



❧❧ NEGASS EVENTS ❧❧

**NEGASS Outing to *Yeomen of the Guard*, Savoyard Light Opera Company, November 20 2011, 2 pm, Corey Auditorium, 117 Church St., Carlisle, MA**

Join NEGASS members as we drive out to Carlisle to enjoy The Savoyard Light Opera Company's production of *Yeomen of the Guard*.

The stellar cast includes NEGASSERS **Tom Frates** as Jack Point, **Brad Amidon** as Leonard Meryll, **Katherine Meifert** as Dame Carruthers, **Graham Daley** as Kate, and chorus members **Connie Benn**, **Jim Miller**, **Larry Millner**, and **Alan Rohwer**.

Directions to Corey Auditorium:  
 - From Rte. 128, take Routes 4/225 through Bedford; follow Rte. 225 9 miles to Carlisle  
 - From Rte. 495, take Exit 32., following signs to Route 225. Left onto Rte. 225 and follow to Carlisle Center  
 - From Concord, take Lowell Road 5 miles to Carlisle  
 - At the traffic circle in Carlisle center, take School St up the hill, left on Church St. Parking on right.

<http://savoyardlightopera.org/carlisle.html>

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❧❧ NEGASS NEWS ❧❧

**New Members**

NEGASS welcomes new member **Carl Gatto** of Kennebunkport, ME. Carl's involvement with G&S is simply that of a fan. He's not a performer ("couldn't carry a note if my life depended on it") but loves attending G&S performances and NEGASS will keep him informed of upcoming opportunities. Living in a remote location like Kennebunkport means he's willing to travel to see shows.

**NEGASS/Opera Comique Joint Production - Hosting Opportunities -**

NEGASS is exploring the possibility of a joint performance in greater Boston (likely in Concord or Arlington) with the Opera Comique, a Gilbert & Sullivan group from England, in August of 2012. We would like to hear from people who would be willing to host members of this group in their homes. Opera Comique is looking for accommodations for August 18 and 19, 2012 for about twenty people, mostly in couples.

If you are interested in hosting a member of this group, please send email to [pres AT negass DOT org](mailto:pres@negass.org)

❧❧ RECENT PRODUCTIONS ❧❧

***Iolanthe*, Mass Theatrica, September 24-25, 2011, Southgate Theater, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury, MA**

The theater at Southgate in Shrewsbury is a gem – small and intimate, nicely raked, warmly decorated. Mass Theatrica's *Iolanthe* was a perfect complement



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL: 15<sup>th</sup> of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, 2011.

to this charming venue – beautifully sung and acted, and conveyed with an intimacy that drew the audience into its story of love and family overlaid with wicked satiric humor.

*Iolanthe* is a fantasy that yet invites belief. Iolanthe is a fairy who has been banished from her band because she has married a mortal! Living alone at the bottom of a stream, she has raised her son Strephon alone, and no one, not her husband and not her sister fairies, knows of Strephon's existence. Strephon loves Phyllis, a ward of the Lord Chancellor, who refuses to consent to her marriage to a mere shepherd. Of course, he is in love with her himself (as are two of his fellow superannuated but rich peers), and of course, because this is G & S, he is really Iolanthe's "widower" husband and the father of Strephon. Well, you get the picture.



The operetta's satire revolves around the incompetence and general lack of ability of politicians, specifically the British House of Peers, and a seeming propensity of aging wealthy men to pursue nubile young ladies. The cast of lords – **Lonnie**

**Powell** as Lord Tolloller, **Tom Weber** as Lord Mountarat – were splendid in their droll comedic presentation of these tendencies. **Craig Howard** was endlessly entertaining as the Lord Chancellor. **Brad Amidon** and **Miles Rind** staunchly supported their fellow Lords' every foolish pronouncement.

The fairies, in contrast, were all gossamer and flowers. **Connie Benn**, **Kaori Emery**, **Jacque Wilson** and **Wendy Parker** trilled and flitted with rich sweet tones and nimble feet. **Angeliki Theoharis** ruled her fairy band with stern authority tempered by kindness and a delicate understanding of the power of passion. Her rich and resonant contralto was a force to make the Peers tremble! And Private Willis (excellently sung by **Miles Rind**) was in no position to resist her seductive petulance.

