



≈ NEGASS Programs ≈

NEGASS Celebrates 45 Years!
By Ann Ferentz

The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS) celebrates its 45th Anniversary in 2021, and we're throwing a party! The festivities will take place on October 16, 2021 from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM at Christ Lutheran Church in Natick, MA. Five New England theater companies will present scenes, songs, and finales from the G&S canon. NEGASS members will also have the opportunity to perform songs, soliloquies, and stories from all of Gilbert and Sullivan. We expect lots of socializing, impromptu singing around the piano, and chances for everyone to sing choruses in public. We hope you will come join us for a day of merriment!

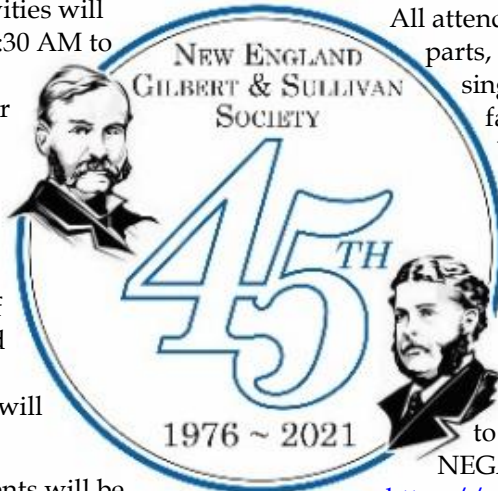
Registration is free and light refreshments will be provided. Lunch is planned at a cost of \$10 per person (pay in advance or at the door). If there is sufficient interest, we will make a dinner reservation at a local restaurant after the event.

To register, visit the NEGASS website or click [here](#) to go directly to the registration form. Registrants will receive follow-up communications regarding meals, performance opportunities, and other logistics.

So far the schedule includes the following group performances:

- The Act 1 Finale of *The Mikado* by Greater Worcester Opera
- The Act 1 Finale of *Iolanthe* by the **Simsbury Light Opera Company**
- Selections from *Pirates of Penzance* by Valley Light Opera

- Scenes from *Ruddigore* by the Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society
- Scenes from *Yeomen of the Guard* by the Sudbury Savoyards.



All attendees are invited to sing the chorus parts, and there will also be informal singing around the piano – always a favorite NEGASS activity – so bring your requests and scores (physical or electronic)!

We hope to intersperse the group scenes with solo and small ensemble performances by NEGASS members. Register now and put in your request by October 4th! Not a member? Go to the membership page on the NEGASS website and join today:

<https://www.negass.org/membership.html>

Please note that proof of vaccination will be required and masks must be worn indoors at all times, except when performing, eating, or drinking (subject to change based on public health and venue guidelines at the time of the event). Weather allowing, we hope to enjoy mask-free breaks outdoors. Please feel free to bring a camp chair or picnic blanket if you think you will want to socialize and/or eat outside; there is a lawn in back of the venue.

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GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS

Send to editor@negass.org

MEMBERSHIP: NEGASS membership dues are \$25. Please join NEGASS online at www.negass.org

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



≈ NEGASS NEWS ≈

Bab Ballads Part Two, scheduled for September 18th, was postponed due to a lack of participation. Part One was well received, so your NEGASS board will explore the reasons for the drop off in interest with you, our membership. It could be that people are no longer interested in Zoom events, or it may be the popularity of the Bab Ballads. Let us know at contact@negass.org.

If you have the desire to perform a Bab Ballad live, you can sign up to do so at the 45th anniversary celebration. Please contact the NEGASS program chair at JacquelineHaney@yahoo.com.

We still plan to have a holiday party, program, concert or Zoom event in December, but what form it takes will depend on member interest and COVID restrictions in place at that time.

We also hope to resume sing-outs, sing-throughs, LMLO's, and other in person events going into the new year, as well as lectures and zoom events.

The NEGASS Website will maintain a list of current events.

≈ Updates from Other G&S Groups ≈

Marion Leeds Carroll, long-time NEGASS member and former editor of The Bray, will be presenting her *Music to Cure MS 2021* concert to support research on Multiple Sclerosis. It will go live on October 31 at 3 PM, and once it goes live, will keep going for at least a year. Last year's is still up: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLru_b5-WDzi1g55WuNFAnozgsNE7MupcR. Your Bray editor will be part of that concert, singing Sullivan's *Lost Chord*.

NEGASS Board members are very active in their local areas. John Dreslin is music director for Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society's *Ruddigore*, playing November 6 and 7 at the Valley Regional High School in Deep River, Connecticut. Aldo Fabrizi is music director, and Elaine Crane is playing Edith, for Valley Light Opera's *Pirates of Penzance* at the Academy of Music in Northampton Massachusetts from November 6 to 14. Laurie Weissbrot is travelling to Topsham, Maine on November for a G&S highlight concert featuring songs from *Pinafore*, *Pirates*, *the Mikado* and *Yeomen*. And our newest board member, Jon Coffin (highlighted in our last Bray) is involved with a Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Maine March 2022 production of *Pirates of Penzance* in Ellsworth.

