

THE TRUMPET BRAY

NEGASS

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

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- all the knowledge we possess we mutually impart -

MASTER CLASS

OCTOBER MEETING: MASTER CLASS WITH EILEEN ST. DAVID: On October 6 at 2:00 PM at the Park Avenue Congregational Church in Arlington, MA. We've been fortunate to have Eileen lead master classes in the spring in past years. This year, we're even more fortunate! She will be teaching her master class this year in the fall, in time to help prepare for many auditions and performances. Our accompanist this year will be **David Goldhirsch**, who played so beautifully on the Marine Parade - er - We mean, at the Gala last spring.



There's still room for singers - and of course, anyone is welcome to attend as an audience member. (Both participation and attendance are free, as usual - and although we encourage NEGASS members to be participants, if you know a non-NEGASSer who'd like to take advantage of this opportunity to work with an expert G&S coach - send'em along!) Sign up to work with Eileen on the song you plan to use for your auditions this winter, for **Sudbury, Harvard, MIT** or any other group. Or bring in the solo you're singing in the show you're in this fall!

To take part, contact Program Chair **Carl Weggel** at (978) 474-0396 or programchair@negass.org and let him know what you'd like to sing. Space is limited - sign up soon.

HOW TO GET THERE: The Park Avenue Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Road, Arlington, MA is located at the corner of Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road, on Park Avenue one block south of Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington.

Local route: 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 (uphill). **From a distance:** Take Route 2 to the Park Avenue-Arlington exit, and drive north (downhill) along Park Avenue until Massachusetts Avenue is in sight. **Free parking** is available on both Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road.

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AUGUST PICNIC MEETING. On the afternoon of Sunday, August 25, NEGASS held its annual picnic at the picturesque Victorian home of **Dr. & Mrs. David Sheldon**, in Hyde Park. There was food of all kinds from BBQ to salad to snacks, and much jovial socializing. But first, a complete sing-through of **PATIENCE**. We gathered round in the Sheldon living room, where **Juliet Cunningham** had set up a portable keyboard, and sang and spoke our way through the opera, much as we did in Juliet's highly enjoyable summer sings in Beacon Hill this past July.

The principal cast for the afternoon was as follows:

Col. Calverly:

Maj. Murgatroyd:

Lt. the Duke of Dunstable:

Dave Leigh (dialogue & solos)

Tony Parkes (ensemble sections)

Peter Cameron

J. Donald Smith (dialogue)

Reginald Bunthorne: **Dave Leigh** (music)
 Archibald Grosvenor: **Tony Parkes**
 Lady Angela: **Sheldon Hochman**
 Lady Saphir: **Juliet Cunningham**
Charlotte Swartz (dialogue)
Janice Dallas (music)
 Lady Ella: **Janice Dallas**
 Lady Jane: **Isabel Leonard**
 Patience: **Marion Leeds Carroll**

Overall, the sing-through proved to be great fun. Juliet was the able accompanist throughout, and the chorus was small but spirited. Isabel updated the beginning of Jane's solo, replacing such Victorian beautifiers as rouge and lip-salve with modern techniques, up to and including liposuction. The trade-offs of roles among singers and speakers was very smooth. The Sheldons were gracious and accommodating hosts, and provided us with soda and a barbecue grill. They also immersed us in G&S from the moment we set foot in their home. (When I arrived, I found **MIKADO** highlights playing on the stereo in one room, and the 1930's film of **MIKADO** playing on TV in another!)

After the opera was over, we cooked our steaks and burgers, gathered our salads, sides, and various other foodstuffs, and sat down to a pleasant and informal dinner. I got into conversations with subjects ranging from Gilbert & Sullivan to Tom Lehrer to the Discworld book series. I also overheard people mentioning that they had driven from as far away as New Hampshire and New York to get here. I admire that kind of dedication, and I'm glad they deemed it worth the trek.

