



NEGASS EVENTS

***The Pirates of Penzance*, NEGASS/Longwood Opera, August 28, 2011, 2 pm, Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Ave., Needham, MA**

NEGASS members and members of Longwood Opera present an unrehearsed joint concert of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The audience is the chorus, so bring your score! Music is free and dinner is potluck. Please bring something to share if you'd like to stay for dinner.

The roles to be cast are:

- Major-General Stanley (comic baritone)
- The Pirate King (bass-baritone)
- Samuel, his Lieutenant (baritone)
- Frederic, the Pirate Apprentice (tenor)
- Sergeant of Police (bass)
- Mabel (soprano)
- Edith (mezzo-soprano or soprano)
- Kate (mezzo-soprano)
- Isabel (speaking role)
- Ruth, a Piratical Maid of all work (contralto)

Please send your role interest to [programchair AT negass DOT org](mailto:programchair@negass.org) by August 15th. Due to the volume of role requests, we may be

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unable to cast all those who have expressed an interest in a specific role.

Directions:

<http://www.longwoodopera.org/directions.html#needham>

Take Mass Pike or Rt. 9 west to Rt. 128 (I-95) south; take exit 19b, Highland Avenue, towards Needham. The church is about 1.1 miles from the exit, on the left, opposite the Public Library and just before Rosemary St.; its large parking lot is on the right.

NEGASS outing to *Iolanthe*, Mass Theatrica, September 24, 2011, 8 pm, September 25, 2 pm, Southgate, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury, MA

If you missed Mass Theatrica's production of *Iolanthe* in October, never fear! You can come see it now! Join NEGASS in an outing to see this G & S gem.

Join us Sunday, September 25th in an outing to see *Iolanthe*, at Southgate's Theater, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury, MA, at 2 pm. NEGASS members **Stephanie Mann** and **Thomas Dawkins** are serving as Stage Director and Music Director respectively.

The cast includes:

- The Lord Chancellor - Craig Howard
- George, Earl of Mountararat - Tom Weber
- Thomas, Earl Tolloller - Lonnie Powell
- Private Willis, Grenadier Guard - Miles Rind
- Strephon, an Arcadian Shepherd - Thomas René Brennan
- Queen of the Fairies - Angeliki Theoharis
- Iolanthe*, a Fairy, Strephon's mother - Susan Craft



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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 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 email. Members may also receive Brays as PDF email attachments. To receive a password and/or to receive the Bray online only or as an email attachment, please email memb AT negass DOT org.

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>

BRAY DEADLINES: 15th of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, 2011.

www.negass DOT org

- Celia, a Fairy - Connell Benn
- Leila, a Fairy - Kaori Emery
- Fleta, a Fairy - Jacque Wilson
- Phyllis, an Arcadian Shepherdess - Jennifer Sgroe
- Faerie - Wendy Parker
- Peer - Brad Amidon

Directions to Southgate from Route 2:

- Take exit 52A to merge onto I-95 S/MA-128 S toward Attleboro
- Merge onto I-90 W
- Take exit 12 to merge onto MA-9/Worcester Rd toward Marlborough. Continue to follow MA-9
- Turn right at South St
- Turn left at Julio Drive

❧❧ NEGASS 35th ANNIVERSARY SING-OUT – REVIEWS ❧❧

From Alessandra Kingsford:

On Sunday afternoon, June 12, I was lucky enough to join the chorus for an exhilarating Sing-Out performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard*, at 51 Walden Street in Concord, MA.

This cast would grace any stage. **Kaori Emery** as Elsie, **Angela Jajko** as Phoebe, and **Kathleen Larson Day** as Dame Carruthers presented fine solos, capped by their gorgeous trio, “Tis said that joy in full perfection”. **Lonnie Powell** as Colonel Fairfax used eloquent phrasing and handsome tone for “Is Life a Boon?” The Jack Point of **Samuel Silvers** was indeed ‘well sung, and well danced’. **Marion Leeds Carroll** as Kate offered a lovely “Strange Adventure” with Carruthers, Fairfax, and Sergeant Merryl (a steadfast **Tony Parkes**).

Brad Amidon as First Yeoman and **Bob Moreen** as Second Yeoman were in excellent voice. **Jim Miller** as Sir Richard, **Dafydd Mac an Leigh** as Wilfred Shadbolt, and **Ben Gold** as Leonard Meryll all sang well. The chorus entered with gusto on “Here’s a man of jollity”, nicely catching the 5/4 bars. The gentlemen were particularly strong in the Act I finale, and the ladies opened Act II with glowing tone.

