gmail.com and our program coordinator will be in touch with the details.

Please come and add your presence to our meeting!

~ NEGASS NEWS ~

The new website is up and running!

After much “calm and tranquil deliberation” our new website is up and running. Please be sure to check it out: www.negass.org.

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NEGASS is “eager” to support local G&S groups

NEGASS is eager to support New England G&S groups by placing advertisements in your performance programs. For more information log onto our website: choose “About,” then “Contact Us” to receive more information.

~ Gently, gently evidently we are safe so far, after scaling fence and paling, here, at last we are! ~



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David DeVries

ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Elaine Crane, web mistress
Brad Amidon, membership
Susan Larson, education outreach

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GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS may be sent to dpdevries01@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP dues are \$25. Please join NEGASS online at www.negass.org, or contact negass.org@gmail.com.

THE TRUMPET BRAY Members receive the *Bray* as a PDF email attachment. All editions including the current one are available at www.negass.org.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL: 15th of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

www.negass.org



Old *Brays* needed for NEGASS archives

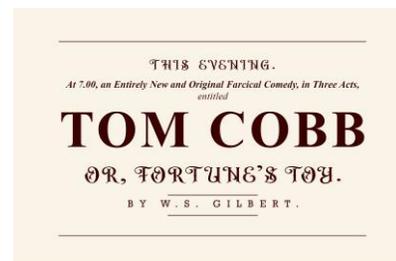
With the launch of the renovated NEGASS website, the Board has discovered that we do not have copies of any *Trumpet Brays* from mid-1992 through 1998. Scattered issues are also missing for 1999 through the early 2000's.

If you may be in possession of some of these issues, please email negass.org@gmail.com. Thank you!

About 50 attend May 9 "very unstaged" reading of *Tom Cobb* on ZOOM

By Jacqueline Haney

Tom Cobb or, Fortune's Toy is a farce by W. S. Gilbert that debuted at the St. James's Theatre on April 24, 1875. It concerns a young apothecary named Tom Cobb, engaged to be married but without the funds to do so. He agrees to pretend to be dead in order



to make a fresh start, but the man whose obituary he "borrowed" turns out to have left a fortune. Tom's flighty fiancée Matilda and her father, a preposterous Colonel, connive with Tom's rival to take control of the money. Matilda's school friend Caroline Effingham arrives, discussing her latest suit for breach of promise of marriage. When the rest of the picturesque and epigrammatic Effingham family becomes involved the whole thing gets downright silly.

NEGASS presented a "very unstaged" reading of this play on Zoom the evening of May 9. The cast featured **Ben Morse** as Colonel O'Fipp and **Elaine Crane** as his daughter Matilda, **Brad Amidon** in the title role as Tom Cobb, and **Ed Fell** as his rival, Tim Whipple. Caroline Effingham was played by **Kitty Drexel**, with **Matt Tragert** and **Martha Birnbaum** as her parents, and **Ann Ferentz** as brother Bulstrode Effingham. **Laurel Martin** completed the cast as Biddy, the maid.

There were about 50 people in the audience, tuning in from more than 40 computers. People "attended" from as far away as Ohio and California. Gilbert's

straight plays are not as well-known as the operettas, and many were pleasantly surprised at how funny the material actually is. Video of the Zoom production is available from the G&S Events page of the NEGASS.org website at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1krQUD4b-MeqWceBGIPuSY3fk2Wwa4DoY/view>.

The NEGASS Zoom production of *Tom Cobb* was a gratifying success! NEGASS plans to present more virtual performances in upcoming months. Possible programs include Sullivan's hymns, Gilbert's Bab Ballads and more of the shorter straight plays, like *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern*.



The cast of *Tom Cobb* left column top to bottom: Brad Amidon (Tom Cobb), Martha Birnbaum (Mrs. Effingham), Elaine Crane (Matilda O'Fipp), and Kitty Drexel (Caroline Effingham). Right column top to bottom: Ben Morse (Col. Effingham), Matt Taggart (Mr. Effingham), Ann Ferentz (Bulstrode Effingham), Tom Whipple (Ed Fell). Not pictured was Laurel Martin (Biddy, the maid). Screenshot courtesy of Chris Pollari.

