

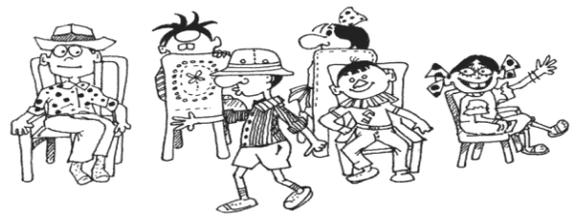
THE
TRUMPET BRAY
A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY



≈ G&S EVENTS ≈

An Afternoon of Musical Mischief, January 7th, 2:00pm

Courtesy of Sudbury Savoyards
Come and join the fun at The Sudbury Savoyards' first Musical Games Afternoon on Sunday, January 7th.



You'll be challenged with sing-down and quiz show (all musical genres), entertained by skits, and sustained with refreshments. Judges will be Tom Frates and Tony Parkes, and Susan Elberger will be the MC. Suggested donation of \$10/person will be accepted at the door. For more information visit [our webpage](#) or contact [Susan Elberger](#). The event will take place at at First Parish of Sudbury, 327 Concord Rd, Sudbury, MA.

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≈ G&S NEWS ≈

VLO issues calls for Director, Producer, and Conductor for Fall 2018

Valley Light Opera of Amherst, Massachusetts, has issued calls for the following positions:

Stage Director Description: The stage director creates the overall artistic concept of the show. He/ She works closely with the musical director as well as the set and costume designers, the choreographer and technical staff to carry out the concept. The stage director also rehearses principals and chorus in dialogue, acting, blocking, and dancing. Rehearsals begin in early September and are typically three nights a week plus a full tech week prior to opening night.

All participants in VLO are volunteers, including all producers, directors, performers and crew.

Proposals may be submitted to VLO president Kate Green at valleylightopera@gmail.com and must include the following:

- * Letter of interest and artistic concept (no more than 3 pages)
- * Theater or music resume
- * References

Applications will be reviewed as they arrive. Finalists may be invited to make a presentation to the VLO Board.

Nominations are also encouraged and may be submitted to the same email address.

Valley Light Opera is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization based in Amherst, MA. Each



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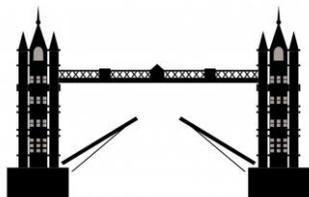
GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS may be sent to editor@negass.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEGASS membership dues are \$25. Please join NEGASS online at www.negass.org, or contact memb@negass.org.

THE TRUMPET BRAY Members receive the Bray as a PDF email attachment. All editions including the current one are available at www.negass.org.

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

www.negass.org

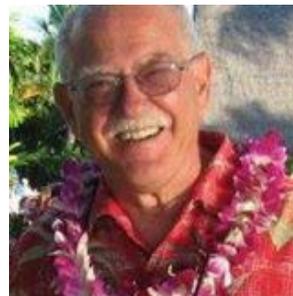


year for over 40 years the VLO has produced fully-staged, orchestrated and lavishly costumed productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and other musical theater works. Rehearsals are typically in Hadley or Amherst, and performances at the Academy of Music in Northampton. Applicants who are unfamiliar with VLO are encouraged to explore our website.

If you have any questions please email VLO president Kate Green at valleylightopera@gmail.com.

John Dreslin talks on radio to promote about CTG&S Society Princess Ida show

John Dreslin, long-time Connecticut G&S Society music director, was recently interviewed on “Conducting Conversations,” a frequent feature of Classical 95.9-FM WCRI radio. His appearance in early October was timed to provide a bit of pre-show publicity for the CTG&S Society’s recent production of *Princess Ida*.



Maestro Dreslin

This is a great way for other companies to promote their productions in their area. Do you have a nearby media outlet you could partner with to help “spread the news?”

If you would like to hear John’s interview, you can open the following link by highlighting the following link and then press control and left click: <http://classical959.podbean.com/e/09-24-17-connecticut-gilbert-sullivan-conducting-conversations/>



www.dreamstime.com

RECENT PRODUCTIONS

The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society continues professional-level productions with *Princess Ida*

By David DeVries

Princess Ida continues a long tradition of professional-level productions presented by the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society. The company provided five performances on the weekend of October 14 and 15, 2017 on the stage at the Valley Regional High School in Deep River, Connecticut. My wife and I attended the final show-the matinee-on Sunday the 15th which drew enthusiastic acclaim from those attending.