William Venman conducted with obvious affection for Sullivan’s score. **Thomas Dawkins** provided the supple, witty piano accompaniment, always supportive of the singers. Thanks to NEGASS for a delightful musical afternoon!

From Arthur S. Koykka (loyal member since 1978) :

It would be impossible to thank everyone by name – the performers and organizers of this event. Let me

just say that you know who you are and so do we. Enough said.

Accompaniment was by a very responsive Steinway Grand, model-B, possessing a spectacular top range, and an authoritative growling bass. I wanted to take it home, as I am sure did many others. The Concord Performing Arts Center was a wholly suitable and supportive venue, with sufficient lighting to read one's score. The acoustics were appropriately lively.

Estimated timing of operettas was spot-on. Food was ready on time, and most of it was interesting and of good quality. Well --- except for the vegetarian sandwiches that contained bacon.

The finales to some operettas were graced by interpolated high notes by talented sopranos. I even heard a high E-flat or two. You should continue to do so. This is show business, after all.

A few people should be singled out. **William Remmers** sang several parts, and adjusted nicely for the requirements of each role. We weren't expecting the banjo performance in the minstrel show sequence in *Utopia*, but it was nicely done and made that scene a standout experience for the listener.

The tambourine work of conductor **Thomas Dawkins** in the above scene was both appropriate and over-the-top. We need to see more of this operetta: the music is worth hearing and the attire is still current. Have any of you seen a real 19th Century minstrel show? Very likely not. They were racist to be sure, and the British loved them.

Someone should design and give a trophy to **Stephanie Mann** who sang what may be the best soprano aria in the G & S canon - "The Hours Creep on Apace" from *Pinafore*. Stephanie was on the planning committee and substituted for a soprano who became ill and couldn't perform.

But what struck the core of my enjoyment was what happened in *Yeomen*. I made a decision to stop singing chorus midway through Act I. I didn't know the part that well and was doing nobody any good. I wanted to listen to pianist **Dawkins**. And then the magic happened. Act II has a number of gorgeous ensemble numbers, and the group turned in work that in many cases was ready for performance. Balance, blend, commitment to the text and music - it was all there. I will admit to tearing up on several occasions - the kind of behavior I usually reserve for Side 8 of *Der Rosenkavalier* (I hope some of you understand that reference). But isn't that the reason we continue to buy tickets to music events? Always

hoping for the magic, the kind we had on Sunday afternoon in Concord. (I would have yelled "Encore!" but was unable to even speak at that moment).

Thank you, NEGASS, for having the courage to pull off this event. I eagerly look forward to the next one.

From Nancy Burstein:

The Marathon Weekend hosted by NEGASS on June 11-12 was a brilliant success. All hail **Rebecca Hains** and **Stephanie Mann** for making this dream a reality. The logistics were excellent, we were all comfortable and well fed, and the musical experience was beyond praise.

I was particularly gratified to meet and reminisce with several people from my distant past, including Tony Parkes, Jim Finder, and Peter Zavon. The even more distant past was brought back by the format of the Sing-Out: musical numbers with no interspersed dialogue. That was how I learned the G&S operas in childhood, from the old D'Oyly Carte LPs (leading to a very confused idea of the plots). This time, several abrupt transitions were gracefully bridged by performers - for example, between "Willahalla, willaloo" and the Act II Finale of "Iolanthe," **Angela Jajko** as the Queen brightly remarked "Never mind, just kidding!" And between "A man who would woo a fair maid" and "When a wooer goes a wooing," **Sam Silvers** as Jack Point interjected simply "Then a bad thing happens."

It was thrilling to sing chorus from the audience, surrounded by other singers of such wonderful quality, i.e. the leads in the other productions. A high point of this experience was "Painted emblems" where it really felt like the whole hall was full of singing portraits. And it was an incomparable delight to be immersed in the entire canon over a mere two days.

Among the performances that most charmed me were **Sam Silvers** as Sir Joseph Porter, **Miles Rind** as the Duke of Monte Carlo, **Rebecca Hains** as Mabel, **Kaori Emery** as Elsie Maynard, **Connie Benn** as the Princess Nekaya, but wait, once I begin, how can I stop? Well, special kudos to a few more: **John Dreslin**, whose conducting was extraordinary both of the soloists on stage and of the assembled multitude; **William Remmers** who transformed himself in taking on a wide variety of parts, played the banjo brilliantly in the Minstrel number in *Utopia*, and then cracked us up by reappearing with his banjo at the appropriate moment during the "Little list" song; **Tony Parkes**, who inter alia performed the enormous and difficult role of Ludwig, helping to

keep this little-known show together; and **Tom Frates**, whose comically malicious interpretation of Ko-ko turned the final pairing with Katisha into a match made in heaven. The occasional impromptu blocking and choreography throughout the two days was an additional pleasure.