~ G&S EVENTS ~

Sudbury Savoyards' Gilbert and Sullivan and Friends Concert - is now August 8

From Sudbury Savoyards website
Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the Sudbury Savoyards' 2020 Fundraiser, "Gilbert and Sullivan and Friends" Concert and Silent Auction, has been rescheduled from June 13 to August 8, 2020. The

event will be held at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury from 7-10pm. Tickets will be \$40 and reservations can be made on their website starting



at the end of June. Watch for the reservations link and more information as it becomes available.

Simsbury 75th gala moved from spring to mid or late summer 2020

By Jay Wolman

The Simsbury Light Opera Company production of *Pirates* has been put off until spring 2021. The 75th Gala is scheduled for mid or late summer 2020. This program will include a review of G&S numbers plus a one act performance of a show "other than *Trial by Jury*."

NSCC announces summer concert series cancellation

From the North Shore Summer Concert Series

As you might have guessed, it is with heavy hearts that we have decided to postpone our summer concert series at the Hamilton-Wenham Community House to 2021. If the climate allows, we



hope to be able to offer some other pop-up performance events in the fall/spring of next year. We will be in touch should that opportunity arise! We look forward to singing for you next season!

~ G&S NEWS ~

"Patience in Concert" encore performance held in NY

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of NY and the Temple Israel Center Savoyards held an encore of their concert of *Patience* on February 18, 2020.

❧ A PUZZLEMENT ❧

Finish the Lyric

Finish the lyric and then name the show from whence it comes for an extra point. Total available points=20.

1. The sun, whose rays _____
2. Gently, gently, Evidently _____
3. A time for ever gone- _____
4. Your tongue to teach _____
5. My name is _____
6. Away, away, _____
7. And are you going, _____
8. So let us sing _____
9. Hearts do not break! _____
10. For everyone who feels inclined _____

Answers on a following page.

❧ MISCELLANY ❧

"Tell me what you have heard about Gilbert and Sullivan."

By Jacqueline Haney

Last winter, I was talking about classics of musical theatre and I was telling people in my office about the production of *Pinafore* that I was working on. I said jokingly to one young co-worker "please tell



me what you have heard of Gilbert and Sullivan." My heart leapt when he said "Of course I have heard of Gilbert and Sullivan." And then he began to sing "Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with you again....," the classic Simon and Garfunkel song.

❧ CAST SPOTLIGHT ❧



Brett Kroeger

Brett Kroeger is a versatile performer of Troupers Light Opera

From Troupers website

Brett Kroeger has been a lead performer in the roles of Josephine - *HMS Pinafore*, Mercury - *Thespis*, Constance - *The Sorcerer*, Angela - *Patience*, Edith - *Pirates of Penzance*, Gretchen - *The Red Mill*. She is a dynamic and versatile performer who is comfortable in all musical genres, everything from opera and operetta, to cabaret and musical theater, art song recitals or singing the National Anthem.

She has also collaborated with Broadway pianist and musical director Christopher Denny to produce and perform her one woman show "Over There: Greatest Hits of the Great War" in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of WWI. This show has been performed throughout the tri-state area.

Other highlights of the last few seasons include singing the National Anthem for a televised game of the Connecticut Whale of the National Women's Hockey League. She was the featured vocalist at La Fenice in Venice for Hebrew University's European conference on "The Song of Songs."

❧ A BIT OF G&S TRIVIA ❧

"...and the rest is history."

By David DeVries

Richard D'Oyly Carte leased the Opera Comique in the middle of 1877 where his Comedy Opera Company went into business. It was originally planned that this group was to produce a series of operas by British composers and authors such as



Richard D'Oyly Carte

James Alberti and Frederick Clay, F.C. Burand and Alfred Cellier, and Gilbert and Sullivan. Even though *Trial* had no legs at the time, Carte was sure that Gilbert and Sullivan would be a gold mine. He was right and the other duos would become a footnote to the story...and the rest is history.

