



≈ NEGASS Programs ≈

From the President

I write this having recently returned from the 7th Great Gilbert & Sullivan Sing-Out in Rockville, Maryland, where Savoyards from Chicago, Toronto, South Carolina, New York City, and many other locales gathered over Labor Day weekend to sing through all thirteen extant operettas. I learned about the event from board member John Dreslin, who has attended all seven sing-outs put on by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company. (See article on page 4.) My only previous experience with a sing-out was the NEGASS 35th anniversary celebration in 2011 and I knew right away that I wanted to attend another. The weekend was both exhausting and a tremendous amount of fun – and I very much hope that NEGASS will host another sing-out for our 50th anniversary in 2026. Be in touch if you want to help make that happen!

For right now, what NEGASS has to offer is a *Ruddigore* sing coming up on Sunday, October 22nd in Eastern Massachusetts. The cast of principals is listed on the next page, but all attendees are invited (nay, encouraged) to sing chorus. Scores will be provided.

Given the season, costumes and children are most welcome – how about dressing as your favorite ancestor? We will be sure to have some treats on hand and we promise no tricks, other than the ones in the libretto!

The October sing will also feature a “Savoyard Shoppe,” courtesy of the Sudbury Savoyards. G&S collector’s items of vintage G&S LPs and 78s, books, posters, and framed art along with Sudbury production DVDs, and vintage Sudbury show shirts will be available for sale and/or donation. We hope you’ll take advantage of this opportunity to treat yourself or find the perfect holiday gift for a fellow Savoyard!

Other upcoming NEGASS events include an outing to *Iolanthe* in Western Massachusetts on November 5th; and a *Pinafore* sing on January 21st in Western Massachusetts. We also encourage you to attend the CT Gilbert & Sullivan Society’s production of *Patience* on October 28-29 if you can!

Ann Ferentz

Future NEGASS events:

NEGASS continues to sponsor the ever-popular operetta sings, starting with *Ruddigore* in October, and discounted group outings to G&S productions for members.

The NEGASS Board of Directors is always looking for events that might be of interest to the membership. All are encouraged to share ideas for events with the board (board@NEGASS.org); or send your ideas to programs@negass.org. You may submit information about G&S happenings to the Trumpet Bray (editor@NEGASS.org). And please join NEGASS or renew your membership to support these programs. Please email contact@NEGASS.org if you are unsure of your membership status. If you are not yet a NEGASS member, we hope you will consider joining our ranks for a small insult of \$25 per year.

The NEGASS Website, negass.org keeps a list of current events, which are also posted on our Facebook page.

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GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS

Send to editor@negass.org

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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 is planning a sing-through of *Ruddigore* on October 22, 2023 at the Christ Lutheran Church in Natick, MA. Mark your calendars now!

***Ruddigore* Principal Roles**

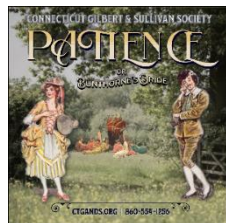
Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd/ Robin Oakapple	Dave Leigh (Cover - Tony Parkes)
Richard Dauntless	Brad Amidon
Sir Despard Murgatroyd	Matt Tragert (Cover - Jon Saul)
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd	Laurie Weissbrot (Cover - Allo Gilinsky)
Old Adam Goodheart	Blair Eig (Cover - Tony Parkes)
1st Ghost	Allo Gilinsky
2nd Ghost	Jon Saul
3rd Ghost	Tony Parkes
4th Ghost	TBA
Rose Maybud	Sara DeLong
Mad Margaret	Ann Ferentz
Dame Hannah	Carolyn Schwartz
Zorah	Lindsey Buccella
Ruth	Mildred Cady

❧ **NEGASS NEWS** ❧



Concord Light Opera Company of Concord, NH will perform *Ruddigore* September 30 and October 1, 2023 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 274 Pleasant St. Concord, NH. For tickets go to Concorduu.net. Your Trumpet Bray editor will be playing the part of Sir Despard Murgatroyd, bad baronet of Ruddigore

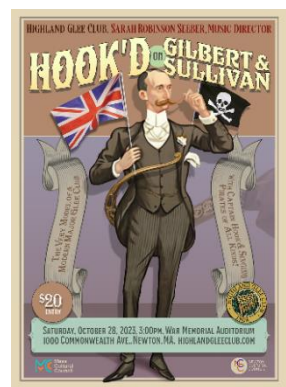
The **Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society** has announced the cast for its fall production of *Patience*. Dates are Saturday October 28th at 2:00PM and 7:30PM and Sunday October 29th at 2:00PM at the Valley Regional High School, 256 Kelsey Hill Road, Deep River, CT. CG&SS double casts as much as possible rather than have understudies who never then get a chance to play before an audience, which also gives them a chance to develop new talent.