Editor's Note: **Sam Silvers**, who lent his splendid talents to our Sing-Out in a variety of roles, reviewed the Sing-Out in SavoyNet, an email listserv dedicated to Gilbert & Sullivan. Please contact [editor AT negass DOT org](mailto:editor@negass.org) for a copy of that review.

RECENT PRODUCTIONS

Trial By Jury and Gianni Schicchi, Greater Worcester Opera, June 10 & 11, 2011, Warner Theatre at Worcester Academy, 81 Providence Street, Worcester, MA

I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Greater Worcester Opera's dress rehearsal of their double bill *Gianni Schicchi* and *Trial by Jury* directed by **Graham Christian** with music direction by **Lynne LaComfora**. First was Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, an opera that I am not terribly familiar with. The set was absolutely gorgeous, evoking the grand hall of a 13th Century Italian mansion. Costumes were likewise glorious, in rich brocades and velvets which must have been sweltering on stage, but looked fantastic from the house. The recently deceased 'Buoso Donati' was a life-sized stuffed mannequin with X's on his eyes and a frowny face which made me giggle every time I looked at him.

After intermission, the curtains opened to a remarkable representation of a 'Judge Judy' set for Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*. The setting was modernized to be a 'celebrity court case' between 'Edwin Sandoval Timberline' (boy band veteran and award-winning pop star, fresh from his acting debut in *Facetube: The Movie*) played by **Taylor Lawton** and 'Angelina D'Arcy Jones' (acclaimed R&B vocalist and dancer, fresh from the tour in support of her double-platinum album, *It's All About Me*) played by **Erin Conley**. The presiding Judge (star of the now-cancelled *Judge Jimmy* reality television show) was **Benjamin Morse**, the Counsel (Hollywood's first-call lawyer, familiar from numerous appearances for CNN) was **Barratt Park**, the Usher (Bailiff) was **Thaddeus Bell**, and the Foreman of the Jury was **Michael Gondek**. I loved this reinterpretation!

The members of the jury were all in business suits and chatting on their cell phones while the 'members of the press' were all paparazzi covering the trial (one particular standout was **Mauri Tetrault** who,

with her giant camera, went through all sorts of acrobatics to get 'choice shots'). Edwin came in, looking like he just came from the red carpet or from the set of 'Jersey Shore' and while it was a fine voice, I didn't get a lot of diction, especially after the strong ensemble from the Jury and the Usher. The bridesmaids' entrance was truly spectacular and kudos should be given to the choreographer who, sadly, was not listed in the program. They all entered in slinky, black dresses and did a dance reminiscent of 'Single Ladies' by Beyonce (a particular standout for this was **Lydian DeVere Yard**, whose dancing and attitude really sold this interpretation for me).

Once again, however, I was stymied by the lack of diction. I understood the Judge's song, the Usher, and all of the ensemble pieces, but most of the soloists seemed to go more for tone (which was quite nice) than for the diction and in Gilbert and Sullivan, I feel that it is crucial. I also would like to have seen all of the Bridesmaids, Angelina included, more invested in their characters as Lydian was. A brief note to whoever costumed Angelina: Please do not have anyone wear open-toed silver sandals and black hose at the same time. It was very distracting and did not fit the 'stylish, fashion-forward' persona that I believe she was to be portraying. Also, one silver glove was very 'Michael Jackson'. Two would have been perfect.

I thoroughly enjoyed the modern setting of *Trial by Jury*, especially when juxtaposed with the traditional, period setting of *Gianni Schicchi*. There were some fantastic performances and as a whole, I thought that it was a very successful evening. I hope that the audience who attended the performance weekend felt the same.

- **Stephanie Mann**

NEGASS NEWS

NEGASS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

"And now, M'luds, to the business of the day"
IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Inside, you'll find a Member Renewal Form. Please fill it out and return it with your check to Membership Chair Janice Dallas, 63 Everett St., Arlington, MA 02474-6921. Please note any e-mail changes, as that's how we'll let you know that your form and check have arrived.

Unsure about whether you've already renewed? If you look at the envelope that this Bray arrives in, you will see a letter and some numbers in the upper

right hand corner. The letter stands for your membership category, and the month and year are when your membership expires. If it's highlighted in red, you need to renew.

The majority of our members are *Y - Yeomen* at \$20 a year. Besides them, we also have *P - Peers and Peris* at \$30, *B - Bucks and Blades* at \$50, and *F - Flowers of Progress* at \$100. These are our Members Extraordinary, who help us keep going. For those students and others for whom even \$20 a year is a struggle, we have a "Please You, Do Not Hurt Us" category. Please contact Membership Officer, Janice Dallas ([membership AT negass DOT org](#)) for the details. There will be a new password for the most recent on-line Bray on your new membership cards. That password will be activated by the time the next Bray goes out, delivering your membership card.