Simsbury Light Opera Company will be holding auditions for their spring 2022 production of *The Pirates of Penzance* on Sunday November 14, 2021, from 6-8p.m. and Tuesday November 16, 2021, from 7-9p.m. at Basingstoke, their rehearsal facility located at 5 Herman Drive, Simsbury, CT. All roles are open. Rehearsals begin in January, 2022 on Sunday and Tuesday nights. Show dates are April 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2022. They are also seeking backstage help (set building, painting, props, costumes, publicity, tickets sales, and more.) Email sloco@sloco.org with questions and areas of interest. All auditioners, performers, cast and crew must show proof of vaccination.

In November, **Troupers Light Opera** of Norwalk, CT will also be holding auditions for their spring 2022 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. For details and to complete an audition form, visit <http://wp.trouperslightopera.org>

❧ G&S NEWS ❧

On June 5, 2021, Marc Shepherd, Savoynet listowner, presented a lecture on his "Variorum Gilbert & Sullivan" for The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of New York. If you have ever wondered about the differences among librettos, this is a "must see" YouTube recording. Marc's video presentation begins at 1:48 into the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUX5x9YTqXY>

Paul Howarth, curator of the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive, died recently, and Meredith Dixon has taken up the mantle. Not only is she maintaining it, but she has improved the website considerably. If you have never visited the Archive, you don't know what you are missing. It contains everything you could ever wish to know about their works, whether separately or in collaboration.

Ms. Dixon sent a recent email to the worldwide G&S community:

I had meant to wait to announce this until I had also finished adding Arthur Robinson's transcriptions of a set of Rose of Persia reviews, but since I just mentioned the update in another post, I'd like to call everyone's attention to the NEW! IMPROVED! SHINY!
https://www.gsarchive.net/html/perf_grps/websites/index.html
and its sub-pages:
https://gsarchive.net/html/perf_grps/websites/gb.html and
https://gsarchive.net/html/perf_grps/websites/usa.html

It's been a long, long time since the links on those pages were checked. Let's just say one of the listed sites was from Geocities.

All links are or should be current. If you find a broken one, it'll be because I got so interested in color-coding it correctly that I forgot to update the URL. :)

This six-color color-code is mine. Paul had a three-color code, "always G&S," "sometimes G&S," and "rarely G&S." I decided that was too vague. I also added the State flags to match Paul's country flags. The graphical country, State and county names are Paul's, except New Jersey's; New Jersey didn't have one as its links had somehow gotten in with New Hampshire's (now defunct). I may end up making similar mistakes with British geography over time.

If you are familiar with one of these companies and you disagree with my color-code, please let me know--also if you know of any "active" groups I've missed. I did not go link-trawling; I just updated the existing links by searching for the companies' new sites or FB pages. Note that while I do have enough sense to allow for COVID shutdowns, several long-time groups folded in 2018 and 2019 (and put notices on their websites saying so), so don't assume I've left a group out until you've checked to make sure they're still there.

I have also updated the FAQ and removed the Shopping page. The Shopping page dated to the 1990's . . . most of the companies at the links that were still active had changed over the years, and I don't know enough about the needs of theatrical companies to know whether the 21st-century versions of the listed costume stores, for instance, ought to be recommended or not.

My eventual solution to the problem of the Contributors' page (discussed with Contributors in private mail) was to delete all e-addresses except those of people who specifically asked that theirs be left up. Several Contributors said that they wished they could communicate with new G&S enthusiasts without having to offer their e-addresses up to spammers, so I have put the names of those people in boldface on the page with a note encouraging people to write to me if they wish to contact them; I'll forward any G&S-related mail I receive. Marc had suggested that I just delete the page and someday I might, but right now I suspect it is linked on dozens of pages throughout the site, just as Paul's Index of Works is.

❧ BOARD SPOTLIGHT ❧

John E. Dreslin, D.M.D.
Music Director for CG&SS

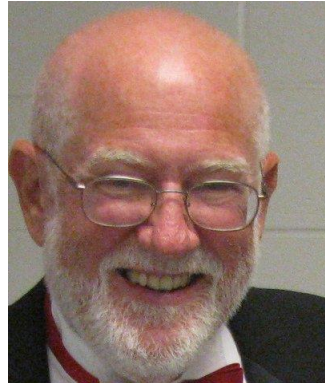
***The Bray:* How did you get involved with G&S?**

Dr. John: I came across a book in the library when I was in 4th grade with simplified *Pinafore* music and amusing pictures. Then I found out that several of my family members plus some neighbors were quite familiar with the repertoire. In fact my aunt who became a professional singer

on the radio had, as a teenager, played Mabel in a major production of *Pirates of Penzance* in Albany, NY in the 1920's. So as time went on, we did a lot of singing at family gatherings, but mainly *Pinafore*, *Pirates*, and *Mikado* selections.

The Bray: Tell us a little bit about your background in G&S.