Most poignant was Iolanthe, exquisitely sung and acted by **Susan Craft**, whose warm, heart-rending delivery of "My Lord, a suppliant at your feet" to her long-ago abandoned husband, moved many in the audience, including this reviewer, to tears.

Director **Stephanie Mann** concocted wonderful variations in dance and blocking for the Lords' ensemble numbers; dressing them in modern

business suits added to the fun. Music Director **Thomas B. Dawkins** provided flawless piano accompaniment while simultaneously conducting the musical action from the piano, assuring an energetic pace to the performance.

**Jennifer Sgroe** was a sweet and coyly seductive Phyllis, with a bright youthful soprano delivery. **Thomas René Brennan** as Strepheon sang well, yet needing a slower and somewhat louder delivery of lines.

-**Martha Birnbaum**

***Iolanthe*, Mass Theatrica, September 24-25, 2011, Southgate Theater, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury, MA**

This performance was a delight, and appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Most of the ensemble (a chorus was not used) are professionals and, with only one exception, sounded, moved, and looked like professionals.



The directing by **Stephanie Mann** was superb with a strong vision and firm hand, so that every move and gesture was in

keeping with the overall concept. One might say: Every trill and every measure gratified the viewer's pleasure. Music Director **Tom Dawkins** accompanied the singers with a delicate yet commanding touch, ably conducting ensemble pieces from the piano.

The standout moment for me was Iolanthe's plea "My Lord, a suppliant at your feet" in Act II in which **Susan Craft's** mellow tones moved me almost to tears. The acting of **Craig Howard** in the Lord Chancellor role was superb throughout. He has the gift of inhabiting a role with perfect conviction and apparently without effort. His nightmare song, complete with teddy-bear, was another high point and every word could be heard except in the *accelerando* at the end.

Phyllis (**Jennifer Sgroe**) had just the right perky-winsome quality to her acting and a voice that sounded beautiful to begin with, but that later lost some timbre and volume variation.

The set for Act I was simple, but adequate. In Act II the same set was used with nothing to evoke the change in locale to the Houses of Parliament. A projection of Big Ben on a backdrop could work, or a sentry box for the very able and correctly costumed Private Willis (**Miles Rind**).

Iolanthe did in fact appear to be the right age to be Strepheon's mother; perhaps a skillful application of makeup could have made her look younger. Strepheon (**Thomas René Brennan**) was the right age, and had a charming voice, but needed slower and more focused delivery.

Unevenness of accent was noticeable. Some performers, notably **Craig Howard**, hit it just right; some managed the accent while speaking but not while singing, while others did the reverse. A good dialect coach, or some earnest listening to Masterpiece Theater, is in order or, as a second choice, the decision to go all-American could be made. Either one or the other.

- **Isabel Leonard**

## 🎭 G & S NEWS 🎭

### Auditions for Sudbury Savoyards *Ruddigore*

The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to announce Auditions for Gilbert & Sullivan's *Ruddigore, or The Witch's Curse*.



Katherine Engel Meifert, Music Director; Peter A. Stark, Stage Director; Susan A. Elberger, Producer; Dennis O'Brien, Associate Stage Director; Bill Fisher, Associate Producer.

Auditions for principal roles will take place on Monday, October 24 and Wednesday, October 26 at 7:30 pm at the Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Route 27 in Sudbury Center with call backs on Saturday, October 29 from 10am - 2 pm.

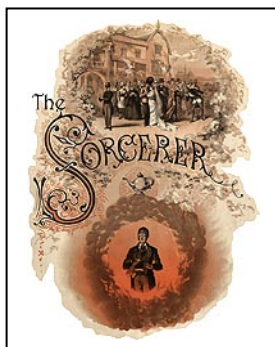
Chorus members need not audition but must register on October 24 or 26 to participate. Behind the scenes technical, management and patron opportunities are also available.

Tech Week and performances are currently scheduled for February 18 through March 4, 2012 at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Theater in Sudbury.

Anyone preparing to audition should visit [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org) for essential information about audition requirements, character sketches, directors' statements, the rehearsal schedule, and obtaining vocal scores. You can also call 978-443-8811 and leave a message.

The traditional *Two-Ring Circus* will take place on Sunday, October 16 starting at 7:30 pm at the home of Tom and Nancy Powers, 201 Union Avenue, Sudbury. This is an opportunity to meet the directors and hear their concepts for the production and then sing through the score. Experienced Savoyards BSTS/ Bring Something To Share, as well as anyone you know who might be interested in participating.

