



## ≈ NEGASS Programs ≈

### From the President

Leaves in autumn fade and fall, yet autumn is my favorite time of year, in no small part because it's the beginning of a new theatrical season. We encourage you to consider touring New England this fall and winter to take advantage of the regular schedules of many fine companies that are mounting Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

First up is *The Yeomen of the Guard* in mid-October in Deep River, CT. The Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society is already in rehearsal and the tower is being built as I type. Next up is Valley Light Opera's November production of *The McAdo*, a version of *The Mikado* set in 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland. We are intrigued and hope you are too. Consider joining the NEGASS group for an outing to the Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> matinee in Northampton, MA, followed by dinner with the directors and perhaps some cast members as well. We offer NEGASS members an attractive discount on tickets.

This season's next NEGASS event will be an informal open mic afternoon of Gilbert & Sullivan on December 8<sup>th</sup> in Natick. We will enjoy each other's company and sing whatever we want to! Program chair Lindsey Buccella is coordinating the afternoon and will find you ensemble partners for those songs you've always wanted to sing. We will be meeting in a cozy space, and of course there will be seasonal snacks.

After the New Year, we will head to Hadley, MA for a NEGASS sing of *Iolanthe*. So brush up on your chorus parts and stay tuned for casting information if you're interested in a role.

New ideas are most welcome. Please contact [programs@negass.org](mailto:programs@negass.org) to put in your oar! Winter is hardly "the end of all"!

- Ann Ferentz

### Upcoming events

Valley Light Opera's *McAdo* was previewed in detail in the August *Trumpet Bray* and is described again later in this issue. NEGASS is sponsoring an outing to the Saturday, November 9, 2024 matinee performance at 2:00 PM. While the normal ticket prices are \$37 general, \$31.50 for seniors, NEGASS members can purchase up to two tickets at the discounted price of \$30 general/\$25 seniors by visiting <https://www.negass.org/> and clicking on the G&S Events tab. The deadline for ordering discounted outing tickets is Wednesday November 6. Join your fellow members and possibly some of the cast and crew at dinner at a local restaurant after the show.

NEGASS will hold an informal **open mic event** on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 2:00 PM at the Christ Lutheran Church in Natick, MA. We offer groups and individuals the opportunity to showcase a couple of numbers from recent or upcoming productions, as well as have individuals recite Bab Ballads, or sing (bring your own music). Fill in this [form](#) to send Lindsey Buccella, [programs@negass.org](mailto:programs@negass.org), your requests.

We are planning a Western MA sing-through of *Iolanthe* on January 11, 2025 at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Hadley, MA. Details in the December *Trumpet Bray*.

At the suggestion of NEGASS member Andrew Conway, we are considering a read-through of *The Mikado* for next year's annual meeting.

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#### 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.



### 50th Anniversary

The NEGASS 50th anniversary committee will be convening soon and we need all manner of talents to plan our sing-out of all 13 extant operettas on Labor Day weekend 2026. We've heard from several members who are interested in helping out and would love to hear from more. If being on committees isn't your thing, but you are willing to help by preparing materials for the event, setting up the space, answering questions from people who are coming from out of town, etc., please let us know. Please contact [programs@negass.org](mailto:programs@negass.org) so we can put you on our little list.

Not already a NEGASS member? Consider joining for a small insult of \$25 per year. Members enjoy discounted tickets to some G&S productions and priority casting in NEGASS sings. Dues help pay for space rentals and enable NEGASS to support G&S productions throughout New England. Join today by visiting <https://www.negass.org/membership.html>. Unsure of your membership status? Email [contact@negass.org](mailto:contact@negass.org).

### NEGASS NEWS

For its 49th production, **Valley Light Opera** has chosen a



version of *The Mikado* set in the Highlands of 18th-century Scotland. This version, from Gilbert and Sullivan Austin, highlights VLO's strengths in terms of music and costumes. The actual text of the show is only minimally changed. The stage director will be Jacqueline (Jacki) Haney and the music director will be Aldo Fabrizi (two stalwart members of the NEGASS Board.) There will be six performances over two weekends: November 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10 at The Academy of Music, 274 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060. See the August issue of the *Trumpet Bray* for the complete cast list. Go to [www.vlo.org](http://www.vlo.org) for more information or to order tickets, or, better yet, become a NEGASS member and join our outing to the November 9 2:00 PM matinee. Apparently NEGASS isn't the only group preparing to celebrate 50 years in existence.