One of my particular interests is passing on the enjoyment of Gilbert & Sullivan to the next generation of fans; and I'm happy to say that our chorus in the sing-through included some enthusiastic young persons. Teenage brothers **Daniel** and **Aaron Schwartz** joined the 35th Dragoon Guards, and nine-year-old **Jenna Vossoughi** was one of the Rapturous Maidens. (Miss Vossoughi granted me a brief interview after the sing-through. Even at her young age, she is familiar with most of the canon — indeed, she already seemed to know the music of **PATIENCE** by heart. I asked her which opera is her favorite, and her reply was, "All of them." I like the way she thinks!)



All in all, good food, good company, great music. Thanks again, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon, for your hospitality, and thank you, NEGASS organizers, for a truly enjoyable afternoon.

-- **DAVID LEIGH**

Tentative Meeting Schedule, 2002-2003

October 6	Master Class with Eileen St David
January 26	Newton Free Library Film
March	LMLO GONDOLIERS
Late April	Lecture? Cartoons? Film? TBA!
May 18	Elections/Fantasy Day

NEXT BRAY COPY DEADLINE: October 20

Next Bray Stuffing: Sunday, October 27, at 3:00 PM. Call Us at (781) 646-9115 evenings and weekends, or send email to marion@leedscarroll.com, for directions to Our easy-to-get-to Arlington, MA home.

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome We New Members Donald J. Bilodeau of Quincy, and **Carol Vossoughi** and her children, **Jenna** and **Ian**, of Derry, NH.

Don is a Director, Techie, Photographer, and Graphic Designer. *He writes:* I was a Theatre major in college. I always liked G&S, and into opera since *Amadeus*. I would try singing, but I've heard myself. I love performers who know the true meaning of amateur. I like the green room as much as the stage. I'd call myself The Pest of the Opera.

Carol writes: I am mother to Jenna age 9 and Ian age 6 and they are great G&S fans. We stumbled across a children's production of the **MIKADO** a year ago. It was a bit confusing and honestly we didn't really "get it".

But it seemed like it was something to look further into and it has been RAPTURE ever since! We have gone to, and learned, **PIRATES**, **PINAFORE**, **YEOMAN**, **IOLANTHE** and **PATIENCE**. This summer was spent enjoying the pleasures of the **GONDOLIERS**. We look forward to your production of it in the spring.

As a parent I find the operas just perfect for developing all that stuff that parents want to encourage in their children. The creative and artistic play inspired in the children is wonderful to see and hear. Jenna stages **GONDOLIERS** and **PATIENCE** scenes with her stuffed animals and the house is alive with her lovely singing and piano (G&S of course!) Ian has been working on an original opera. He's got all his characters (sopranos, tenors, bass etc.) Okay, he still needs a Sullivan partner!!

When we travel in the car the question always is which opera shall we listen to? Sometimes I wonder what we did to entertain ourselves before G&S. There is a book to be written here, parenting the G&S way!

Several of the principals are music professionals, teachers in the area and about the state, and one consequence was a number of high school and college students, several of them music majors, in the chorus. Their sound, too, was good, and if some of the Tower Warders didn't look all that close to the autumn of their years, what of it? They were young and enjoying G&S, which is no small blessing.

Courthouse Light Opera has done G&S for a couple or three years now, and if this year's work fairly represents their past, I'm sorry to be late catching up.

-- **GAMAREX**



ENGAGED WITH THE SUDBURY SAVOYARDS:

When a director starts working on a comic play 125 years old, one of the most difficult things to decide is how to treat the work. Given the opportunity to bring the rarely performed 1877 comic masterpiece to the stage this summer, Director **Charles Berney** presented *Engaged* with a hint of melodramatic style that complemented the piece perfectly.

Engaged opens in the Highlands region of Scotland with a young swain, Angus Macalister (**Ben Stevens**), who routinely derails passenger trains steaming through his poor town so the passengers will spend some time and money at the cottage of his mother-in-law-elect (expertly played by longtime G&S actor/director **Kathy Lague**). Angus loses the love of his life, Maggie (**Zoë Daniel**) to Cheviot Hill, played by G&S acting and directing veteran **Bill Kuhlman**. Seemingly moments later, this wealthy and charming man-about-town is himself derailed in his affection for Maggie as he falls for a sophisticated Englishwoman, Belinda Treherne, who visits the Macalister cottage after Angus tips her train off the tracks. Treherne, played with a majestically light comic touch by **Christine Hamel**, is being pursued by an enraged Major McGillicuddy (**Ed Fell**), who is under the impression that she had agreed to marry him.