### MITG&SP Seeks Orchestra for Sorcerer



The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players seek ORCHESTRA for our Fall production of *The Sorcerer*. Currently seeking Trumpets, Bassoons, Contrabass, Horn, Violas, violins.

Production dates are Dec 2-4 and 8-10, 2011.

TENTATIVE orchestra rehearsal schedule:

Sunday, Oct 9, 2-5 pm  
Sunday, Oct 16, 2-5 pm  
Sunday, Oct 23, 2-5 pm  
Sunday, Nov 6, 2-5 pm  
Sunday, Nov 13, 2-5 pm (Sitzprobe)  
Sunday, Nov 20, 2-5 pm  
Monday, Nov 28, 7-10 pm (Full run with Cast)  
Wednesday, Nov 30, 7-11 pm (Dress Rehearsal I)  
Thursday, Dec 1, 7-11 pm (Dress Rehearsal II)

If you are interested in playing, please reply to Barratt Park, Music Director, [barratt AT mit DOT edu](mailto:barratt@mit.edu), or (864) 554-0090 (cell) (617) 252-1975 (office).

### Music to Cure MS features G & S

*Music to Cure MS* is a concert to benefit the Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis. The afternoon features, among other talented performers, NEGASS President **Rebecca Hains**, Vice President **Thomas Dawkins**, Program Chair **Stephanie Mann**. October 30, 3-5 PM at the Park Avenue Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd., Arlington, MA. Visit <http://singtocurems.org/2011/program.html> for news and <http://www.pacc-ucc.org/directions/> for directions.

### ~ G & S Whimsy ~

#### John Small - A G & S Rapper

John Small, of Concord, MA won a prize in the Boston.com limerick contest with these charming lines:

In Pinafore I was so dapper,  
I earned the applause of each clapper!  
With diction sublime,  
I've proven that I'm,  
a Gilbert and Sullivan rapper!



John was Sir Joseph Porter, "The Ruler of The Queen's Navee", in G & S's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, with The Concord Orchestra, The Concord Band, and The Concord Players, at Friends Of The Performing Arts in Concord, MA, in April of

2008.

#### Early NEGASS History

*From The Michigan G & S's GASBAG - 1976 -*

"The nascent New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society has scheduled its first meeting for October 24 [1976] at 3 pm in the Lutheran Church at Natick, Mass. The Society is not a producing group but more of a fan club. Its monthly meetings will feature group singing, lectures, exhibits, guest singers from performing groups, social events, etc. FUMGASSER **Warren Colson** is one of the key originators of NEGASS, and he is backed by other famous FUMGASSERS such as **Jim Ellis**, **Robert Sutton**, **Peter George**, and **Ruth Colson**.

The Society is planning to issue a newsletter and is considering these titles: The Trumpet Bray, The Second Trombone, Sorties and Surprises, Tarantara!, The Loud Nine-Pounder, Tzing! Boom!, The Tocsin, and The Welkin. Just don't call it GASBAG, hey friends? We're a little sensitive because another Boston-centered group has stolen our dancing foursome as its trademark. Warren Colson's crew, however, seems considerably more creative, so we guess GASBAG is safe. Besides, we're not sure anyone would want to steal it. NEGASS's address is P.O. Box K53, Natick, MA 01760 - in case you want to inquire further. We recommend it."

PRIZE QUESTION: What is a FUMGASSER? Send answer to [editor AT negass DOT org](mailto:editor@negass.org) and win a Blu-Ray DVD of *The Mikado*. First correct entry wins.

### G & S Quiz – Beast and Animals

Answers below

Q 1 "Silent be, it was the ..." (*HMS Pinafore*).

- a. rat b. cat c. mouse d. dog



Q 2 "The ... is mightier than man, Yet man subdues him." (*Princess Ida*)

- a. lion b. tiger c. dragon d. elephant

Q 3 "My papa, he keeps three ..." (*The Gondoliers*)

- a. dragons b. puppies c. fishes d. horses

Q 4 Who is referred to: "Then ..., let your escort lion-hearted." (*The Pirates of Penzance*)

- a. Frederic b. Samuel c. Mabel d. Edith

Q 5 "A commonplace type with a stick and a pipe and a half-bred black and tan" (*Patience*)

- a. Bunthorne b. Grosvenor c. Major Murgatroyd d. Colonel Caverly

Q 6 "The skylark's trill  
Were but discordant shrill  
To the soft thrill  
Of wooing as I'd woo ..."