Lacking the means for a Display of Fireworks in the Evening, we celebrate our Members Extraordinary by printing an annual list of these special friends.

Additional Donations were received from:

Ruth Colson
 Dean S. Edmonds, Jr.
 Miles Carey Leahey
 Carol & Bill Mahoney
 Peter Zavon

Finally, NEGASS would never have been in existence if it weren't for our much appreciated Charter Members. Listed are those who are current members.

<i>CHARTER MEMBERS</i>	
Eleanor Babikian	Alexander Nicoll Gerli
Harry Benford	Mr. & Mrs. Alan Hopfenberg
Van Pelt Brower	Walt Howe
Ruth E. Colson	Richard N. Sewell
Juliet Cunningham	William C. Venman
Dean S. Edmonds, Jr.	Jeff Weisenfreund
Jim Ellis	Peter Zavon

<i>FLOWERS OF PROGRESS</i>	J. Donald Smith Jonathan Strong Harold Trinkoff Tom Weber Dr. & Mrs. Charles Wilder Stephen Zykofsky
Nancy Burdine Kathleen Larson Day Frederick Hughes Arthur & Jean Koykka Miles Cary Leahey	
<i>BUCKS AND BLADES</i>	<i>PEERS AND PERIS</i>
Peter Ambler Brad Amidon David Baldwin Martha Birnbaum Nancy & Philip Burstein Elizabeth Crone Janice Dallas Diana Dawkins Tom Dawkins Dean S. Edmonds, Jr. Tom Frates Laura Schall Gouillart Rebecca and Tyler Hains Robert and Ursula Haslun Win Hindle John and Irene Howard Vance R. Koven Isabel A. Leonard Jim Miller	John E. Dreslin Ann Ferentz Barry E. Garden J. Geary Michael Halperson Alan Harwood Sheldon and Alice Hochman Charlee Hutton Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Kahn Alessandra Kingsford Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Miller Erwin H. Miller Lee Patterson Eric Reines Dr. David Sheldon, D.D.S. David Stieber Angeliki Theoharis Fred Ward Constance Wilson

New NEGASS Members

NEGASS welcomes new members **Abby Robbins** and **Lauren Robbins**, both of Natick, **Elizabeth Crone** of Cambridge, and **David Clarke** of Concord. Elizabeth Crone studied opera (as well as biology) in college, and hopes to return to singing after more than a decade as a university professor. David Clarke got hooked on G & S in school. Now, retired from science teaching, he has some time to participate on stage, recently with FOPAC G&S performances in Concord as well as in the recent Concord "sing-out".





NEGASS Events

The Pirates of Penzance
NEGASS/Longwood Opera
Joint Concert

August 28, 2011, 2pm
See page 1 for details and role requests
www.longwoodopera.org

Christ Episcopal Church
1132 Highland Ave.
Needham, MA

NEGASS Outing to Iolanthe
Mass Theatrica

September 24 (8 pm), 25 (2 pm) 2011
See page 1 for details
www.masstheatrica.org

Southgate
30 Julio Drive
Shrewsbury, MA

Upcoming Productions & Events

International G & S Festival
Buxton, Derbyshire, UK

July 30 – August 20, 2011
for more information contact sarah@gs-festivals.co.uk

See <http://www.gs-festival.co.uk/> for tickets, venues, accommodations

An Evening of G & S
Longwood Opera

August 9, 2011, 7:30 pm
www.longwoodopera.org/#summer

Christ Episcopal Church
1132 Highland Ave.
Needham, MA

The Sorcerer
Methuen Young People's Theater

September 10, 2 & 7:30 pm
September 11, 3 pm, 2011
www.mmmh.org

Methuen Memorial Music Hall,
192 Broadway (Route 28)
Methuen, MA

The Yeomen of the Guard
Savoyard Light Opera

November 12 – 20, 2011
www.savoyardlightopera.org

Corey Auditorium
117 Church St.
Carlisle, MA

The Sorcerer
MITG&SP

December 2 - 10, 2011
<http://mitgsp.livejournal.com/19895.html>

MIT Sala de Puerto Rico
77 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA

Auditions

The Sorcerer
MITG&SP

**September 6 (Bldg.4-270), 7 (Bldg.4-153),
9 (Student Center); 7 – 10 pm**
No appointments – just show up
Directions: whereis.mit.edu
<http://mitgsp.livejournal.com/19895.html>

MIT Student Center
Sala de Puerto Rico & Bldg. 4
77 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA