

THE TRUMPET BRAY

NEGASS

The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society
P.O. Box 367, Arlington, MA 02476-0004

Vol. XXV No. 6
You've caught it nicely!

**G&S Master Class with Eileen St. David
Sunday, May 13 at 2:00 PM
(note change of date!)**

SUNDAY, MAY 13 (Note the change from previous publicity – this class was originally scheduled for May 6) at 2:00 PM at the Park Avenue Congregational Church in Arlington, MA: **A GILBERT AND SULLIVAN MASTER CLASS** taught by **Eileen St. David**, with accompaniment by **Eric Schwartz**

The scene of March's **Last Minute Light Opera IDA** will be the scene of new triumphs in May: Fair neophytes who thirst for instruction will gather to learn from Eileen's expertise, and to sing for our enjoyment.

We'll be hearing from new member **Elaine Crane**, membership chair **Janice Dallas**, and valued performers **Dan Kamalic** and **Tony Parkes**.

We have room for two more performers, and two alternates. If you'd like to take part in this Master Class, e-mail Program Chair **Art Dunlap** at Arthur.Dunlap@MHD.state.ma.us, or phone **Carl Weggel** at (978) 474-0396. (You can leave a detailed message on Carl's answering machine.) Let us know what song you'd like to sing, so that Eileen and Eric can prepare.

Eileen is an expert in all aspects of G&S performance: she has been a director and voice teacher for many years, on both coasts of this continent. And Eric is an excellent and experienced accompanist. Come to enjoy the music, and to learn from these masters!

If you still have last year's June **Bray**, you can read a description of last year's excellent class. Or if you have web access, you can visit the article at http://negass.org/Bray/June00Trumpet_Bray.html#LastMeeting

How to get there: The Park Avenue Congregational Church is located at the corner of Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road, on Park Avenue one block south of Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington, MA. To get there you can either drive or take the #77 Arlington Heights bus along Massachusetts Avenue to Park Avenue, at the far west end of town, and then travel one block south. Or you can take Route 2 to the Park Avenue-Arlington exit, and drive north along Park Avenue until Massachusetts Avenue is in sight. Free parking is available on both Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road.

♪♪♪♪♪

MARCH MEETING: LAST MINUTE LIGHT OPERA COMPANY SCORES AGAIN! PRINCESS IDA was this year's vehicle for yet another worthy entry in our Society's venerable performing tradition. An enthusiastic cast made good use of the, um, *cozy* confines of Arlington's Park Avenue Congregational Church Hall stage to deliver an energetic, if not highly polished, performance of our heroes' "respectful perversion", ably accompanied by the **Last-Minute Light Orchestra**, building on its rousing debut in last year's LMLO show.

It perhaps goes without saying that the voices were good or better. Such is the wealth of talent available to the LMLO Company that certain of the principal roles were split to take full advantage of available resources. Princess Ida was **Marion Leeds Carroll** in Act II, but it fell to **Janice Dallas** to deal with disappointment, defeat and, in the end, *detente*, in Act III. **Ray O'Hare** was Act I's ill-tempered King Gama, while **Irv Hodgkin**, in resplendent costume, albeit more Moorish than Hungarian, was the more-or-less chastened Gama of Act III. **Lee Patterson** was Hilarion start to finish, though, and **Bob Russell** persisted throughout as King Hildebrand. Other notable principals included **Ellen Spear** as Lady Psyche, **Randi Kesten** as Melissa and **Peter Cameron** as Arac. **Larry Seiler** was a highly demonstrative Cyril. And particularly notable was **Dave Leigh** as Lady Blanche, displaying a remarkable contralto falsetto.



Dave Leigh as Lady Blanche
[Photo by Ron Dallas]

The afternoon's enjoyment owed much to the direction of Conductor **David Larrick**, whose keen perception and firm hand coped effectively with the little rhythmic lapses to which such impromptu performances are subject. And the contribution of Organizer **Vic Godin's** 28-member Last-Minute Orchestra cannot be over-emphasized. Its quick sensitivity to Larrick's direction and its general musicality matched any of the area's regular G&S aggregations.

-- **GAMA, REX**

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ELECTION/FANTASY MEETING. On , June 10 at 2:00 PM we'll meet at the Arlington home of Membership Chair **Janice Dallas** to act out our dreams by performing something out-of-character or infrequently done, and to usher in a new NEGASS board.

Up for replacement or re-election this year: President **Don Smith**, Treasurer **Philip Burstein** and two of our Members at Large (**Richard Freedman** and **Sheldon Hochman**, We think, if We have Our years in order...), in addition to our Program Chair **Art Dunlap**, holder of a post which is renewed yearly.



