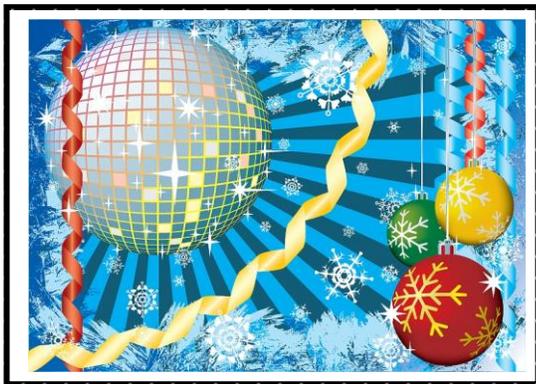




~ NEGASS EVENTS ~

NEGASS Holiday Party, Sunday, December 15, 2013, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

NEGASS invites you to a gala Holiday Party on Sunday, December 15 from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at a lovely private home in Wakefield, MA. Please join us for dinner catered by the incomparable Kaori Emery, games, and folk dancing led by the esteemed Tony Parkes!



Please RSVP to [progchair AT negass DOT org](mailto:progchair@negass.org) or call 617-688-7057 for all the details and directions. (Please note this is a day change from the original listing in The Trumpet Bray).

IN THIS ISSUE

NEGASS Events	1
NEGASS News	3
Recent Productions.....	4
G & S News.....	4
G & S Quiz.....	5
Calendar	6

NEGASS - An Exciting New 2013 - 2014 Schedule of Events!

September saw a lively LMLO performance of *The Sorcerer*, with zaniness and hilarity enjoyed by all. October had us cozy and warm at *Salon by the Fire*. We followed up in November with a group outing to SLOC's boffo performance of *The Mikado*, followed by a wildly successful afterparty at Rufina's in Chelmsford.

We have many more wonderful events planned and hope to see you at most, if not all, of them. Read about upcoming NEGASS events in the Trumpet Bray, our website - www.negass.org, and on Facebook.

2013

December 15: *Holiday Party at La Maison de Kaori*

2014

January: New England Opera Club Collaboration, Waltham Library

February: Special Performance of NEGASS School Outreach's *Pirates of Penzance* (abridged)

March: Scholarship Competition

April: Last-Minute-Light-Opera

May: A Gala G & S Sing-Out

June: NEGASS Election and Summer Fantasy Party

July: Aria and Scene Sing

More future events

Longwood Opera Collaboration



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Martha Birnbaum – editor AT negass DOT org

REVIEWS EDITOR

Martha Birnbaum – editor AT negass DOT org

DESIGN CONSULTANT

Kaori Emery – kaori AT negass DOT org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Dawkins, president – pres AT negass DOT org
 Angela Jajko, vice president – vicepres AT negass DOT org
 Tom Weber, treasurer – treas AT negass DOT org
 Angela Jajko, program chair – progchair AT negass DOT org
 Martha Birnbaum, secretary – sec AT negass DOT org

Members-at-large:

Kaori Emery – kaori AT negass DOT org
 Thaddeus Bell – thaddeus AT negass DOT org
 Susan Craft – susan AT negass DOT org
 Angela Jajko – angela AT negass DOT org
 Jenna Lourenco – jenna AT negass DOT org
 Carolyn Schwartz – carolyn AT negass DOT org

ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Martha Birnbaum, webmistress – webmistress AT negass DOT org
 Janice Dallas, membership & librarian – memb AT negass DOT org

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 AND REVIEWS may be sent to editor AT negass DOT org .

SUBSCRIPTIONS Membership in NEGASS pays for a printed or electronic copy of the Bray, plus access to the current issue of the online PDF version. NEGASS membership dues are \$20, \$30, \$50 and \$100. Please join NEGASS online at www.negass.org .or contact membership chair Janice Dallas, 63 Everett St. Arlington, MA, 02474-6921, or email memb AT negass DOT org.