#### To VLOers past and present-

It is hard to believe, but we are closing in on 50, **yes 50!**, years of singing choruses in public. That is **QUITE** the accomplishment for a community opera company! The **VLO 50th Anniversary Committee** is busy planning the party to celebrate this momentous occasion, which will take place on March 14, 2025.

We have great things planned and hope you can attend.

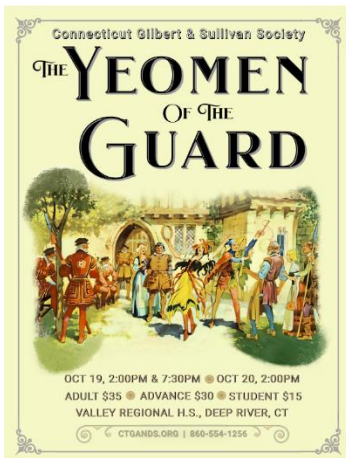
*"Oh Joy! Oh Rapture!"*

**VLO 50th Anniversary Committee**

*Patty Venman Devine and Sally Greenebaum, Co-chairs  
Phyllis Jordan, Louise Krieger, Mzamo Mangaliso, Paul Peelle, Bill Tobey*

**The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society** will present

*The Yeomen of the Guard* on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM and 7:30PM and Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM at Valley Regional High School, 256 Kelsey Hill Road, Deep River, CT. NEGASS Board member Dr.



John Dreslin is the music director. [Please click here](#) to learn more about the show. [Please click here](#) to buy tickets for the show. For additional questions, call 860-554-1256.

The **Sudbury Savoyards** have announced auditions for *Ruddigore* or *The Witch's Curse*, their main stage production for February 2025. The Sudbury Savoyards have presented a Gilbert and Sullivan production on a Grand Scale every year since 1961 and are excited to be continuing this rich tradition in 2025. Show dates are February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The stage Director will be Briana Bensenouci, with assistant Stage Director Nadine Sa. NEGASS Board member Aldo Fabrizi is the Music Director.



Auditions will be Thursday, October 10, 7-9:30 PM and Friday, October 11, 7-9:30 PM, with callbacks (as needed) Friday, October 18 at the First Baptist Church Sudbury, 162 Landham RD, Sudbury, MA

For information on audition material, and to reserve a slot, visit the group at [sudburysavoyards.org](http://sudburysavoyards.org)

**Simsbury Light Opera Company** will host an Open Sing of *The Mikado* on October 28, 2024, 5:30 – 8:30PM, at Maple Tree Cafe, 781 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury Connecticut. For those interested, the principals are as follows: Mikado: Mark Callahan;

Nanki Poo: Nate Brown; Ko Ko: Ralph Sherman; Pooh Bah: Charlie Snow; Pish Tush: Jay Wolman; Yum Yum: Act 1: Renee Haines, Act 2: Haley Burey; Pitti Sing: Aversa Sheldon; Peep Bo: Rebecca McFarland; Katisha: Act 1: Kari Mackey, Act 2: Emily Trudeau. Accompanist: Dr. John Dreslin. We hope you will all join us at The Maple Tree.

Also, join us in April 2025 for our 78<sup>th</sup> season's production of: *Ruddigore* or *The Witch's Curse*. Be on the lookout for the *Ruddigore* audition announcement by visiting <http://www.sloco.org>

**LP collection Available**

We received this email from member Paul Mason:

Hi:

My late parents, Wallace and Jeanne Mason, were huge G&S fans, and I believe, NEGASS members. I've had their LP collection in my basement for some time, trying to find someone who might be interested in them. Among those LPs are many box sets of G&S recordings. I would be happy to donate them to NEGASS, or to anyone connected to anyone who would like them. The following link is a slideshow of the album covers:

[https://youtu.be/N\\_eeWRBKr54?si=RG5Bya-Qab3u3vIp](https://youtu.be/N_eeWRBKr54?si=RG5Bya-Qab3u3vIp)

It would make me happy (and would have made my folks happy) to know these recordings will go to a good home. I live in Lincoln, RI, so I'm not that far away and would be happy to deliver them to any reasonable location. Please contact me at [pfmason@cox.net](mailto:pfmason@cox.net)

Thanks.

