

THE
TRUMPET BRAY
 A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY



~ NEGASS EVENTS ~



Katisha (Letitia Stevens-center), pleads with the Mikado's court in last year's LMLO. (Photo by Carolyn DeVries)

Longwood Opera and NEGASS teaming up for LMLO of *The Mikado*; annual NEGASS business meeting to follow

By Kaori Emery

Longwood Opera and the New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society are teaming up for a Last Minute Light Opera performance of "*The Mikado*." Join us on Sunday, June 5 at 2:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Avenue, in Needham MA for our ninth collaboration and an amazing cast. The audience is the chorus, so bring your scores and sing along from your seats! Costumes and kids are always welcome. Admission is free, but donations to our worthy organization are always gratefully accepted at the door. We look forward to having you join us in the town of Titipu!

Conductor - Thomas B. Dawkins
 Piano - Jim Hay

- Koko - Tom Frates (cover Jon Saul)
- Pooh Bah - Lonnie Powell (cover Randy Glidden)
- Pish Tush - Steve Lebron (cover Tim Daughters)
- Nanki Poo - Ethan Butler (cover Tom Ostrowski)

- Mikado - Tony Parkes (cover Art Dunlap)
- Yum Yum - Connell Benn (cover Linda Barbieri)
- Pitti Sing - Shannon Lebron (cover Kaori Emery)
- Peep Bo - Angela Jajko (cover Lisa Pierce-Goldstein)
- Katisha - Kate Meifert (cover Carolyn Kelly Schwartz)
- Go-To - Larry Millner

Following the LMLO performance, the NEGASS annual meeting will be held to elect new board members. Below is the slate of nominees under consideration:

- Vice President: Connie Benn (incumbent)
- Secretary: Martha Birnbaum (incumbent)
- Member at Large: Shannon Lebron
- Member at Large: Kaori Emery (incumbent)
- Member at Large: Carolyn Schwartz (incumbent)
- Member at Large: Elaine Crane (incumbent)
- Member at Large: Tom Frates (incumbent)

NEGASS and New England Light Opera announce 2016 Summer Concert Series

Join us again this summer for the annual New England Light Opera/New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society Summer Concert Series at The

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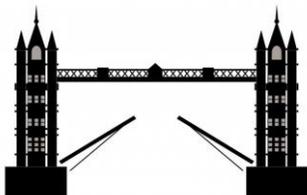
GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS may be sent to editor@negass.org.

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

www.negass.org



Community House of Hamilton and Wenham! Hear some of the finest singers in the greater Boston area performing with Thomas B. Dawkins at the piano. Each Wednesday night in July is a different concert. Opening night is July 6th, and the house is frequently packed, so get your tickets early! All shows are at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House of Hamilton & Wenham, 284 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA 01982. The series includes:

7/6 "Here's a Howdy-Do!" songs and scenes from the beloved shows of Gilbert & Sullivan

7/13 "Broadway Lights" songs and scenes from the great musical theater shows

7/20 "Songs from the Gilded Stage" scenes and arias from the greatest operas and operettas

7/27 "Cabaret Nights" an intimate evening of jazz standards and torch songs

Summer Pass for All Four Concerts: \$35 adults, \$25 NEGASS members and seniors 65 and older, and \$15 kids and students

Per-Show Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 NEGASS members and seniors 65 and older, and \$5 kids and students.

∞ G&S EVENTS ∞

An Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan continues Longwood Opera's summer concert series

As part of their 26th Annual Summer Concert Series, Longwood Opera will present *An Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan* on Tuesday evening, August 9 at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at Christ Episcopal Church at 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham MA.



∞ We Have a Little List ∞

We wish to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including: Kaori Emery, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., Yoo Jin Shin, Susan Beckett, Andrea Roessler, Dave Watson, Wilfrid M. deFreitas and John E. Dreslin. (Please forgive any omissions!)

Summer Road Scholar program offered at Warwick Center the week of August 28

By **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**

Are you interested in five full-days of laughing song and merry dance? Of airy persiflage and innocent merriment? The Warwick Center in Warwick, New York, will offer a Road Scholar (Elderhostel) course devoted to *Pira-Mika-Fore*; or *The Big Three* at the end of August.

