



NEGASS EVENTS

NEGASS Outing to Sudbury Savoyard's *Ruddigore*, Sunday, February 26, 2012, 2 pm, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Please join NEGASS members as we meet in Sudbury to enjoy The Sudbury Savoyards' production of *Ruddigore*.

The stellar cast includes NEGASSERS **Tom Frates** as Robin Oakapple, **Connell Benn** as Zorah, **Kathleen Larson Day** as Mad Margaret, **Tony Parkes** as Old Horatio Goodheart, and many other members performing in the ensemble.

We would like to go to a local restaurant after the show for dinner.

Please RSVP by emailing [progchair AT negass DOT org](mailto:progchair@negass.org) by February 15th.

NEGASS NEWS

NEGASS Announces its New Website

NEGASS has completed a renovation and enhancement of its website www.negass.org.

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Several months of planning went into a beautiful new design and creation of several new features that will help our readers stay abreast of the latest happenings in the world of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Please visit our new web site and tell us your reactions. What do you like about the site? What additions you would like to see? Is it easy to navigate? Are there any bottlenecks? Please send your comments to [editor AT negass DOT org](mailto:editor@negass.org). We appreciate all feedback.

NEGASS Memories

The Trumpet Bray inaugurates a new feature, NEGASS Memories. If you recall a pleasant NEGASS event in the past, please send it to [editor AT negass DOT org](mailto:editor@negass.org). Perhaps we can recreate it?

February's "NEGASS MEMORIES"

It seems incredible that 13 years have passed since we last had a summer meeting in Bristol, Rhode Island - but so the *Trumpet Bray* archives tell me! This annual event was my Favorite Day in the Entire Year. On a beautiful warm August afternoon, my family and many others would drive to Providence, where we would enjoy a charming G&S production by OSLO (Ocean State Light Opera). We would then drive a few miles to the mansion on the sea of Mary Shepherd, in Bristol. Mrs. Shepherd's house and grounds were beautiful beyond description - comparable to the Newport "cottages".

For several hours NEGASSERS and OSLO cast members would wander about her lawn and swim in her own private ocean, while Nancy and Bill



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THE TRUMPET BRAY is published six times a year on the 1st day of February, April, June, August, October, and December by the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS), P.O. Box 367, Arlington, MA 02476-0004.

GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS may be sent to editor AT negass DOT org . REVIEWS may be sent to progchair AT negass DOT org. CALENDAR ITEMS may be sent to calendar AT negass DOT org.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Standard membership in NEGASS pays for a printed copy of each issue of the Bray, plus a password to the current issue of the online PDF version. NEGASS membership dues are \$20, \$30, \$50 and \$100. To join, please contact membership chair Janice Dallas, 63 Everett St. Arlington, MA, 02474-6921 or mail memb AT negass DOT org.

Members receive the Bray via US mail or as a PDF email attachment. To receive the Bray via email, please send a request to memb AT negass DOT org. All editions except the current edition are available online. The current edition is available online to NEGASS members only.

ARCHIVES Past issues of *The Trumpet Bray* can be read or downloaded from <http://www.negass.org/bray>
 BETWEEN-BRAY ANNOUNCEMENTS Members can sign up to receive our special *Between-Bray emails* at <http://www.negass.org/join/email.html>

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL: 15th of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, 2011.

www.negass.org

Burdine’s fabulous Concord Wind Ensemble played irresistible arrangements of G&S songs, ragtime, and other compositions, on the front porch. (One year they were fresh from performing at the Schwarzenegger/Shriver wedding!) A picnic dinner comprised shared side dishes and desserts, plus our own main courses that we could cook on the Shepherds’ grills.

This was the one time per year that my offspring got to taste hot dogs, courtesy of Carol and Bill Mahoney. When the light totally failed, we wandered inside to the stunning living room, graced by oil portraits of the numerous Shepherd offspring plus a brightly painted wooden screen. Then came the final chapter of the evening: a spontaneous singthrough by NEGASSERS and OSLO members of a yet another opera. We typically got home around midnight.