Source: [A Treasury of Gilbert and Sullivan](#) edited by Deems Taylor

~ A PUZZLEMENT answers ~

1. Are all ablaze (*The Mikado*)
2. We are safe so far (*Princess Ida*)
3. Ah, woe is me! (*The Gondoliers*)
4. Respectful speech (*Iolanthe*)
5. John Wellington Wells (*The Sorcerer*)
6. My heart's on fire (*Pirates on Penzance*)
7. A ticket for to buy? (*Patience*)
8. Long live the king (*Princess Ida*)
9. They sting and ache (*The Mikado*)
10. Some post we undertake to find (*The Gondoliers*)



~ We Have a Little List ~

We wish to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including Elaine Crane, Jacqueline Haney, Jay Wolman, and the websites of the Sudbury Savoyards and Troupers Light Opera. (Please forgive any omissions!)

~ SOLICITATIONS ~

We know that many of our members and readers are very busy with a host of activities be they work or G&S related, but in the off-hand chance that you find yourself with a spare moment, would you consider writing an article that could be published in *The Trumpet Bray*? Your most welcome submissions for the following columns may be sent to dpdevries01@gmail.com.

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*.

REVIEWERS REWARDED

Have you ever wanted to comment on your colleagues' hard work somewhere other than Facebook? Now is your chance! *The Trumpet Bray* seeks peer reviewers for local G&S productions. Plus, write a review that goes to publication, and we'll refund up to \$25 towards your ticket cost. Send copy of ticket stub for reimbursement. Contact dpdevries01@gmail.com for more info. *The Trumpet Bray* welcomes reviews of recent G & S shows. The editor reserves the right to amend submissions to adhere to publication requirements.

TOPSY-TURVYNES

Dare to share with your friends your original stories of mis-takes, mis-steps, mis-cues or other on-stage (or otherwise) embarrassing or memorable moments.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

"Where Are They Now?" is an occasional feature spotlighting NEGASS members who have moved away but are still active G & S'ers on stages elsewhere.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the editor are always welcome.

REMEMBRANCES - Obituaries of cast and crew members who have passed on.

The Trumpet Bray is published electronically on the NEGASS website six times a year in February, April, June, August, October, and December with the deadline on the 15th of the month prior to the issue date.

NEGASS Events

The Gondoliers Sing
annual meeting

Sing postponed indefinitely
Meeting rescheduled to June 14, 2020
negass.org

Via ZOOM

G&S Events

Harvard-Radcliffe G&SP

Spring 2020
show cancelled
hrgsp.president@gmail.com

Agassiz Theater
Radcliffe Yard – 5 James Street
Cambridge MA 02138

The Gondoliers
New York GASP

April, 2020
Postponed to 2020-2021 season
nygasp.org

Kaye Playhouse
Hunter College
E 64th Street (Between Park &
Lexington Avenues), NYC, NY

Pirates of Penzance
Valley Light Opera

Fall 2020
Postponed to November 2021
vlo.org
413-584-9032 x105

Academy of Music
274 Main Street
Northampton MA 01060

Ruddigore
CT G&S Society

October 2020
ctgands.org
Auditions cancelled

Santo Fragillo Performing Arts
Center, Middletown High School
200 LaRosa Lane
Middletown CT 06457

Pirates of Penzance
The Savoyard Light Opera
Co.

November 2020
Postponed
1-978-371-SLOC (7562)
[savoyardlightoperacompany](http://savoyardlightoperacompany.com)

The Savoyard Light Opera Co.
PO Box 333
Carlisle MA 01741

Pirates of Penzance
Simsbury Light Opera Co.

April 2020
Postponed to spring 2021
sloco.org

Eno Memorial Hall
754 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury CT 06070

The Gondoliers
Troupers Light Opera

Postponed
Postponed until autumn 2020
trouperlightopera.org

Saxe Middle School
New Canaan CT 06840

College Light Opera Company

2020 season cancelled
collegelightoperacompany.com

Highfield Theatre
Depot Street (off Rt. 28)
Falmouth MA 02541