Dr. John: My first major involvement was as accompanist for a junior high school version of *Pirates of Penzance*. I didn't take part in any more staged versions until 1976 when I joined a local Gilbert and Sullivan group in Connecticut as accompanist. I accompanied several other groups as well and eventually graduated to the post of music director.



The Bray: What do you love about G&S?

Dr. John: The unmatched combination of clever lyrics and superb music. Both Gilbert and Sullivan were masters in their respective fields and fortunately were able to fuse their immense talents in a degree that has seldom been equaled.

The Bray: List any G&S achievements honors or awards.

Dr. John: I am the recipient of nine Eugene O'Neill Awards for Excellence in Community Theater in the 'Best Musical Direction' category. Also a lifetime achievement award from the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society. In 2011 I was awarded an honorary membership by Opera Comique, Portsmouth, England. In 2020 I was elected to the NEGASS Board of Directors.

The Bray: What is your favorite G&S show?

Dr. John: Hard to say. I love so many of them. For music I like *Princess Ida*. But other favorites are *Iolanthe*, *Yeomen of the Guard*, *Ruddigore*, and *Pirates*.

The Bray: Any anecdotes you care to share?

Dr. John: In my over 125 live productions (over 300 performances), I've had just about anything that can go wrong happen: curtains malfunctioning, missed lines, missed entrances, etc. But probably my worst night in theater was in 2011 when I was conducting a matinee performance of *Ruddigore* for Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society, when a freak nor'easter came through with blizzard-like conditions completely knocked out power and left us in the dark for what

seemed like an interminable five minutes. When it did come back on, all the computerized light cues were lost and we had house lights and stage lights coming on and off at odd times. We were forced to cancel our evening performance as the school was turned into an evacuation shelter. This was indeed "the witch's curse."

The Bray: Do you want to give credit to a mentor?

Dr. John: Dr. Ted Wiseman and Mr. Bob Cumming, who had enough confidence in my abilities to entrust me with the post of music director for their respective companies.

The Bray: If someone wants to get started in performing or working in back of the house, what would be your recommendation?

Dr. John: Just get involved. There is always something that needs doing both on stage and in the production end. You will find that somewhere there is a job for which your talents are ideally suited.

The Bray: If G&S is your avocation, what is your occupation?

Dr. John: I practiced dentistry for forty five years, but retired from that profession in 2011. I have been organist at Union Baptist Church, Mystic, CT for thirty some odd years.

≈ EDITOR'S CORNER ≈

The first article in this issue described our 45th anniversary party. I will end on the same subject.

I hope you will go to the NEGASS website, www.negass.org and sign up to attend. Over the past year and two months I have had the opportunity to sing in public, with other singers, to live audiences, four times. Three were G&S events. Everyone had fun. Please come to the party and have fun!

- 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, Sam Silvers, John Dreslin, Jon Coffin, Aldo Fabrizi, Jacqueline Haney, and Meredith Dixon. (Please forgive any omissions!)

CALENDAR

NEGASS Events

<p>45th NEGASS Anniversary</p>	<p>Saturday October 16, 2021 10:30am</p>	<p>Christ Lutheran Church 113 Union Street Natick, MA</p>
<p>Holiday program TBA</p>	<p>December TBA</p>	<p>TBA</p>

G&S Events

<p><i>Ruddigore</i> Connecticut G & S Society Middlefield, CT</p>	<p>Saturday, November 6, 2021 2:00pm and 7:30pm Sunday, November 7, 2021 2:00pm</p>	<p>Valley Regional High School Deep River CT</p>
<p><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Valley Light Opera Northampton, MA</p>	<p>November 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 2021</p>	<p>Academy of Music Northampton, MA</p>
<p>Gilbert and Sullivan Highlight Concert</p>	<p>Sunday, November 7, 2021 2:00pm</p>	<p>Topsham, Maine</p>
<p>Auditions for <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Troupers Light Opera Norwalk, CT</p>	<p>November 8 & 10, 2021 7:00p.m. – 10:00pm</p>	<p>St Paul’s Episcopal Church 200 Riverside Avenue Riverside, CT</p>
<p>Auditions for <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Simsbury Light Opera Co Simsbury, CT</p>	<p>Sunday November 14, 2021 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. Tuesday November 16, 2021 7:00p.m. – 9:00p.m.</p>	<p>Basingstoke 5 Herman Drive Simsbury, CT</p>
<p><i>The Grand Duke</i> Sudbury Savoyards, Sudbury, MA</p>	<p>February 25, 26, 27, 2022 & March 4, 5, 2022</p>	<p>Lincoln/Sudbury Regional HS Sudbury, MA</p>
<p>Sudbury Savoyards Diamond Jubilee</p>	<p>Spring 2022</p>	<p>Sudbury, MA</p>
<p><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Simsbury Light Opera Co Simsbury, CT</p>	<p>April 2, 3, 2022 April 9, 10, 2022</p>	<p>Eno Memorial Hall Simsbury CT</p>
<p><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Troupers Light Opera Norwalk, CT</p>	<p>April 2, 2022 April 9, 2022 Matinee & evening</p>	<p>Norwalk Concert Hall 125 East Ave Norwalk, CT</p>