While many Road Scholar courses feature three classes with different subject matter, this one offers two morning and two afternoon sessions, all devoted to G&S. Mornings, Monday thru Friday, will focus on A Gambol through Gilbert & Sullivan, followed by *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Mikado*, finishing with, on Friday, a morning of hi-jinks, parodies, adaptations, and The Great Gilbert & Sullivan Song Parody Contest.



Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Early afternoons Monday through Thursday will feature special topics: "The D'Oyly Carte Tradition," "The Patter Baritone," "G&S for Saturday Morning TV," and "The Mikado Adapted for Television." For those who don't know the meaning of "too much toffee," optional late-afternoon matinees will feature videos rich and (sometimes) rare from the instructor's collection, selected by class vote.

For additional information, visit the website www.RoadScholar.org (then search on "Gilbert & Sullivan and The Big Three"); and/or write to RafeMacPhail@Yahoo.com. (A more detailed outline of the week is at the Road Scholar website.)

Host for the week will be NEGASSer of many years **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**, who started teaching Elderhostels at Bridgewater College in the 1980s, and carried on the tradition at Incarnation Center in

Ivoryton, Connecticut, for many years. This will be his fourth offering in Warwick, New York.

Mr. MacPhail's credentials include being the Artistic Director of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, Editor of *Benford's Gilbert and Sullivan Lexicon* and Professor of Theatre *emeritus* of Bridgewater College in Virginia.

Connecticut G&S Society to hold auditions for *The Pirates of Penzance* on June 5 and 7

You are invited to open auditions for principals and chorus members for the 2016 production *The Pirates of Penzance*. The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be holding these auditions at Congregation Adath Israel, 8 Broad Street, Middletown, CT on Sunday, June 5 at 7pm and Tuesday, June 7 at 7pm (Please don't arrive before 6:30 pm). Please bring a copy of the music you will sing. An accompanist will be provided. Those trying out for a principal role will also be asked to read from a scene in the show.

∞ G&S NEWS ∞

Brown University G&S Society holds annual sing-in featuring *Princess Ida* and *Iolanthe*

By **Yoo Jin Shin**

April 30 was the date for the eleventh annual Brown University G&S Society (BUGS) sing-in held on the campus of Brown University in Providence RI. The sing-in featured complete sing-throughs of *Princess Ida* and *Iolanthe* as well as numbers from *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Trial by Jury*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, and Act I finale of *Ruddigore*.

Sudbury Savoyards seeks music and stage directors for 2017 production of *Mikado*

By **Susan Beckett**

The Sudbury Savoyards' Board of Trustees is seeking candidates for the positions of Music Director and Stage Director for our winter 2017 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. We are planning six performances over two weekends from February 25 to March 4, 2017.

Candidate interviews will be held in early June of 2016 at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. We ask that you submit a resume that details your theatrical background, experience, and a list of references. Please send documents electronically to be distributed in advance to the Trustees. If you are

unable to do so, please provide a minimum of seven copies at the time of interview.

Founded in 1961, The Sudbury Savoyards is an all-volunteer, nonprofit community theater organization providing an artistic outlet for area residents. Net proceeds from our productions are donated to the relief of world hunger therefore there is no compensation for directors or anyone else involved with the production.

To schedule an interview and forward your resume, please contact us by June 10, 2016 at sudburysavoyards@gmail.com or call 781-369-5992 and leave a message. Please visit our website for more information about The Sudbury Savoyards: www.sudburysavoyards.org.

Sudbury Savoyards are taking steps to incorporate; members to meet June 12

By Andrea Roessler

In 1961 the members of the choir of the Sudbury United Methodist Church donned their robes and sang a concert version of "Trial by Jury" as a means to raise funds to build the sanctuary. Since then the church has provided a home for the group to



gather, rehearse, and perform. Long ago, when the church no longer needed to raise money for the building fund, the net proceeds have been donated through UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, with the earmark for World Hunger. To date, the Savoyards have donated over \$250,000 to this worthy cause and have also managed to contribute additional funds and equipment while enjoying SUMC's hospitality. After 55 years of being sponsored by the church, circumstances have changed. In December of 2015, due to financial responsibility and liability concerns, the Church asked the organization to become its own separate legal entity.

The Board of Trustees formed a Task Force which has drafted new Bylaws and other documents with

the assistance of an attorney specializing in non-profit corporations.