Janice and Irv as Ida and Gama [Photo by Ron Dallas]

Tentative Meeting Schedule, 2000-2001	
5/13	Master Class with Eileen St David
6/10	Elections/Fantasy Day

NEXT BRAY COPY DEADLINE: May 13, 2001

Next Bray Stuffing: Sunday, May 20 at 3:00 PM. Call Us at (781) 646-9115 evenings and weekends, or send email to Marion@leedscarroll.com , for directions to Our slightly damp but easy-to-get-to Arlington home.

—mlc

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Welcome, Welcome, Welcome We New Members Elaine Crane, Josh Katzen, Gene Reid, Bruce Rogers, Charlotte Swartz, and Pace G. Willisson

Elaine tells us, "I am a classically trained soprano, who two years ago was introduced to, fell in love with, and began performing the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. I have thus far sung in **MIKADO** (Yum-Yum), **PIRATES** (Edith), **SORCERER** (Constance) and **TRIAL** (First Bridesmaid), and I cannot wait to do more! I have performed with **Savoyard Light Opera Company (PIRATES)** and **Salisbury Lyric Opera (MIKADO , SORCERER, TRIAL)**. I also have a degree in Vocal Performance from **Boston Conservatory**. [Wonderful! -- We're looking forward to hearing you at the Master Class next month!]

Gene tells us: "I am 62. When my brother went away to college he left behind a record with **HMS Pinafore** on it. I have enjoyed G&S ever since. I attended several performances of the **D'Oyly Carte Company** when they were here in the 1970's. I have been to **Harvard** and **Sudbury** performances too. I am not a musician myself, just a listener." [Listeners help performers keep going – never think of yourself as just a listener!]

Josh describes himself as a singer/musician – but gives no details. **Bruce** calls himself an audience member, Charlotte is a singer, and Pace is another valued member of the audience. Hope to hear more from all of you – Tell Us, Tell Us All About It! **Hearty Greeting Offer We!**

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Program Chair has been a difficult role to fill, ever since long-time chair **Patricia Brewer** moved on to

background, tells us much about Gilbert's early career, and discusses the various aspects of drama that Gilbert was most apt to criticise--unconvincing motivation, bad French accents, unhistorical history, poor plot construction, stage crowds, absurd stage effects (and scene-painters who come on stage to acknowledge applause for the sets!).....

As **Edward Lauterbach** says, these reviews can be read and enjoyed even if you know nothing about the plays they are parodying. Their most basic comic technique is to speed up the action of the play about ten times, creating an effect rather like fast-forwarding through a video. Everything is stripped to the bare essentials, which makes any inherent absurdity in the play all the more apparent. Characters "give away" the play's weaknesses with engaging frankness, as in the comment in *Rouge et Noir*, a play set in 1809: "I will write a note to Pauline, and send it in an adhesive envelope--thus anticipating that useful invention by half a century." (quoted p145) But I'm wary about quoting: I don't want to spoil the fun of reading the book!

Unfortunately, the book is marred by typographical errors and by poorly reproduced illustrations.... However, though these problems mar the book they are forgivable.

If this book tells us one thing, it is that we still have an awful lot to learn about Gilbert's achievement. It concentrates on a small slice of his early career: not just his journalism, not even just his journalism for *Fun*--but his comic reviews for *Fun*. These pieces are almost completely unknown, but remain fresh, and are definitely worth reading.

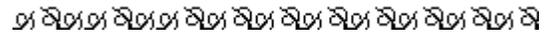
Stedman's analysis of the background to the reviews takes us into the world of Gilbert's early, bohemian life, among the journalists and hack dramatists of the 1860s. We are perhaps too familiar with the later, "respectable" Gilbert; here, we almost *feel* the scapegrace, hand-to-mouth life of the jobbing journalist, going night after night to the wicked theatre and turning that critical eye on the stage. This was a world where the major reviewers were often also the major commercial dramatists; we are reminded once more that it was a remarkably closed world, inhabited by a surprisingly small group. The public quarrels, fallings-out, and sniping that characterised Gilbert's career should perhaps be seen in that context.

... Every book that is written in a serious attempt to look at Gilbert's achievement is almost bound to tell us something new. That is simply an indication of how little material of this kind has already been written. But even so, this is a valuable book. It looks at Gilbert from a *different* point of view, not simply from the

usual perspective of G&S words-man. (Sullivan's name does not even appear in the index!) Gilbert was a man of multi-faceted achievement, and in this book we are shown an unfamiliar facet.

