



THE
TRUMPET BRAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY



~ NEGASS EVENTS ~

Trial by Jury/H.M.S. Pinafore, LMLO, May 5, 2013, 2 pm, Park Avenue Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd., Arlington, MA

NEGASS is bringing back the Last-Minute-Light-Operatradition (LMLO) with a double bill of *Trial by Jury* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The show is at the Park Avenue Church in Arlington, MA, at 2 pm. Roles will be cast on a first-come, first-served basis. If you wish to sing a principal role, please mail your top choices to [vicepres AT negass DOT org](mailto:vicepres@negass.org) as soon as possible. All roles are open!

The audience is the chorus, so bring your scores and be ready to sing along! Some scores will be available at the show. Refreshments will be served after the show.

The roles in *Trial by Jury* are:

- The Learned Judge - comic baritone
- Angelina, the Plaintiff - soprano
- Edwin, the defendant - tenor
- Counsel for the Plaintiff - baritone or tenor
- Usher - bass-baritone
- Foreman of the Jury - bass

The roles in *H.M.S. Pinafore* are:

- Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. - comic baritone
- Captain Corcoran - baritone
- Ralph Rackstraw, able seaman - tenor
- Dick Deadeye, able seaman - bass-baritone
- Bill Bobstay, boatswain - baritone
- Bob Becket, carpenter - bass
- Josephine, The Captain's Daughter - soprano
- Cousin Hebe - mezzo-soprano
- Little Buttercup - contralto

NEGASS Annual Election Meeting, Sunday, June 23, 2013, 2 - 5 pm, Park Avenue Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd., Arlington, MA

Please join NEGASS members and friends on Sunday, June 23 for our Annual Election Meeting and "Singing Choruses in Public"! We will be electing the following officers: President; Treasurer; Program Chair; and two Members-at-Large.

After the bureaucracy of elections, let it all out with fantasy day. Are you a soprano who's always wanted a crack at the Nightmare Song, or a baritone who'd like to lament "Silvered is the Raven Hair"? Anything and everything is possible this afternoon! Of course, things can be sung in the "normal" way, too!

Directions:

-Rte. 2, exit 58 (Park Avenue North) onto Mass. Ave; continue on Mass. Ave, left at lights onto Park Ave.; church is on right, corner Paul Revere Rd.

<http://www.pacc-ucc.org/directions>

-Buses to Arlington Heights:

77 - Mass Ave, from Harvard Sq

79 - Rte. 2 from Alewife

62 - Mass Ave and Rte. 2 from Alewife

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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 or electronic copy 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 email 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 Available to NEGASS members through online member profile.

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

www.negass.org

NEGASS Board Nominations Sought

We are now accepting self-nominations for positions on the NEGASS board. This spring, the NEGASS nominations committee will assemble a slate of candidates for the following positions:

President (two years); Treasurer (two years); Program Chair (one year); and two Members-at-Large (two years). We would love to hear from you! Please send expressions of interest by May 1 to pres AT negass DOT org.

-Rebecca Hains, President

NEGASS to Introduce G & S in Arlington Public School

In December, the NEGASS Public School Outreach Committee was awarded a grant by the Arlington Cultural Council. This prestigious award will be used to bring our semi-staged piece, “The Words or the Music?” to the Bishop Elementary School in Arlington. The program will include performances of four songs from “The Pirates of Penzance” and will be presented on Wednesday June 5, 2013. The cast will be as follows:

Tom Dawkins as Richard D’Oyly Carte and accompanist

Tom Weber as William S. Gilbert

Jim Eggleston as Arthur Sullivan

Connie Benn singing soprano

Angela Jajko singing mezzo

Dennis O’Brien singing baritone

The Arlington Cultural Council is holding a reception to honor its 2012-2013 grantees on Monday April 8. NEGASS will be represented at the reception by three Outreach Committee members: Jenna Lourenco, Angela Jajko, and Nancy Burstein.

-Nancy Burstein, Chairman, NEGASS School Outreach Committee

❧❧ Recent Productions ❧❧

***H.M.S. Pinafore*, Stanford Savoyards, February, 2013**

My wife and I have heard all the airs from that infernal nonsense *Pinafore* numerous times – two or three at the Ohio Light Opera and countless other times with companies in Connecticut and California. Recently, we saw *HMS Pinafore* in a production where no cast has gone before – well, perhaps only a

few.

The Savoyards, of Stanford University, presented *HMS Pinafore or, the Lass That Loved a Sailor* - that was the title that appears on the inside of the program. On the cover of the program, however, the title is *HMS Pinafore - The Next Generation.*" And below the title is a drawing of the Starship Enterprise.

The stage set was the bridge of the Starship Enterprise of The Next Generation series, with two command desks, with hinged tops, at either side, and at stage center, the curved bridge with three command chairs in front. The walls of the set were made to look like the computer and communication screens found on the TV program. A neat bit of special effects was the doors that allowed entrance onto the stage from the wings. They opened like the ones familiar from the Star Trek shows. The only thing that was missing was a slick "whoosh" sound.