The primary purposes of The Sudbury Savoyards remain, in brief: 1) performing the works of Gilbert & Sullivan, separately or together, as well as other playwrights & composers, within Sudbury, MA and other communities, and 2) actively encouraging and promoting artistic and technical excellence in the production of these works.

A Members Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 12th at 2pm to present the draft and take a vote of the members to approve going forward with the incorporation of The Sudbury Savoyards.

For those NEGASS members who are also members of The Sudbury Savoyards you are invited to attend and can find these documents to review in advance on the website: www.sudburysavoyards.org

The meeting is expected to take place in Hawes Hall at the Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Route 27 in Sudbury Center. However, due to the church's plans for construction in the space, please check the website prior to the meeting in case it is relocated.

Connecticut G&S Society to hold auditions in June for *The Pirates of Penzance*

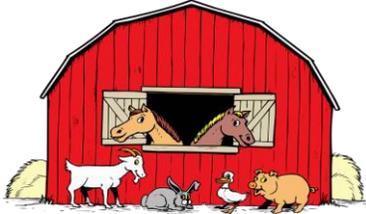
The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be holding open auditions for principals and chorus members for our 2016 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, and you are invited! Auditions will be held at Congregation Adath Israel, 8 Broad Street, Middletown, CT on Sunday, June 5 at 7pm and Tuesday, June 7 at 7pm (Please don't arrive before 6:30 pm). Please bring a copy of the music you will sing. An accompanist will be provided. Those trying out for a principal role will also be asked to read from a scene in the show.

GWO to present "Gilbert & Sullivan and more" on August 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Greater Worcester Opera will present "Gilbert and Sullivan and more" as part of their summer concert series. The performance will be held on Wednesday evening August 3, 2016 at 65 Briarwood Circle in Worcester MA. Great music, wonderful singers, air-conditioned comfort all begins at 7:30 p.m.

Annual VLO BARN DAY! June 4, 9-12

Come help the Valley Light Opera clean and straighten up the VLO storage barn in preparation for this fall's *Ruddigore*! Enjoy the company of some of the "movers and shakers" of VLO as we sort costumes and set pieces, and clean out storage areas on June 4 from 9a-12 noon at the VLO Barn in North Amherst.



Directions: off Rte. 116, directly across 116 from Sunderland Road (which is North of Pine Street in Amherst). Located between the Katherine Cole Conservation area and the Podrick Cole Sanctuary. For more information contact Valley Light Opera at vlo.org or info@vlo.org

RECENT PRODUCTIONS

Simsbury's *Sorcerer* overcomes many challenges in a successful production

By John E. Dreslin

Simsbury Light Opera performed *Sorcerer* over two weekends beginning April 9, 2016 at the Eno Memorial Hall in downtown Simsbury, CT. The production team of **Mike Reynolds** artistic director, **Nathaniel Baker** music director, and **Alison Bogatay** choreographer were all making their debuts with the company, which according to SLOCO president **Kari Mackey** is undergoing a crucial period of revitalization. All in all the creative team had a very respectable initial outing. The production was a bit handicapped by the venue, as performing space at the Eno auditorium was quite restricted. The actual stage is very small. To overcome this obstacle the 10 piece orchestra was placed on the floor just below the stage and the remaining space between the orchestra and first row of seating was used for additional performing space. At times this created some difficulties, as performers were faced away from the conductor, and more critically when in some of the scenes, the actors delivered some dialogue sitting down, and were nearly invisible to audience members beyond the first couple of rows. On the plus side however,

it did prevent overcrowding of the stage when the full cast was called upon to participate in a scene.

The principal cast was composed of many experienced Gilbert and Sullivan veterans. **Renee Haines** was a stunning Aline, and her rendition of *Oh, Happy Young Heart* was a highlight of the show. **Tim Throckmorton** was extremely solid as Alexis and delivered his two big numbers convincingly. **Alex Kirstukas** was a very animated, letter perfect John Wellington Wells. Another veteran performer **Ralph Sherman** portrayed Dr. Daly, and not only sung well but played his penny whistle (substituting as a flageolet) flawlessly. One relative newcomer was **Mary DiRoberts** as Constance. She was one of the victims of the on the floor blocking, having to do much of her singing and dialogue on the lower level. But she coped with this disadvantage well and gave a very pleasing performance. **Hartley Horn** and **Julie Martini** were a solid Sir Marmaduke and Lady Sangazure, and the cast was rounded out by **Julie Rumbolt** as Mrs. Partlet, a rather thankless part for such a wonderful singer and actress, and **Jay Marshall Wolman** who did double duty as the Notary and the offstage voice of Ahrimanes. 11 year old **David Sherman** absolutely delighted the audience as the Page Hercules. The chorus consisted of seven women, but only three men, and while the ladies came across with excellent sound and harmony, the men were a bit overmatched. Fortunately, in much of the ensemble work, the strong principal sound was able to augment the chorus. This was especially effective in the opening chorus *Ring Forth Ye Bells* which was delivered by the entire cast, and got the show off to an impressive start.

Mike Reynolds' direction was very sensitive to the needs of his cast, and did a great deal to overcome the restrictions of space that he was faced with. The small orchestra performed quite well under Mr. Baker's direction, and Ms. Bogatay was able to come up with choreography that did not overtax the performers' abilities. Of special interest was the inclusion of the often cut Ahrimanes scene. Mr. Baker set it to music from *The Contrabandista* which worked extremely well. It is hoped the SLOCO will be able to continue to evolve following the success of this production.

The Trumpet Bray welcomes reviews of recent G & S shows. The editor reserves the right to amend submissions to adhere to publication requirements.

❧ COMMUNICATIONS ❧



“Sing, practice and perform” G&S orchestral tracks are available

Kanon Digital Orchestration is pleased to announce the publication of the Gilbert and Sullivan Orchestral Files and the Opera Files. These files are suitable for rehearsal, practice and performance.

They are produced using state-of-the-art sample libraries and software. They are quite unlike the midi mock-ups commonly found elsewhere. To view, sample and download files please visit us at www.kanon.co.uk. Comments and queries are always welcome and you can also visit us on Facebook.

Regards,
Dave Watson

De Freitas Booksellers’ website updated

Dear Editor:

By way of introduction, I used to be a member of NEGASS several years ago.

One of the specialties of our antiquarian book-selling business is Gilbert & Sullivan and, after an unusually long hiatus, we’ve recently updated the G & S section of our website which covers just about everything: books, programmes, libretti, scores, posters, ephemera, etc. (but not records or recordings). Our newly updated website is: www.defreitasbooks.com/gilbert.html

It’s been a long time since our last update but as you’re probably also well aware, interesting G & S related material is pretty thin on the ground. However, we’ve managed to pick up a few unusual

items and we hope you’ll find something you like. Please bear in mind that all items are offered subject to prior sale, and that prices are in US\$. Insured postage is at cost; Canadian orders subject to 5% GST.

To quote the quartet from Iolanthe,

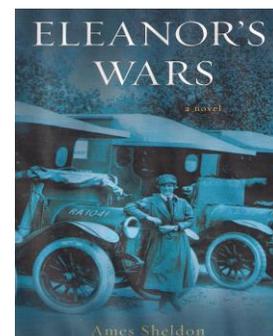
“In friendship’s name”

Wilfrid and Susan

Wilfrid M. de Freitas - Bookseller
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Tel: (514) 935-9581
<http://www.defreitasbooks.com>

❧ G&S LIBRARY ❧

WWII and G&S are woven together in “Eleanor’s Wars” by Ames Sheldon



If you like historical fiction about World War II and Gilbert & Sullivan, this book is for you! "Eleanor's Wars" by Ames Sheldon tells a story about a young Gilbert & Sullivan musician in boarding school at Phillips Academy and about his mother, an ambulance driver in the Great War. The stresses of life on the home front gradually reveal a series of family secrets, taking readers from farm and household to Andover to the wards of a Red Cross hospital.

According to Minnesota writer Faith Sullivan, author of "The Cape Ann" and "Good Night Mr. Wodehouse", "Ames Sheldon has written a novel about family and war and lies and forgiveness. In other words, she hits all the bases in reaching home—the place where you live." "Eleanor's Wars" is available from your favorite bookstore.

Ruddygore? or Ruddigore!