Hill rescues her by lying, indicating to the major that they have entered into a "Scots Marriage," which requires only that the man and woman verbally state that they are married in order for it to be legally binding. They part ways, but they all coincidentally meet later in London, at the Symperson's elegant home, gorgeously designed by **Andrea Roessler** and built by a team led by veteran G&S music director **Steve Malioneck** with wonderful attention to Victorian detail. Hill has arrived there to be married to Minnie Symperson (**Ann Marie King**), a seemingly ditz young woman and friend of Belinda whose father is

Hill's banker, but also becomes interested in Minnie's maid (**Debbie Crane**). Complexity increases when we learn that Cheviot's friend Belvawney (played deftly by **Henry Kettell**), who is also engaged to Belinda, will be penniless if Cheviot marries, since his income is based solely on his agreement with Cheviot's father to keep him from marriage. With the arrival of Belinda and Maggie at Minnie's home, where each lay claim to Hill, Gilbert leads us to a whirlwind conclusion that rests, as do so many of his works, on an point of law.

Ann Marie King's Minnie was an expert incarnation of a sharp-edged, money-hungry bride-to-be hiding under the guise of a clueless flit. **Mike Lague's** Mr. Symperson was priceless as her father in his barely hidden and hilarious attempts to encourage Hill to suicide so that he can collect 1000 pounds sterling a year. When this does not occur, Lague's character, having changed into a mourning outfit in anticipation of Hill's departure, hooted in frustration, "It's not *business* sir, it's not business." **Henry Kettell's** mesmeric, yet desperate, Belvawney was played with deft expertise. **Ben Steven's** teary-eyed Angus Macalister and **Kathy Lague** as Maggie's mother supported the story with perfect Scotch accents and marvelous, almost slapstick, humor.

Zoë Daniel's winsome style and comic flair in her scenes with Hill were award winners. **Debbie Crane** and **Ed Fell's** brief but well-rendered performances add excellent color to the play. But most impressive of all was **Bill Kuhlman's** Cheviot Hill with his mastery of an extraordinary number of lines and his delightfully facile delivery as he bounced through his encounters with the rest of the cast.

Videos and DVDs of the performance are available. Contact **Jay Woodruff** at woodruff4@attbi.com for details.

-- **JAY WOODRUFF**



The Gilbert and Sullivan's Society of Nova Scotia's Sing-Out, held in Toronto in July, was apparently "a smashing success" – "The Singout was attended by over 100 G&S *aficionados* from many corners of the world." – including NEGASSers such as **Bruce Miller**. Dame Rumour whispers that they plan another such in 2004. Visit <http://www.gandsnovascotia.ca/> for the whole story.



CALENDAR

☞ ☞ **MITG&SP** are still seeking production staff for their fall show, **PIRATES**. Directors include **Brian Bermack** (stage), **Jen Hazel** (vocal) and **Jimmy Jia** (orchestral), with **Nick Bozard** as Producer

Performances are planned for Nov. 21-23 at 8 PM and Nov. 23 & 24 at 2 PM. (MIT's Spring 2003 show will be **UTOPIA!**) E-mail savoyards-request@mit.edu, visit <http://web.mit.edu/gsp/www/>, or phone (617) 253-0190 for more info.

☞☞ **Judi Lemoine of the Lowell Opera Company writes of Prof. Ricardo Zavala:** He does a series of lectures on opera at Barnes & Noble bookstore in Nashua, NH. On Tuesday, Sept. 24th from 7PM - 9PM he'll be discussing Gilbert & Sullivan. The lecture is free and open to the public. [*Thank'ye, Judi!*]

☞☞ **Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Hancock County (GSSHC)** is leading up to auditions for **PATIENCE**. First there'll be a Sing-Through on Oct. 1, 6:45-9:00 PM at the Bryant E. Moore school in Ellsworth, ME. Anyone interested in singing in this production is urged to attend. No auditions are necessary for chorus roles. Auditions for principal roles will be held by appointment on Oct. 5, 1-4 PM and Oct. 6, 2-5 P.M. at the First Congregational Church of Ellsworth. Audition excerpts and readings will be available at the Sing-Through, or on the Society's website: <http://www.ellsworthme.org/gsshc/> Sign up at the Sing-through or call Society Secretary **Sandi Blanchette** (207) 667-0188 for an appointment.