Paul Mason

**We know it's not, but....**

**Cambridge Chamber Ensemble** presents Gian Carlo Menotti's *Labyrinth* Nov. 1-3, 2024, produced by NEGASS stalwart Martha Birnbaum.

A young groom, lost with his bride in a grand hotel, cannot find the key to his room, and doesn't remember the number or the floor! His desperate search brings him in contact with an assortment of dotty characters: a bellboy, a seductive spy, an old man, an executive, and an astronaut – all offering strange advice and bad directions – but no key...

Gian Carlo Menotti set this bizarre story to music in *Labyrinth*, a chamber opera that he labelled a philosophical riddle as the music and words explore the meaning of life from first awakenings to what later awaits us.

In 1963 NBC Opera Theater commissioned Menotti to write *Labyrinth* as a one hour opera to be presented



on national television. Ever the showman, Menotti opens the video with a calm description of his opera as an allegorical riddle – of course about life and death! Menotti's speech is the opening feature in our staging of this strange opera, so you will have the story direct from the "horse's mouth."

We don't have all the special technical effects of a video production, but we've taken up the challenge of turning this TV work into a live opera! We've got some stagecraft wizardry up our sleeves to guide you through the young couple's ever more frantic search for their room – and their destiny – through the truly labyrinthine halls and imaginary settings of this unique opera.

You won't want to miss this production! At the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, November 1, 2 (7:30 PM) and 3 (3:00 PM), 2024.

Tickets are now available at [www.cambridgechamberensemble.org](http://www.cambridgechamberensemble.org). We hope you will join us.

## EDITOR'S CORNER



The photo above is the picture of the SavoyNet attendees at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England. You may notice longtime NEGASS member Don Smith in the back row. Don, a true G&S scholar, attends the festival every year and participates in the SavoyNet productions. This year he was a research and creative consultant for SavoyNet's imagined recreation of the D'Oyly Carte 1926 recording of *The Mikado* in Queen's Hall, London. This was the first recording that used an electric rather than acoustic process, and is considered to be the finest *Mikado* recording ever made.

Having made, and thoroughly enjoyed, the pilgrimage to Buxton twice, I hope that other NEGASS members will have the opportunity to travel to this G&S Mecca, take part in putting together a major staged production of one of the operettas in only a week, see some of the best G&S groups from around the world, and hob-nob with a bunch of like-minded individuals for one to three weeks.

- Laurie Weissbrot

### We have a Little List

The editor wishes to thank those who contributed to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray*, including Martha Birnbaum, Ann Ferentz, Jacqueline Haney, Jay Wolman, Elizabeth White, John Freedman, Paul Mason, and Lindsey Buccella.

(Please forgive any omissions!)

≈ CALENDAR ≈

**NEGASS Events**

Outing to VLO <i>McAdo</i>	November 9, 2024 2:00PM	Academy of Music Northampton, MA
Open Mic Event	December 8, 2024 2:00 PM	Christ Lutheran Church 113 Union Street Natick, MA
<i>Iolanthe</i> sing-through	January 11, 2025 2:00 PM	Wesley United Methodist Church Hadley, MA
2025 Annual Meeting and <i>Mikado</i> sing-through	June 2025	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**

Connecticut G&S Society <i>Yeomen of the Guard</i>	Sat Oct 19, 2024 2:00PM & 7:30PM Sun October 20, 2024 2:00PM	Valley Regional H.S. 256 Kelsey Hill Road Deep River, CT.
Simsbury Light Opera Company <i>The Mikado</i> sing-through	October 28, 2024 5:30 – 8:30PM	Maple Tree Café 781 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, CT
Sudbury Savoyards <i>Ruddigore</i> Auditions	October 10 & 11, 2024 7:00 – 9:30 PM	First Baptist Church Sudbury 162 Landham Rd Sudbury, MA
Valley Light Opera <i>The McAdo</i>	Nov 1&8, 2024 7:30PM Nov 2, 3, 9&10, 2024 2:00PM	Academy of Music Northampton, MA
Sudbury Savoyards <i>Ruddigore</i>	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , and 28 <sup>th</sup> and March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Sudbury, MA