The cast and crew of *Princess Ida* take a final bow. (Photo by Peter Wilhelmsen courtesy of CTGANDS.)

From the opening number, "Search throughout the Panorama," to the conclusion of Act III, the principals and members of the ensemble did a very creditable and spirited job.

Hats (helmets) off to **Pat Ubaldi Nurnberger** for her costume design. Pat has recently received her Master's Degree in Costuming from UCONN. A tip of the hat goes also to Set Designer **Bill Sorensen** for his treatment of the production.

Highlighting Act I was the trio ("We are Warriors Three") by Arac (**Michael Loomis**), Guron (**Bill Faye**), and Scynthius (**Andrew Lemire**). Although led with gusto by Mr. Loomis' rich baritone voice we could have done without the sexual posturing. The line "fighting is our trade" was vigorously presented by the threesome and even more so when the chorus jumped in. "If You Give Me Your Attention" was given by **John Freedman** who pulled off the caricature of King Gama quite well and while not really a patter song, I think, it did present challenges of its own which Mr. Freedman easily overcame.

In Act II, the Ladies Chorus rendered the lovely piece, "Mighty Maiden With a Mission" complimenting our heroine, Ida. Meanwhile our three interlopers, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian (**Henry Cox**, **Tim Throckmorton** and **Dave Henderson**) having successfully scaled the castle walls, supplied us with their triumphant trio, "Gently, Gently." They then did the song "I Am a Maiden" in a very spirited manner having found three student gowns which they put on as a disguise. The threesome then provided an enthusiastic skit led by the haughty, humble and coy "she" nanagins of Henry Cox who energetically danced about the stage. Mr. Cox continued in this vein as he performed "Merrily Ring the Luncheon Bell" in search of "cold, roast lamb."

Melissa (**Janet Aldrich**), Sacharissa (**Delia Light**), Chloe (**Grace Murphy**), Ada (**Catherine Leuba**), and the ladies of the chorus open Act III with a rousing song of defiance, "Death to the Invader," aimed at King Hildebrand and his army. Also highlighting the final act is King Gama's song, "Whene'er I Spoke Sarcastic Joke," which Mr. Freedman pulled off very well, it being more in line with a patter song. The oafish sons of King Hildebrand, Arac (Mr. Loomis), Guron (Mr. Faye), and Scynthius (Mr. Lemire), engage in the removal of their military accoutrements as Mr. Loomis describes each article in the song "This Helmet I Suppose."

Music Director **John Dreslin** and his 22 member orchestra continued to "set the pace" providing the best of accompaniment beginning with the overture through final curtain. A great job!

According to Mr. Loomis (who is also the Artistic Director), in order to make the show "more palatable to a 21st Century audience...I have taken a few liberties with the libretto which included a rewrite of the ending to make it more in line with Tennyson's original poem and adding an extra musical number to brighten the finale." These alterations could be overlooked by even the most pure of the G&S purists.

We Have a Little List

We wish to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including NYGASP, The Sudbury Savoyards, Valley Light Opera, and the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society. (Please forgive any omissions!)

❧ A PUZZLEMENT ❧

1) Match the song with the show, and 2, name the character who sang it.

Each answer is worth 5 points. Get all correct and score 100%

1. Come mighty must!

show: _____ character: _____

2. The law is the true embodiment

show: _____ character: _____

3. When I was a lad

show: _____ character: _____

4. Whereupon we're both agreed

show: _____ character: _____

5. Hear me, hear me, if you please

show: _____ character: _____

6. In enterprise of martial kind

show: _____ character: _____

7. All is prepared for sealing and for signing

show: _____ character: _____

8. Within this breast there beats a heart

show: _____ character: _____

9. You told me you were fair as gold!

show: _____ character: _____

10. Silvered is the raven's hair

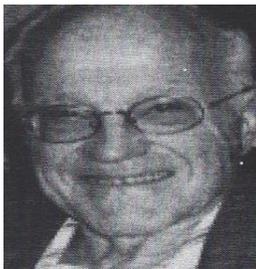
show: _____ character: _____

Find answers on next page.

❧ REMEMBRANCES ❧

Joel Thaler, former president of NY Gilbert and Sullivan Society, at age 90

Joel Thaler, president of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Society from 1987-1990, died July 31, 2017, at age 90 after a long illness. He had also served as the Society's treasurer from 1980-1986.