Performances will be at the beginning of February, 2003 at The Grand Theater, Main Street, Ellsworth, ME.. E-mail **Irv Hodgkin** at IHodgkin@acadia.net or visit <http://ellsworthme.org/gsshc/> for more info. (Box office telephone: 207- 667-9500)

This production will introduce GSSHC's new artistic director, **Geoffrey Shovelton**, of the **D'Oyly Carte** company, assisted by his wife, **Deborah Clague**, as choreographer. Returning as musical director will be **Fredric Goldrich**.

☞☞ **Lowell Opera Company**, with guest artists **Kathy Lague** and **Bill Kuhlman**, will present **An Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan**, Oct 19 at 7:30 PM at Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd, Chelmsford, MA. Tickets are \$15.00 and include an *hors d'ouvres* buffet at intermission. The concert will include excerpts from **PIRATES**, **PINAFORE**, and **MIKADO**, as well as a complete production of **TRIAL**. For tickets call **John Magarian** at 978-937-0914 or the Church Office at 978-256-7234.

Auditions for LOC take place at rehearsals throughout the month of September and on the first Monday of each month throughout the year. They rehearse at Christ Church United, 6 Bartlett St Lowell, MA on

Mondays from 7:30-9:30PM. For info call 978-441-6926, e-mail lowelloperacompany@msn.com or visit their website at www.operalowell.com

October 2, 1888, **Yeomen of the Guard** opens
October 7, 1893, **Utopia Limited** opens.
October 10, 1881, Savoy Theater opens

☞☞ **Valley Light Opera (Amherst, MA)** plans **YEOMEN** with music direction by **Juli Holmes** and stage direction by **Dean Acheson**, to be performed Nov 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9. For more info, call producer **Cami Elbow** at 413-549-0024 or visit <http://www.vlo.org>

November 17, 1877, **The Sorcerer** opens
November 18, 1836, W. S. Gilbert is born.
November 22, 1900, Sullivan dies
November 25, 1882, **Iolanthe** opens simultaneously in London and New York.

☞☞ **The Connecticut G&S Society** will present **PIRATES**, directed by **Bob Cumming** with music direction by **John Dreslin**, on Nov 8 & 9 at 8PM and Nov 9 & 10 at 2 PM at the Middletown, CT, High School. They're featuring two alternating casts, both full of recognized stars (so you'll have to go twice!) Tickets: \$18 at the door or \$15 in advance; kids under 12: \$10. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope & check to CG&SS, Box 2152, Middletown, CT 06457, or phone 1-800-866-1606 for more info.

☞☞ **KCT Productions** will present **PIRATES** on Nov 8 & 9 at 7 PM and November 9 & 10 at 2 PM at the Adams Memorial Opera House in Derry, NH. Cast of adults and teens. Director: **Michael Curtis**, Music Director: **Don Tongue**, Conductor: **Donna Tongue**, Choreographer: **Michael Ziggerelli**. Tickets - Adults \$10, seniors and children under 12 \$8. Tickets are available at the Opera House, 603-437-0505, KCT at 603-434-8524, or at the door.

☞☞ **Savoyard Light Opera Company**, Carlisle MA will perform **MIKADO** Nov 15, 16, 17 and Nov 22, 23 24 Cast includes:

The Mikado: **Bob Russell**
Nanki-Poo: **Timothy Carew**
Ko-Ko: **Chris Snell**
Pooh-Bah: **John Bennett**
Pish-Tush: **Benjamin Cole**
Yum-Yum: **Kim Bolling**
Pitti-Sing: **Stephanie Mann**
Peep-Bo: **Alison Corke**
Katisha: **Laura Schall Gouillart**

Call 978-371-SLOC, visit their web site (note the new URL) at <http://www.savoyardlightopera.org/> or send an e-mail to slocauditions@aol.com for more info.