When *The Mikado* closed on January 19, 1887, the speculation about its successor was rampant. The buzz ended when, on the 22nd, *Ruddygore* debuted to mixed reviews. Act 1 went well but Act 2, with its supernatural scenes of the ghosts of the dead Murgatroyds, was not as successful even though the ancestral scene is considered a G&S highlight. Some quick changes were made, the first of which was to alter the spelling of the title to *Ruddigore*, thinking it to be less offensive to genteel English tastes. The 10th collaboration between Gilbert and Sullivan had a run of 288 performances.

Years later, Gilbert said *Ruddigore* was one of his three favorites* even though, it is said, he disliked the scene involving the ancestral ghosts. He wanted the scene to be treated humorously but Sullivan’s dramatic music did not allow for that. This remained a thorn in Gilbert’s side. To needle his partner, Sullivan left an autographed score upon his death to Gilbert. The other comic operas Gilbert was partial to were *Utopia Ltd.* and *The Yeoman of the Guard*.



The above graphic is the set from Act II of the ancestral gallery as designed by W. Bridges-Adams (from the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive). When *Ruddigore* was revived in 1920, it was after yet more revisions and the addition of a new overture arranged by Geoffrey Toye, the D’Oyly Carte music director at the time. These latest changes were all accomplished under the watchful eye of Rupert, the youngest son of Richard D’Oyly Carte. The original overture is now usually played between the acts.

*Benford’s *G&S Lexicon and Gilbert & Sullivan Opera A History and a Comment* by H.M. Walbrook and The University of Aberdeen Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

Do Companies “talk” to each other?

By David DeVries

Did you happen to notice in the past two newsletters that four different G&S companies in our region mounted or will mount productions of *The Sorcerer*? Simsbury (CT) produced it beginning on April 19, and Troupers (also in CT) began a run of April 16. Sudbury Savoyards (MA) predated each of them by raising their curtain on February 20. The fourth company will be College Light Opera in Falmouth (MA) beginning on June 28.

The thing that pops into my mind is whether companies “talk” to each other to find out what they are planning to produce during the same time period? It strikes me they may not – but should. With four companies producing the same comic opera in roughly the same time period, they are creating competition to the detriment of all especially the latter companies. It strikes me that audiences seeing the first production would not be as likely to want to go to the other productions unless they are real die-hard fans.

It would seem to me that representatives of as many organizations within a geographic area should get together periodically to talk about what productions they might have in mind. This would avoid this type of competition and maximize attendance for each others programs. This would also provide theatre-goers a more diverse product to view.

Having promoted Southern Gospel concerts in the Worcester area many years ago, I had as a main objective to avoid coinciding booking dates or booking the same groups when another nearby area was planning an event. We did not want to compete with an area that was in easy reach of another. It would have been counter-productive for Worcester to be promoting a date when Gardner or Sharon, or even Blue Hills, Maine might be hosting an event.

I would think that our goal should be to provide as diverse a repertoire as possible to the benefit of all.



NEGASS Events		
<i>The Mikado</i> Last Minute Light Opera NEGASS and Longwood Opera	June 5, 2016 longwoodopera.org see article on page 1	Christ Episcopal Church 1132 Highland Avenue Needham MA 02494
G&S Events		
<i>The Sorcerer</i> <i>The Yeoman of the Guard</i> College Light Opera Company	June 28-July 2, 2016 August 9-13, 2016 collegelightopera.com 508-548-2211 (after May 11)	Highfield Theatre 58 Highfield Drive Falmouth MA 02540
<i>Gilbert & Sullivan & More</i> Greater Worcester Opera	August 3, 2016 greaterworcesteropera.org see article on page 4	Briarwood Auditorium 65 Briarwood Circle Worcester MA 01605
<i>An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan</i> Longwood Opera	August 9, 2016 longwoodopera.org see article on page 2	Christ Episcopal Church 1132 Highland Avenue Needham MA 02494
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> CT G&S Society	October 15-16, 2016 ctgands.org see article on page 4	Valley Regional High School 256 Kelsey Hill Road Deep River CT 06417
<i>The Mikado</i> Harvard-Radcliffe G&SP	October 28-30, 2016 November 4-6, 2016 617-496-2222 hrgsp.president@gmail.com	Agassiz Theater Radcliffe Yard - 5 James Street Cambridge MA 02138
Auditions		
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Connecticut G & S	June 5 & 7, 2016, 7 pm ctgands.org see article on page 3 Check individual websites for greater details.	Congregation Adath Israel 8 Broad Street Middletown CT