-- **ANDREW CROWTHER**

W.S. Gilbert's Theatrical Criticism, by **Jane W. Stedman**, is available from its publisher, **The Society for Theatre Research**. Contact **Eileen Cottis** at e.cottis@btinternet.com or write to The Society for Theatre Research, c/o Theatre Museum, 1E Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7PA for more information.



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS RUDDIGORE
Janice Dallas gleaned a *SavoyNet* exchange which ran somewhat thus:



"In fact, the **Oxford University Press** critical edition edited by **David Russell Hulme** has only been published within the past year... It must also be pointed out that, as of now, OUP will only sell this edition to customers in

Europe!!" (This was posted by a *NEGASSer* who wishes to remain nameless.)

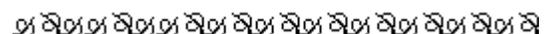
To which *NEGASSer* **Bruce Miller** replied: The full score and vocal score are now available in the United States. I had a chat this afternoon with our regular sheet music dealer, who did some checking. OUP (New York) has copies of both the full score and vocal score, in stock, that they are very willing to supply to dealers in the U.S.A.

Some music stores may not be sufficiently classical-oriented to be interested in supplying these items. Here is one that is willing to accept credit card orders, and undoubtedly there are many others:

Dale Music Co., Inc.
8240 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

1-800-779-6874 (Ask for **Gary Roper**) (Local telephone #: 589-1459)

-- **BRUCE I. MILLER**



Visit <http://leedscarroll.com/GSEnsembles.html> for a list of G&S ensembles suitable for excerpting - *mlc*



☞☞ **The Sudbury Savoyards** are seeking applicants for the positions of stage and music director, as well as production staff members, for next season's **SORCERER**. Phone 978-443-8811, or contact **Katherine Engel Meifert** at 508) 303-2000 or via meifert@mediaone.net.

Auditions for **Sudbury's** summer show, **Blithe Spirit** [*yes, We know it isn't*], will be held **May 7 and 8**. Phone 978-443-8811 or visit <http://www.sudburysavoyards.org/> for more info.



Ray O'Hare as King Gama in the LMLO IDA
(All LMLO photos by Ron Dallas)

☞☞ **The G & S Society of NY** will hold its next meeting on Saturday, **April 28** at the Friends Meeting House near Union Square, NYC., on Rutherford Place (between 2nd & 3rd Avenue, near 15th St.). Doors open at 7:30; the meeting starts at 8:00, and the Inner Brotherhood go out for coffee afterwards.

☞☞ Auditions will be held **April 30 and May 1** for **Turtle Lane Playhouse** of Newton, MA's upcoming production of **PIRATES**. Bring a head shot and resume, and be prepared to sing 16 bars of an up-tempo song and 16 of a ballad (NB: this is a company that actually *pays* its actors!) Performances will begin July 13th. For more information, visit <http://turtle-lane.com/> or phone (617) 244-0169.

April 23, 1881, **Patience** opens.

☞☞ **The D'Oyly Carte Opera Co.** is building a handsome new web site at <http://www.doylycarte.org.uk/>, where it is announcing that it will perform **PIRATES** at the Savoy Theater from **April 20 - June 16**. {A review by **Marc Shepherd** of *D'C's* recent Savoy Theater **PINAFORE**, published in the **U. Michigan Society's** newsletter, **GASBAG**, sings the company's praises: "The Company has had its ups and downs over the last couple of decades, but perhaps the renaissance has finally arrived... D'Oyly Carte markets itself

skillfully and puts a first-class product on the stage... the cast and staff have a spring in their step the likes of which we haven't seen in a long time."] Visit their web site, or call +44(0)20 7836 8888 for more info.

May 13, 1842, Arthur Sullivan is born.
May 25, 1878, **H.M.S. Pinafore** opens.
May 27, 1883, Sullivan is knighted.
May 29, 1911, Sir W. S. Gilbert dies

☞☞ Auditions for **Valley Light Opera** of Amherst, MA's fall **DUKE** (in a version "honed" by **Jonathan Strong** and **Jim Ellis**) will be held **May 5**, 11am - 4 pm and **May 6**, 1-4 pm at the First Congregational Church, 165 Main St., Auburn, MA. (Attend an Audition Workshop on **April 30** at 7:30, if you need help.) Performances will be **November 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10**. Visit their web site at <http://www.vlo.org>, or send a letter to Valley Light Opera, Inc., PO Box 2143, Amherst, MA 01004-2143 for more info.

☞☞ **MITG&SP's** production of **THE GRAND DUKE**, directed by **David Jedlinsky**, will take place **May 3, 4, and 5** at 8:00 PM and **May 5 & 6** at 2:00 PM in MIT's Sala de Puerto Rico. E-mail savoyards-request@mit.edu, visit <http://web.mit.edu/gsp/www/>, or phone (617) 253-0190 for more info.