Mr. Thaler

He is survived by his second wife, Janice Borts-Thaler, whom he met in the dining room of a Catskills resort. As he told the story, he asked whether an empty seat next to Janice was available.

"Yes," she said, "but I want a family." Joel responded, "I want to have dinner first." They eventually married and, during Joel's term as president, their daughter Arienne was born on November 20, 1987. Other survivors include Andrea, and a son, Larry, from his first marriage.

Joel was a devoted fan of G&S and a conscientious officer who served the Society with wisdom and a pleasant sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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Mr. Bengston

Richard E. Bengston, singer with Conn. Gilbert and Sullivan Society at age 86

Richard Everett Bengston died on February 7, 2017 at The Village at South Farms in Middletown. He enjoyed singing with the CT Gilbert and Sullivan Society and with Cappella Cantorum, with whom he sang at Carnegie Hall and toured Europe with for several summers. He was the Pipe Major of the Sphinx Temple Highlanders.

He was born to Arnold and Anna Kittredge Bengtson on February 28, 1931. He attended local schools and, upon graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School, he joined the Navy during the [Korean War](#), attaining the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class. Richard was a member of The Church of the Holy Trinity, where he taught Sunday School and served as a Lay Reader and member of the Vestry.

Richard is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marilyn Wiley Bengtson, and his children, Karin (The Rev. Erik) Larsen of Middletown, RI, his son, Jeffrey Bengtson, of Newman, CA, and his daughter-in-law, Anita Bengtson, of Cromwell. He was predeceased by his son, Eric. He also leaves 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

❧ COMMUNICATIONS ❧



I wanted to email you to say thanks for your page, <http://www.negass.org/index.php/links.html>.

I volunteer with a youth group where we have different activities for local kids.

We are attending an opera performance at the end of the month, so I wanted to find some opera resources to get the kids excited about it. Your page has some great stuff - thanks for all the help! :-)

One of the kids in my group, Sadie, found a great resource

about opera: <https://seatgeek.com/content/learn-about-opera-theater> .

Can you add this to your list of resources? She loves singing, so I thought this would give her some extra encouragement by sharing her find online. Plus, we thought it would make a great addition for others to learn from.

If you have any more information for the kids, I'll make sure to share it with them. Thanks again!

Take care,
Joy McMahon
jmcmahon@applecreekhs.org

❧ SOLICITATIONS ❧

We know that many of our members and readers are very busy with a host of activities be they work or G&S related, but in the off-hand chance that you find yourself with a spare moment, would you consider writing an article that could be published in *The Trumpet Bray*? Your most welcome submissions for the following columns may be sent to: editor@negass.org

FIRST CONTACT

How did you first get introduced to the fun of Gilbert and Sullivan? Share your recollections with other readers of *The Trumpet Bray*.

TOPSY-TURVEY.COM

Dare to share with your friends your original stories of mis-takes, mis-steps, mis-cues or other on-stage (or otherwise) embarrassing or memorable moments.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

"Where Are They Now?" is an occasional feature spotlighting NEGASS members who have moved away but are still active G & S'ers on stages elsewhere.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the editor are always welcome.

❧ A PUZZLEMENT ❧ ANSWERS

(If we find you peeking, you will surely get a beating!)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Princess Ida | Lady Blanche |
| 2. Iolanthe | Lord Chancellor |
| 3. Pinafore | Sir Joseph Porter |
| 4. Yeoman | Jack Point and Wilfred |
| 5. Trial by Jury | The Defendant |
| 6. Gondoliers | Duke of Plaza-Toro |
| 7. Sorcerer | The Notary |
| 8. Ruddigore | Richard Dauntless |
| 9. Pirates | Frederic and Ruth |
| 10. Patience | Lady Jane |

G&S Events

H.M.S. Pinafore
New York GASP

December 28-31, 2017
nygasp.org
see article on page 4

Kaye Playhouse
Hunter College
E 64th Street (Between Park &
Lexington Avenues, NYC, NY

Iolanthe
Sudbury Savoyards

April 7 & 14, 2018
sudburysavoyards.org

Maynard High School
1 Tiger Drive
Maynard MA 01754

The Mikado
Troupers Light Opera

April 14 & 21, 2018
trouperlightopera.org

Norwalk Concert Hall
125 East Avenue
Norwalk CT 06851