For further detailed information please visit <https://ctgands.org> or email jfreedman@snet.net or call 860-554-1256.

The **Sudbury Savoyards** are planning a winter 2024 production of *Princess Ida*, Gilbert & Sullivan's eighth operatic collaboration.

Auditions will be Sunday, October 15th and Monday, October 16th at 7:00PM, with callbacks Wednesday, October 18th, also at 7:00PM. Auditions take place at First Baptist Church, 162 Landham RD, Sudbury, MA.



On Saturday, October 28th, at 3 PM at the War Memorial Auditorium, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, the **Highland Glee Club** will perform "HOOK'D on Gilbert & Sullivan." \$20 admission, at the door or at www.highlandgleeclub.com. Children 18 and under free of charge.

The Highland Glee Club, under the direction of Sarah Robinson Seeber, will begin the concert with a tribute to the theatre music of Leonard Bernstein. It will come as no surprise to connoisseurs of Bernstein's theatre music that he was a G&S fan, having led neighborhood productions as a boy growing up in Lawrence, MA. Favorite selections from *West Side Story* will be followed by a brief voyage to Neverland: rarely-heard songs from Bernstein's 1950 musical *Peter Pan*, featuring Lonnie Powell as a menacing yet humorous Captain Hook. All accompanied by a chorus of pirates, and very much in the spirit of G&S.

In the second half, Powell will join other local Gilbert & Sullivan experts Tom Frates and Ben Morse (a NEGASS Board member) in highlights from the canon. The men of the Highland Glee Club will sing the best men's choruses, with their signature burnished sound, and provide expert backing for the soloists. Basso profundo Paul Barrett will make his debut in a cameo as the Carpenter in "A British Tar." It is also rumored that a new set of lyrics for Koko's famous list has been penned, for society offenders of the internet era...

A true smattering of elemental G&S, this concert will be great for neophytes and aficionados alike, and fun for all ages (children attend free of charge). Peers, pirates, patter songs, and one VERY boastful modern major general!

About the Highland Glee Club:

One of the longest-running choral ensembles in the country, the Highland Glee Club was founded by a group of singing gentlemen in Newton Highlands back in 1908. G&S repertoire once appeared regularly on concert programs, often in specialized arrangements for male voices — the tenors would sing the female parts in falsetto! Today, the men of



the Highland Glee Club sing an eclectic mix of repertoire which includes part-songs of Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Elgar, as well as Gregorian chant, jazz standards, sea shanties, and psychedelic rock. And from now on, they will be performing G&S again often, frequently.

About the Director:

Sarah Robinson Seeber was born of an English mother, Joy, whose grammar school would perform all-girl G&S productions. In her dulcet mezzo, Joy would lovingly sing the old songs as she moistened the clay of her growing daughter. Indeed, Sarah's own first G&S experience was in utero, when she (and her mother) attended a performance of *Pirates of Penzance*.



Sarah remembered that seminal experience well, and used it as a model for her own performance as Mabel at Bedford High School in 1984. Living in Sudbury, MA for over 20 years afforded Sarah ample opportunity to sing in, accompany, and direct

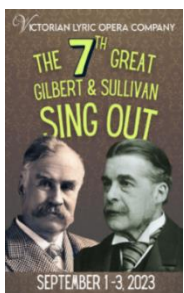
local productions with Opera 51 (then known as FOPAC, or Friends of the Performing Arts in Concord), as well as the venerable Sudbury Savoyards.

Upon moving to Newton in 2019, Sarah noticed a sad dearth of Gilbert & Sullivan in the otherwise enlightened city. She began to strategize just how to (re)introduce the canon to an eager populace. Being appointed as the first female Music Director of the Highland Glee Club in early 2020 offered her a golden opportunity. This concert is the realization of that lofty goal.

❧ G&S NEWS ❧

Sing Out in Rockville, MD

John E. Dreslin



Victorian Lyric Opera Company hosted its Seventh Great Gilbert and Sullivan Sing Out over Labor Day weekend at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville, MD. This event occurs every five years and is much anticipated by Gilbert and Sullivan fans. It comprises a complete (mostly unrehearsed) sing

thru of all 13 of the operas. In the months leading up, registrants are asked what parts they would like to sing, conduct, or accompany. The organizers then decide on the casting, based on the applicants' preferences, and past G&S experience as submitted in the applications. Everyone is welcome to sing along in the choruses. Over 150 people signed up for this year's event, from about 20 states nationwide, and three other countries thrown in.