These outings gradually faded, as first, OSLO rescheduled its G&S away from the summer, and then Mrs. Shepherd’s health declined, and she ultimately passed away. But they remain for me and others as memories of pure enchantment.

- Nancy Burstein

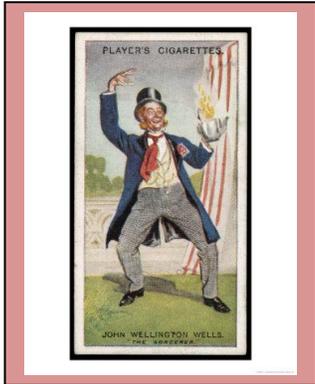
❧❧ RECENT PRODUCTIONS ❧❧

***The Sorcerer*, MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Society, December 2011, MIT Student Center, Sala de Puerto Rico, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA**

I’ve been attending MITG&SP’s productions for many years and have never seen a production as good as MIT’s December *The Sorcerer*. It was, in short, a professional show. **Brian Crete’s** sets were simple and charming. **Kelsey Peterson’s** costumes were period-perfect and color-balanced. The women’s outfits were so complex, with puffs, pleats, and flounces, that I was sure they had been rented – but they had all been hand-sewn by the group! The orchestra, led by MITG&SP veteran **Barrett Park**, played with polish and verve. They were matched in accomplishment by the dancers, amateurs all, who were well rehearsed and executed the serviceable choreography well.

The sets, music and costumes were a grand support for the key ingredients of a great show – direction and performance. Director **John Deschene**, an able maestro in former MITG&SP productions was at his best in this one, adjusting the tempo of dialogue and music in a flowing wave to match the emotional impact of the show’s unfolding drama.

Normally an MITG&SP show must be cast with MIT students if possible. This year's cast featured non-MIT students, in fact professional singers, and it must be said that this elevated the production to a very high level. **Aisha Carroll** as Aline and **Joshua Collier** as Alexis were vocally, youthfully, and



comically superb. **Rishi Basu's** rich baritone and acting as Dr. Daly was perfect typecasting of a gentleman really too old for Constance and thus an intriguing figure. The other love-pair had **Christine Duncan's** Lady Sangazure paired up with **Michael DeFillippi's** Sir

Marmaduke. Again, in both singing and acting, this duo was vocally splendid and comically over-the-top. **Kristen Clough** and **Michelle Schultz** brought fine trained voices to the roles of Constance and Mrs. Partlet respectively. And then there was John Wellington Wells, sung with a rich baritone and played with an ingratiating creepiness by **Benjamin Morris**. The chorus of villagers danced and sang engagingly.

Here's to more MITG&SP shows on the high level that *The Sorcerer* offered its appreciative audience.
-**Martha Birnbaum**

We are saddened to learn of the death of our friend, Peter Stark. An avid G&S fan and practitioner, he performed several principal roles from G&S operettas and was a fine teacher, actor and director. Peter will be sorely missed by those whose lives he touched. At the time of his death, he was engaged in the direction of the Sudbury Savoyards' production of *Ruddigore*. The Sudbury Savoyards are planning "A Celebration of His Life" in March (see Calendar).

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

***Ruddigore*, Sudbury Savoyards, February 23-26, March 2-3, 2012, Lincoln-Sudbury High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA**

The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to present *Ruddigore* for their winter 2012 production. This year's directorial team brings an ancestral gallery of talent and experience onto the stage with **Katherine Engel Meifert** as Music Director, assisted by **Kathryn Denney**, and **Dennis O'Brien**, assisted by **Laura Schall Gouillart**, stepping in and following the vision of Stage Director **Peter A. Stark** after his untimely death in January of this year.

The cast includes a line-up of NEGASS members: **Connie Benn** as Zorah, **Peter Boettcher** as Richard Dauntless, **Kathleen Larson Day** as Mad Margaret, **Tom Frates** as Robin Oakapple, **Tony Parkes** as Old Horatio Goodheart and chorus members **Janice Dallas**, **Meryl Eisenstein**, **Susan Elberger**, **Janine Gauntt**, **Fred Hughes**, **Marylee Marsh**, **Neil McCormick**, and **Erin Van Speybroeck**. Behind the scenes are Cast Manager **Brad Amidon** and Producer **Susan A. Elberger**.