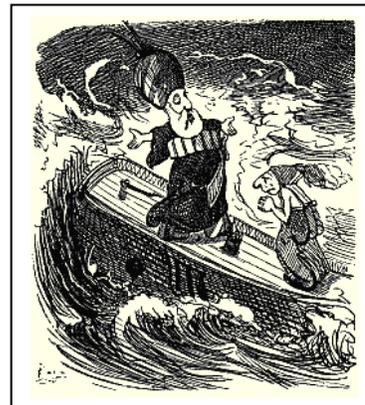
Members receive the Bray via US mail or as a PDF email attachment. To receive the Bray via email, please send a request to memb AT negass DOT org. All editions are available online. The current edition is available online to NEGASS members only.

ARCHIVES Past issues of *The Trumpet Bray* can be read or downloaded from <http://www.negass.org>

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

NEGASS Edwardian Summer Party

On August 18, NEGASS members assembled in Arlington for an **Edwardian Summer Party**. The theme was "Gilbert without Sullivan, and Vice-versa". The festivities commenced with readings of some rarely heard Bab Ballads: "Brave Alum Bey", contributed by **Martha Birnbaum**, and "The Mystic Selvagee", provided by **Janice Dallas**. Mr. Sullivan then held the floor, as **Juliet Cunningham** sang "A Simple Little Child" from *The Zoo*, **Rebecca Burstein** sang "O Moon, Art Thou Clad" from *Ivanhoe*, and **Marion Leeds-Carroll** and **Martha Birnbaum** sang two of Sullivan's art songs. The assembled multitude closed the first half of the program by singing en masse one of Sullivan's most beloved compositions, "The Lost Chord".



After the break it was Gilbert's turn again, with a semi-staged reading of his spoof "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern: A Tragic Episode in Three Tableaux, Founded on an Old Danish

Legend." **Thaddeus Bell** was brilliant as the moody Dane, **Juliet Cunningham** fabulously melodramatic as his doting mother Gertrude, and **Marion Leeds-Carroll** and **Jim Eggleston** captivating as the childhood sweethearts Ophelia and Rosencrantz who plot to dispose of Hamlet so that they can marry.

At least equal kudos must go to the four "Lord High Substitutes". **Janice Dallas** stepped in at zero notice to read the Second Player's part, and **Rebecca Burstein** likewise for the First Player, delivering one of my favorite lines of the play, in response to Hamlet's lecture to the players on how to perform a comedy: "We, on our part, may have our own ideas as to the duties of heirs apparent ..." **Brad Amidon** had been slated for Guildenstern, but was called away by Arlington Friends of the Drama audition call-backs. (We note that he was in fact awarded the role of Algernon in "The Importance of Being Earnest", which he performed

quite excellently in October!)

He, however, provided his own backup in the person of his wife, **Michele Markus**, who ably filled the role for us. Most impressively, after a cancellation by Matt Oliva, who had intended to take the part of Claudius, **Philip Burstein** took over the role of the guilty king and carried it off magnificently.

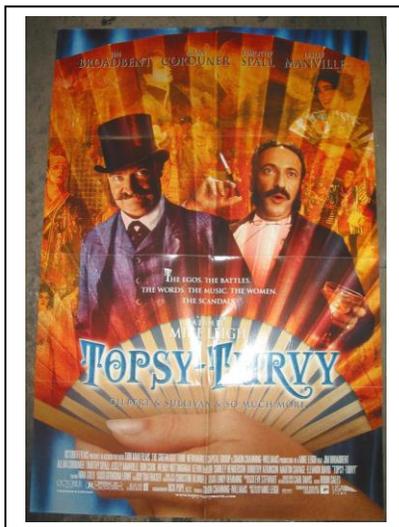
The refreshments were worthy of the occasion, including **Kaori Emory's** inimitable cucumber sandwiches, and ice cream in decorative molds shaped like fish, rosettes, and hearts – an Edwardian tradition.