The NEGASS board was represented by me and President Ann Ferentz. I conducted *Iolanthe* and accompanied *Princess Ida* and *Pirates of Penzance* (since this was the last piece performed, I had the honor of playing the final chord of the festival). Ann sang Tessa in *Gondoliers*, Angelina in *Trial By Jury*, and Elsa in *The Grand Duke*. There were two other New Englanders also present, both from Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Michael Loomis sang Sgt. Meryll in *Yeomen of the Guard*, and Colonel Calverly in *Patience* (the part he will be undertaking in October's CTG&SS production). Joanne Toone was Lady Blanche in *Princess Ida* and an alto bridesmaid in *Trial By Jury*.

On Saturday night we were treated to an excellent semi-staged performance by the host group of *The Sorcerer*. I have never been a great fan of this work, but this was so well directed and performed that I found it highly entertaining. The unexpected special

stand out was the portrayal of Dr. Daley by Joshua Bates.

The VLOC managed to coordinate all the details involved in this massive undertaking to perfection, providing not only wonderful music, but catered meals, nametags, programs, gift bags, and water bottles. They also arranged discounted hotel blocks for attendees. For me, it was gratifying to meet old friends, many of whom I have performed with over the years, or met at previous Sing Outs (I have attended all of them, and both conducted and played in every one). I made some new friends as well, standing alongside them singing, or at the meal table. As a first-timer, Ann really enjoyed being in the company of so many welcoming G&S enthusiasts and wondered why she hadn't discovered this event sooner. It was entirely too much happiness to be able to hum a little *Utopia* in the hallway and make G&S allusions – oh, marvelous allusion – that people would reliably pick up on.

Both Ann and I are hoping that for NEGASS's 50th anniversary, which is coming up in 2026, our group can organize a similar event. We did have one on the occasion of our 35th anniversary in 2011 in Concord, MA. The VLOC organizers have volunteered to share their expertise with us, and one of the main organizers, Blair Eig, has just recently moved to Massachusetts and is eager to help – so stay tuned!. But in any case – Victorian Lyric Opera Company, sign me up for the 2028 Sing Out!!

❧ EDITOR'S CORNER ❧

There has been some discussion lately on SavoyNet about whether Gilbert had a rhyming dictionary. Well, if he was reading Dickens, he really didn't need one. In chapter 27 of "Little Dorrit" we find "The lady might have established herself in an Eastern caravanserai." Anyone need a rhyme for "wards in chancery?" Later in chapter 31 he describes a poor little old man who remembered songs about Chloe and Phyllis. Perfect rhyme for Amaryllis.

❧ We Have a Little List ❧

The editor wishes to thank those who contributed to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including Ann Ferentz, John Dreslin, Marianne Orlando, and Sarah Robinson Seeber.

(Please forgive any omissions!)

- Laurie Weissbrot

~ CALENDAR ~

NEGASS Events

Ruddigore
NEGASS Read-thru

October 22, 2023
2:00 PM

Christ Lutheran Church
110 Union Avenue
Natick, MA

Group outing to
Valley Light Opera *Iolanthe*

November 5, 2023
2:00 PM

Academy of Music
Northampton, Massachusetts

Pinafore
NEGASS Read-thru

Jan 21st 2024
2:00 PM

98 North Maple Street
Hadley, MA 01035

G&S Events

Ruddigore
Concord Light Opera Company

Sept 30 7:00PM
Oct 1, 2023 3:00PM

Unitarian Universalist Church
274 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH

Auditions for 2024
Princess Ida
Sudbury Savoyards

Sunday, October 15 7:00PM
Monday, October 16 7:00PM
Callbacks October 18 7:00PM

First Baptist Church
162 Landham RD
Sudbury, MA

Hook'd on Gilbert & Sullivan
Highland Glee Club

Oct 28th 2:00PM

War Memorial Auditorium, 1000
Commonwealth Ave.
Newton MA

Patience
Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Oct 28th 2:00PM & 7:30PM
October 29th 2:00PM

Valley Regional High School
256 Kelsey Hill Road
Deep River, CT

Iolanthe
Valley Light Opera

November 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12
2:00 PM and 7:00PM

Academy of Music
Northampton Massachusetts

Princess Ida
Sudbury Savoyards

February 2024

Sudbury MA