- a. The Gondoliers b. Utopia Limited c. The Grand Duke d. The Yeomen of the Guard

Q 7 "Every goose becomes a swan"

- a. The Gondoliers b. Utopia Limited c. The Grand Duke d. The Yeomen of the Guard

Q 8 "Jackdaws strut in peacock's feathers"

- a. Ruddigore b. Pirates c. HMS Pinafore d. Iolanthe

Q 9 "Cheerily carols the lark"

- a. Ruddigore b. Pirates c. HMS Pinafore d. Iolanthe

Q 10 "Don't tell me it was the goldfish"

- a. Ruddigore b. Pirates c. HMS Pinafore d. Iolanthe

Answers: 1.b; 2.d; 3.d; 4.a; 5.b; 6.d; 7.a; 8.c; 9.a;



### NEGASS Events

**NEGASS Outing to  
The Yeomen of the Guard**  
Savoyard Light Opera

**November 20, 2011 (2 pm)**  
- see page 1 -

Corey Auditorium  
117 Church St.  
Carlisle, MA

### Other Upcoming Productions & Events

Preview performance of  
**The Yeomen of the Guard**  
Savoyard Light Opera

**October 14, 2011 (noon)**  
[www.savoyardlightopera.org](http://www.savoyardlightopera.org)

First Parish Church  
7 Harrington Rd.  
Lexington, MA

**Ruddigore**  
Connecticut G & S Society

**October 28 (7:30pm), 29 (2pm & 7:30pm)**  
[ctgilbertandsullivan.org](http://ctgilbertandsullivan.org)  
800-866-1606

Middletown High School  
200 LaRosa Lane  
Middletown, CT

**Music to Cure MS**

**October 30, 2011 (3 - 5 pm)**  
[singtocurems.org/2011/program.html](http://singtocurems.org/2011/program.html)

Park Avenue Cong. Church  
50 Paul Revere Rd.  
Arlington, MA

**H.M.S. Pinafore**  
Harvard/Radcliffe G & S

**November 3 - 13, 2011**  
[hrfsp.org/happeningnow.htm](http://hrfsp.org/happeningnow.htm)  
617-496-2222

Agassiz Theater  
Radcliffe Yard  
Cambridge, MA

**The Sorcerer**  
Valley Light Opera

**November 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 2011**  
[www.vlo.org/sor11tix.html](http://www.vlo.org/sor11tix.html)  
413-575-2922

Amherst Regional High School  
Triangle St.  
Amherst, MA

**The Mikado**  
Brown University G & S

**November 18, 19, 20, 2011**  
[students.brown.edu/BUGS/](http://students.brown.edu/BUGS/)

Alumni Theater  
194-200 Meeting St.  
Providence, RI

**The Yeomen of the Guard**  
Savoyard Light Opera

**November 12 - 20, 2011**  
[www.savoyardlightopera.org](http://www.savoyardlightopera.org)

Corey Auditorium  
117 Church St.  
Carlisle, MA

**The Gondoliers**  
Yale University G & S

**December 1 - 3, 2011**  
[gs.sites.yale.edu](http://gs.sites.yale.edu)

TBD  
Yale College Campus  
New Haven, CT

**The Sorcerer**  
MITG&SP

**December 2, 3, 8, 9 (8 pm), 4, 10 (2 pm),  
2011**  
[mitgsp.livejournal.com/19895.html](http://mitgsp.livejournal.com/19895.html)

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

**The Pirates of Penzance**  
Fiddlehead Theater Company

**December 9-11, 15-18, 2011**  
[www.fiddleheadtheatre.com](http://www.fiddleheadtheatre.com)  
781-329-1901

Fiddlehead Theatre  
619 High St.  
Dedham, MA

**Ruddigore**  
Sudbury Savoyards

**February/March 2012**  
[www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org)  
978-443-8811

Sudbury Methodist Church  
251 Old Sudbury Road, Rte. 27  
Sudbury, MA

### Auditions

**Ruddigore**  
Sudbury Savoyards

**October 24, 26, 2011 (7:30 pm)**  
[www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org)  
978-443-8811

Sudbury United Methodist  
Church  
251 Old Sudbury Road, Rte. 27  
Sudbury, MA