☞☞ **Fiddlehead Theatre Co.** of Norwood, MA will present **PINAFORE**, directed by **Todd Allen Long** with music direction by **Michelle Alexander**, on **May 11-20**. We hear they are still looking for a few good men to join the chorus! For more information, contact: Fiddlehead Theatre Company, 109 Central Street, Norwood, MA 02062 or phone (781) 762-4060.

☞☞ The Children/Youth Choir of the **First Parish Church in Bedford, MA** will present **IOLANTHE**, directed by **Louise Curtis**, in **June**. More news as it breaks!

☞☞ **The Conn. G&S Society** will be holding auditions for **PRINCESS IDA** on June 3 and 6 at 7pm at the Portland Congregational Church, 554 Main Street, Portland, Conn. The performances will take place November 16, 17 and 18 at Middletown High School auditorium. The revival will be staged by **Bob Cumming** and conducted by **John Dreslin**. For further info call 1-800-866-1606, or write to CG&SS, PO Box 2152, Middletown, CT 06457.

☞☞ **Elderhostel** will present G&S study-and-performance programs at the **Incarnation Center** in Ivorytown, CT **July 8-13** (focused on **PATIENCE**) and **15-20** (focused on **PIRATES**, **PINAFORE**, and **MIKADO**). This popular annual Elderhostel program

was initiated by **Bob Cumming** in 1987; since 1996 it has been led by **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.** and **Deb Lyons**. To register, phone 1-877-426-8056 (toll-free, 9 AM- 9 PM, M-F), or visit <http://www.elderhostel.org>. Or contact **Ralph** via e-mail at RMacPhai@Bridgewater.Edu, or by phoning (540) 828-5342 (office) or (540) 828-6656 (home and fax)

☪ **Juliet Cunningham** will host a Wednesday-night **G&S Sing-Along Series** on July 11 (**PINAFORE**), 18 (**PIRATES**) and 25 (**MIKADO**) at 7:30 PM at the **Boston Church of the New Jerusalem** (140 Bowdoin St., Boston, MA). Requested donation: \$5. If you want a lead role, arrive at 7:15 to request it, or phone Juliet at (617) 436-3767 the evening before the show. (Everyone is welcome to sing chorus.) Some choral scores will be available – or bring your own score. The church is easily accessible by T (Park Street station). Limited free parking is available at the church building - phone Juliet for more info.

☪ **The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Hancock County** will present their recent **PIRATES** again **July 12, 13, 14** at 7 PM and 7/15 at 2 PM. Their 2001/ 2002 production will be **RUDDIGORE**. Visit their web site at <http://ellsworthme.org/gsshc/> for more info., or call {207} 667-9500 for tix.]

☪ **The Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan Players'** fall production will be **YEOMEN**. For more info, contact **Jason St. John** at jstjohn@fas.harvard.edu or by telephone at (617) 493-3141, or visit the HRG&SS Web page: <http://hcs.harvard.edu/~hrgps/>

The Savoyard Light Opera Co (SLOC) plans **Kiss Me Kate** [yes, *We know it isn't*] in November. Phone 978-371-SLOC (7562) or visit <http://www.tiac.net/users/sloc/> for more info.

☪ **The New York City Opera's** 2001-2002 season will include **Jonathan Miller's ENO [English National Opera]** production of **MIKADO**. (The press release describes it as a "new production," since it's new to New York.) Announced among the cast are **Jan Opalach, Richard Troxell, Richard Suart** as Ko-Ko and **Linda Roark-Strummer** as Katisha.

MARC SHEPARD (SavoyNet)

☪ **The 8th International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival** will take place in Buxton, England from July 29 - August 19, 2001. Visit their under-construction site at www.gs-festival.co.uk for more information about the 8th Festival, the booking forms, and their full catalog of merchandise.

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☪ **SavoyNet** members will perform **PATIENCE** at this summer's **International G&S Festival**. **David Duffey** will direct, with **Larry Garvin** as music director.

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We'd like to remind folks: To subscribe to SavoyNet, the G&S mailing list, send the message "Subscribe SavoyNet (your full name)" to the address listserv@bridgewater.edu - and you'll be sent all the information you need.

THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

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Visit the **New NEGASS Web Site** at
<http://www.negass.org>

The Trumpet Bray can be read on line at
http://www.negass.org/bray/html/Trumpet_Bray.html

Visit the **Gilbert and Sullivan Archive** at
<http://diamond.boisestate.edu/gas>