Performances will take place at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Theater, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA. Performances are at 8pm on February 24 & 25, and March 2 & 3, matinees at 2pm on Sunday, February 26 and Saturday, March 3, and a dress Rehearsal performance on Thursday, February 23 at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$22 for Adults, \$17 for Seniors & Students, \$12 for Children under 12, and \$15 for the February 23rd Dress Performance. The theater is general seating and handicapped accessible with ample parking.

For more information or to order tickets please visit our website: www.sudburysavoyards.org, email: tickets@sudburysavoyards.org or call: 978-443-8811 and leave a message. Tickets will also be available at the box office at each performance.

***The Pirates of Penzance*, Mass Theatrica, March 17, 2012, LynnArts, 25 Exchange St., Lynn, MA**

Mass Theatrica will present an open, on-book read-through of *The Pirates of Penzance* on Saturday, March 17, 2012, 4:00 PM at LynnArts, 25 Exchange Street, Lynn, MA in the Neal Rantoul Vault Theatre. Principals are from Mass Theatrica and NEGASS. The audience is invited to sing the choruses. Bring a score if you can! Admission is \$10 and free to NEGASS members who bring a score and sing in the chorus. All are welcome to come and sing or just enjoy the impromptu show!

JOB BOARD

NEGASS is seeking an administrator for our newly refurbished web site. This is a volunteer position requiring a small amount of time while providing an enjoyable experience and a great benefit to NEGASS.

If interested, please contact [pres AT negass DOT org](mailto:pres@negass.org).



NEGASS Events

<p>NEGASS Outing to <i>Ruddigore</i> Sudbury Savoyards</p>	<p>February 26, 2012 (2 pm) www.sudburysavoyards.org please contact progchair AT negass DOT org see page 1 for details</p>	<p>Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School 390 Lincoln Road Sudbury, MA 01776</p>
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Upcoming Productions & Events

<p><i>Ruddigore</i> Sudbury Savoyards</p>	<p>February 24 – 26, March 2, 3, 2012 www.sudburysavoyards.org 978-443-8811</p>	<p>Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School 390 Lincoln Road Sudbury, MA</p>
<p><i>Trial By Jury & A G & S Musicale</i> G & S Society of Maine</p>	<p>February 24 – 26, March 3, 4, 2012 www.gilbertsullivanmaine.org</p>	<p>Grand Auditorium 165 Main Street Ellsworth, ME 207-667-9500</p>
<p>Peter Stark – A Celebration of his Life Sudbury Savoyards</p>	<p>March 11, 2012 www.sudburysavoyards.org 978-443-8811</p>	<p>details to follow see website for information</p>
<p><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Mass Theatrica</p>	<p>March 17, 2012 (4 pm) www.masstheatrica.org see page 3 for more information</p>	<p>LynnArts 25 Exchange St. Lynn, MA</p>
<p><i>Haddon Hall</i> (Sullivan without Gilbert) Valley Light Opera</p>	<p>March 17, 2012 www.vlo.org</p>	<p>Amherst Regional High School 21 Matoon Street Amherst, MA</p>
<p><i>H.M.S. Pinafore</i> Road Scholar (Elderhostel)</p>	<p>July 8 – 12, 2012 led by Rafe McPhail, Ivoryton Savoyards http://www.campwarwick.com/ElderHostel.htm</p>	<p>The Warwick Center 62 Warwick Center Road Warwick, NY 10990 845-986-1164</p>

Auditions

<p><i>The Grand Duke</i> MITG&SP</p>	<p>February 7, 8, 9, 2012 (8-10 pm) callbacks February 11 (2-5 pm) prepare one song in English additional piece optional bring music for the accompanist</p>	<p>MIT Student Center Private Dining Rooms 1 & 2 84 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA</p>
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