The overture began with familiar music not from Sir Arthur Sullivan, but from "*Star Trek - The Next Generation*": shimmering violin music that then segued nicely into the overture to *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Singing in this production was not up to the standard of Stanford Savoyards shows we have seen in the past. But much of the fun of this version of *Pinafore* was in the mash-up of G&S with the world of Star Trek. This blend apparently has its root in an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* in which Commander Data goes crazy and steals a small space ship. He is chased by Captain Picard and Commander Worf. During the chase, Picard recalls that Data was rehearsing HMS Pinafore when he went haywire (a not unexplainable event). Picard begins singing "An English tar.." and encourages Worf to join in. Data joins in, also, from his craft, and is distracted enough that Picard and Worf can latch onto his ship and take him back to the Enterprise. Clips of this episode are available on YouTube.

Dialogue was delicately and judiciously adjusted for this version of *Pinafore*. At one point, for example, Captain Corcoran asks Buttercup why she did not beam down to shore. There was no wholesale

rewriting of the words of W.S. Gilbert to fit the new context, only the occasional tweaking.

An important feature of this production was the way the characters were presented. Captain Corcoran was presented as Jean-Luc Picard, Ralph Rackstraw was William Riker, Bill Bobstay was Data, Bob Becket was a somewhat older Geordi La Forge, and Dick Deadeye was Commander Worf.

Josephine, the Captain's daughter, was Counselor Troi, and her entrance in the counselor's uniform and an extremely full wig that cascaded down her back brought much laughter from the audience - as had the Captain's entrance with his shaved head and Worf's with his swarthy Klingon look. Cousin Hebe, Sir Joseph's cousin, was an Orion slave, completely green, skin and all. Little Buttercup was Lwaxana Troi.

And the Right Honorable Sir Joseph Porter, ruler of the Queen's Navy, was a time-transported Admiral James T. Kirk. The male chorus was in The Next Generation uniforms. The Admiral's Sisters and his cousins and his aunts were a gaggle of differently-garbed and coifed female characters from various episodes of TNG. The pace of the show was well-maintained by the cast on stage and by the conductor, **Madeleine Graham**.

This production by the Stanford Savoyards was independent of several done previously in Toronto and L.A. Changes to Gilbert's words were few and were made by the directors, **Jan Heiman** and **Ravi Soundarajan**, and by conductor **Madeleine Graham**, **Brian Chin**, who played Ralph Rackstraw, and **Erica Lynn McCay**, the set designer. There may be more such themed productions of G&S by the Stanford Savoyards in future. Last year, they did a *Firefly*-themed *Pirates*, which this reviewer regrets having missed. He has seen *The Firefly*; he has seen *The Pirates of Penzance*. Now he has to rely on his imagination to meld the two.

- **Edward A. Jajko**





Upcoming NEGASS Events - 2013

Trial by Jury/Pinafore
NEGASS LMLO
May 5, 2 pm
Last Minute Light Opera
see page 1 for details
Park Avenue Church
50 Paul Revere Rd.
Arlington, MA

NEGASS Elections and Fantasy Day!
NEGASS
June 23, 2 - 5 pm
Election of Board officers
G & S sing-fest
see page 1 for details
Park Avenue Church
50 Paul Revere Rd.
Arlington, MA

Upcoming Events

The Pirates of Penzance
BUGS
April 12 & 13, 8 pm
April 13, 2 pm; April 14, 11 am
students.brown.edu/BUGS/reserve.php
Brown University
Alumnae Hall
194 Meeting Street
Providence, RI

The Pirates of Penzance
Opera at Longy
April 19 & 20, 2013, 7 pm
www.longy.edu
Longy School of Music
27 Garden St. Harvard Square
Cambridge, MA

G & S Sing-In
BUGS
April 27
students.brown.edu/BUGS to register
Brown University
Alumnae Hall
194 Meeting Street
Providence, RI

Iolanthe
MITG&SP
May 3 - 5, 10 -12, 2013
gsp.mit.edu/productions/2013/spring/iolanthe/
MIT Student Center
84 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA

The Pirates of Penzance
A.R.T.
May 10 -June 2, 2013
www.americanrepertorytheater.org
American Repertory Theater
Loeb Drama Center
64 Brattle Street
Cambridge, MA

Iolanthe
CLOC
June 25 - 29, 2013
www.collegelightoperacompany.com
College Light Opera Company
58 Highfield Drive
Falmouth, MA

The Pirate of Penzance
Methuen Young People's Theater
September 7, 2 & 7:30 pm
September 8, 3 pm
www.mmmh.org
Methuen Memorial Music Hall
Rte. 28 - 192 Broadway
Methuen, MA

Auditions

The Pirate of Penzance
Methuen Young People's Theater
June 6, 6:30 pm
June 8, 9 am
www.mmmh.org
Methuen Memorial Music Hall
Rte. 28 - 192 Broadway
Methuen, MA