-Nancy Burstein

NEGASS *Salon by the Fire*

What could be more splendid than an evening by the fire sharing food, the company of friends, and some Gilbert & Sullivan fun? On October 20th, NEGASS member **Tom Frates** opened his fabulous home for our *Salon by the Fire* with an enthusiastic turnout.

Expertly planned by board member **Kaori Emory**, the evening was planned to whet our appetites for the November outing to Savoyard Light Opera Company's production of *The Mikado*. After enjoying a delicious sushi dinner, our Mikado knowledge was put to the trivia test -- we had some true experts on hand, and after tallying correct responses, **Laura Gouillart** was the winner!



We watched two choice clips from the 1999 Mike Leigh film, *Topsy-Turvy* -- the scene at the Japanese exhibition in Knightsbridge and the scene in which Gilbert instructs Jessie Bond, Leonora Braham, and Sybil Grey, to observe the mannerisms of Japanese women

participating in the fair and incorporate these mannerisms into the staging for *Three Little Maids*.

After our viewing, **Laura Gouillart** shared with us her response to the chapter concerning *The Mikado* in the book *Gilbert and Sullivan: Gender, Genre and Parody* by Carolyn Williams. Her words were appreciated by all and served as a nice precursor to

us all taking in her performance as Katisha in SLOC's November performances.

Our door prize winner, **Diana Dawkins**, won a DVD copy of the movie. The evening was capped off with cake and the singing of happy birthday to our president, **Tom Dawkins** and his father, who share the same natal day! Thanks to the wonderful efforts of Kaori, it was a cozy and enjoyable night, and we do hope that all will feel welcome to come to our next evening together! If you are interested in volunteering to help at future events, please contact [progchair AT negass DOT org](mailto:progchair@negass.org).

-Susan Craft Larson

∞ NEGASS NEWS ∞

NEGASS School Outreach Program Comes to Your School

Welcome aboard, matey! We are currently booking performances for spring 2014 productions of *Pirates of Penzance*, adapted especially for elementary school audiences. With the easy-to-use materials we provide, students from your school perform onstage as the chorus, alongside our quartet of professional artists. So consider booking a performance of *Pirates* for your school this spring.

Join in the fun as the Pirate King, Ruth, and Frederic meet Mabel and the Major General for some olde English merriment. Romance blossoms, loyalty is put to the test and mistakes are forgiven in this "jolly good" adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic masterpiece. With its zany word play and physical comedy, *The Pirates of Penzance* is an excellent springboard for discussion of time-honored values such as honesty, integrity, and respect for commitment.

Sixteen students from each school will perform on stage as the *chorus of rollicking pirates, carefree wards, and timid police constables*. The entire audience is invited to sing along with the chorus. Contact us at [education AT negass DOT org](mailto:education@negass.org) or call our School Outreach Coordinator at 888-684-1648 to bring the show to your school!

NEGASS School Outreach Production of *The Pirates of Penzance*

Music by Arthur Sullivan

Libretto by W.S. Gilbert

Libretto adaptation by Diane Garton Edie

Musical adaptation by Bill Lutes

-Susan Craft Larson, Chairman, NEGASS School Outreach Committee

Recent Productions

***The Mikado*, Savoyard Light Opera Company, November 16 - 24, 2013**

The Savoyard Light Opera Company presented *The Mikado* in five performances from November 16 through 24 in the Corey Auditorium in Carlisle, MA. This review is based on the performance of November 23.

This was a high-quality production with a full orchestra and a large cast on a relatively small stage. The curtains opened on **Brian Harris's** exquisite set of wood paneling and red lacquer, with a couple of boughs of cherry blossoms, tall panels of calligraphy concealing the wings, and a view of Mount Fuji (which erupted at the end of the first act).

The cast brought talent and enthusiasm, and apart from a couple of momentary glitches in the sound system, delivered engaging acting and very enjoyable music. The play was refreshed by various liberties taken with the dialogue and the occasional sight gag, such as **Diana Doyle's** Yum-Yum intently working on a book of Sudoku during one of her entrances, and enhanced by details such as standard bearers accompanying the Mikado's official appearances and a tea service during the madrigal.

Tom Frates's Koko was surprisingly buffoonish, sneering, cutting capers, and recklessly waving around his five-foot-long snickersnee (which in this production was a Japanese sword rather than an ax). His "little list," which unrolled halfway across the stage, included one verse of Gilbert's followed by three completely new, timely verses. I'm fairly sure this was the first time I'd heard the word "twerk" during a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan. People responsible for various events in the news, ranging from the local ban on bottled water in Concord to the federal government shutdown, were on the list, as were various members of the company, including stage director **Brian Kelly** and music director **Katherine Engel Meifert**. When Koko lampooned the "lighting specialist," however, the entire stage plunged into darkness. Conclusion: "Perhaps he would be missed." A copy of the new lyrics, credited to Mr. Kelly, Mr. Frates, and Ms. Meifert and printed on a scroll bound with a ribbon, was offered for sale during the intermission and made a delightful souvenir.

Laura Gouillart's Katisha was as terrifying as anyone could wish – the contrasting colors with which the stage was lit on her first entrance

complemented this portrayal well – and she played well against **Bob Russell's** Mikado, but she also proved worthy of sympathy.

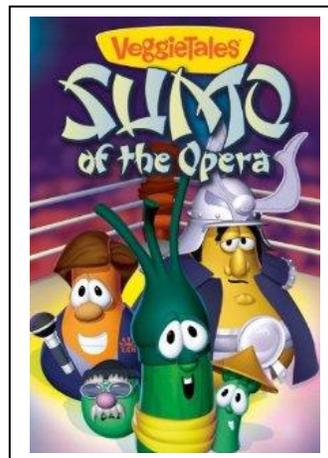
The choreography, while perhaps not the most intricate this company has ever performed, made good use of the actors' colorful costumes, fans, and parasols. **Tom Ostrowski** made a perfect puppy-dog of Nanki-Poo: not too bright, but adorable and devoted. **Lonnie Powell's** Pooh-Bah "mortified" his exalted pride with just enough delicacy, and **Donna DeWitt's** Pitti-Sing proved she could wield either a parasol or a snickersnee with aplomb. **Art Dunlap** (as Pish-Tush) and **Carolyn Schwartz** (as Peep-Bo) rounded out the ensemble admirably. The only thing really lacking in the evening was the presence of a few more young G&S fans in the open seats along the walls of the auditorium.

-David Karr

G & S News

Tunes for Tots

One of the fun experiences I have had since becoming a G&S fan is watching a TV show or movie and suddenly hearing a reference to a Gilbert & Sullivan song and having that great feeling of recognition. "I know where that's from!" That recently happened to me when I, unsuspecting, was watching along with a movie that my daughter had chosen. This was the Veggie-Tales episode *Sumo of the Opera*. I had no idea that Gilbert & Sullivan was going to be a part of this show. So how exciting it was when a row of kimono-clad vegetables broke out into "We are gentlemen of Japan!"



of "A Wand'ring Minstrel I."

This was followed by "Defer to the Lord High Executioner", but this time sung about the intimidating Sumo champion gourd calling all to defer to the Lord High Sumo Champion. Then came the introduction of our hero Larry the Cucumber as a self-proclaimed comedian, singing an adaptation

The show also included parts of the Act I and Act II finales, again adapting the story to our hero the cucumber, who trains hard to wrestle the sumo champion, not quite winning the match but proving that perseverance does pay off.

Listening more closely to the male chorus, I noticed that the voices did not sound like those I typically expect in a Veggie Tales movie. I am quite sure they brought in some extra operatic talent for these parts, and it resulted in a nice, full sound.

What was particularly neat for us as a family was that we recently saw *The Mikado* at SLOC, and a week later we just happened to see this video. My kids knew everything. They knew all the songs. What is so exciting is that the music and the words are so enduring that they are pushed into all kinds of things.

If your kids know these operettas, they are going to have so much more insight. My kids would have enjoyed *Sumo of the Opera* even if they hadn't seen *The Mikado*, but now that they've seen *The Mikado*, they liked it even more. They also appreciate *The Mikado* more because they realize that it is referenced in so many different ways. I'm sure Gilbert & Sullivan never conceived that animated dancing vegetables would someday be singing their songs.

-Kaori Emery



G & S Quiz (from Fun Trivia)

1. How many works did Gilbert and Sullivan collaborate on?
2. Gilbert was the composer of the beautiful music in the operettas, while Sullivan wrote the amusing lyrics and dialogue. True or false?
3. What was the last opera the two collaborated on?

4. What do the W. and S. stand for in W.S. Gilbert?
William Schultz William Schwenk
Walter Shanks
5. How many of the titles of the operettas refer to a specific character by name?
6. Which was the first of the operettas to have its complete run at the Savoy Theatre?
Patience Iolanthe Pirates Princess Ida?
7. What was the lucky letter that appeared in many of the titles of the operettas?
8. What was the name of the man who produced many of the operettas?
Richard Doyle Carter Richard Dolly Cart
Richard D'Oyly Carte
9. Although most of the operettas have two acts, how many of the operettas have a different number of acts?
1 2 3 none
10. The frequent coincidences, role reversals, and overly tidy straightening of strands of the plots of the operettas were given a collective name. What was it?
Topsy-turvydom Balderdash
Nincompopsy

Answers:

1. 14
2. False
3. Grand Duke
4. William Schwenk
5. 4 - Patience, "Iolanthe", "Princess Ida" and "Thespis"
6. Iolanthe
7. P - HMS Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance, Iolanthe (The Peer and the Peri), Princess Ida
8. Richard D'Oyly Carte - he was in fact christened Richard Doyle McCarthy
9. 2 - Trial by Jury (1), Princess Ida (3)
10. Topsy-turvydom



Upcoming NEGASS Events

NEGASS Holiday Party
NEGASS
Sunday, December 15, 2013, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
 contact [progchair AT negass DOT org](mailto:progchair@negass.org) for location
 617-688-7057
 at *A Warm and Inviting House in Wakefield, MA*
 see details on page 1

NEGASS/New England Opera Club Event
January 2013 - date to be announced
 Waltham Library
 735 Main St.
 Waltham, MA

The Pirates of Penzance (abridged)
NEGASS School Program
February, 2013 - date to be announced
 Special Performance of NEGASS School Outreach Program
 more information to follow

Upcoming Events

H.M.S. Pinafore
MITG&SP
December 6, 7, 12, 13 (8 pm), 8, 14 (2 pm), 2013
gsp.mit.edu/productions/2013/fall/pinafore/
 MIT Stratton Student Center
 Sala de Puerto Rico
 77 Massachusetts Ave.
 Cambridge, MA

The Pirates of Penzance
NYG&SP
 December 28 - 31, 2014
<http://nygasp.org/>
 Symphony Space
 2537 Broadway
 New York, NY

Patience
NYGASP
 January 3, 4, 5, 2013
www.nygasp.org/
 Symphony Space
 2537 Broadway
 New York, NY

Princess Ida
G & S Society of Maine
January 11, 13, 17 - 19, 2014
www.gilbertsullivanmaine.org/
 Bangor Opera House
 131 Main St.
 Bangor, ME

The Pirates of Penzance
Sudbury Savoyards
February 20, 21- 23, 28 and March 1, 2014
www.sudburysavoyards.org
 Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
 390 Lincoln Road
 Sudbury, MA

Pirates of Penzance
MITG&SP
1st two weeks in March, 2014
www.MainStreetArts.org
 Main Street Arts
 Saxtons River, VT