



## ❖ NEGASS EVENTS ❖

### **NEGASS goes to *Pirates of Penzance*, Sunday, February 23, 2014, 2 pm, Sudbury, MA**

NEGASS is very pleased to announce that we will be hosting a fabulous reception for The Sudbury Savoyards' steampunk-style production of *The Pirates of Penzance* on Sunday, February 23rd! Discounted tickets to the 2:00 p.m. matinee will be available to members, and afterwards please join the cast, crew and orchestra of the show for a wine and appetizers reception at the gorgeous Bistro20 Restaurant at 120 Boston Post Road in Sudbury.

Message [progchair AT negass DOT org](mailto:progchair AT negass DOT org) or call 617-688-7057 to put yourself on the discounted ticket list and RSVP for the reception. See you at the show!

#### **Upcoming NEGASS 2014 Events**

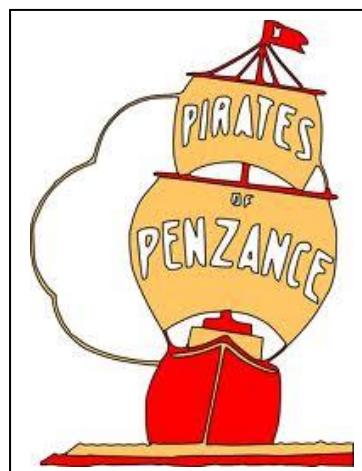
February: Outing to *Pirates of Penzance* (Sudbury Savoyards) and Afterparty  
 March: Special Performance of NEGASS School Outreach's *Pirates of Penzance* (abridged)  
 April: Last-Minute-Light-Opera  
 May: A Gala G & S Sing-Out  
 June: NEGASS Election and Summer Fantasy Party  
 July: Aria and Scene Sing

### **NEGASS *Pirates of Penzance* - School Outreach Performance, Sunday, March 9, 2014, 2 pm, Winchester Unitarian Society, 478 Main St., Winchester, MA**

NEGASS is pleased to announce a public performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* to kick off our School Outreach Program. This program is adapted especially for elementary school audiences. NEGASS members are invited to attend our opening show and to invite families with young school-age children to join in the fun.

We hope to see you in Winchester. Your \$5 suggested donation helps to support the education initiatives of our organization.

For more information, contact us at [education AT negass DOT org](mailto:education AT negass DOT org) or call our School Outreach Coordinator at 888-684-1648 to bring the show to your school!



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

MEMBERSHIP NEGASS membership dues are \$20. Please join NEGASS online at [www.negass.org](http://www.negass.org), or contact [memb AT negass DOT org](#).

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

[www.negass.org](http://www.negass.org)

## ❖ NEGASS NEWS❖

### New NEGASS Website Makes Its Debut

NEGASS is proud to announce the publication of its new website at [www.negass.org](http://www.negass.org). Many months of planning, designing, and coding went into the creation of our new Internet presence. Thanks go to Kaori Emery for her creativity and web savvy.

We invite all members to visit the site and send us comments. Do you like it? What would you like to see added? Please send your ideas to [webmistress AT negass DOT org](#).



### NEGASS/New England Opera Club Joint Meeting

NEGASS had another success on January 12 with our joint NEGASS/New England Opera Club meeting at the Waltham Library. NEGASS President Tom Dawkins gave an hour's talk on some grand opera influences on Sir Arthur Sullivan to a combined audience of about thirty people. Enthusiasm was high and everyone had a delightful time listening to music and discussing both opera and G & S.

Attendees reported not only learning new information but having their ears opened to some interesting comparisons between grand opera and G & S operettas. The look on many people's faces as they heard the opening of Weber's overture to his opera *Oberon* was rather priceless (it sounds almost EXACTLY the same as the opening of the overture to *Iolanthe*!). We had a particularly fun time hearing Valerie Masterson sing both "Poor Wand'ring One" and an English translation of "Sempre libera" from *La Traviata*. Tom also played a clip of "Three Little Maids" sung on TV in 1963 by none other than Joan Sutherland, Dinah Shore, and Ella Fitzgerald!

John Tischio, NEOC President, expressed interest in working with NEGASS on an annual basis and we are delighted to follow up on his suggestion.

## ❖Recent Productions❖

### **H.M.S. Pinafore, Valley Light Opera, November 9 - 17, 2013, Academy of Music, Northampton, MA**

From November 9-17, Valley Light Opera presented *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the historic Academy of Music in Northampton, MA. Although it may seem far from the beaten path for many NEGASS members, VLO's autumn productions are always worth the journey, and a company who has been successfully producing fine G & S shows since 1975 is certainly worthy of support!

Set in 1805 (slightly later than the original), this production had an elegant air of the Regency style, and indeed often resembled scenes from a Jane Austen novel. The sets were lovely- a ship and also a town street, since this production occurred on both land and sea. One might have enjoyed the use of more "levels" for the actors because they were often simply in lines on the floor, but the sets themselves were lovely backdrops for the action.

VLO is known for its exquisite costumes, and this production did not disappoint. The formidable costume crew (creating designs by **Elaine Walker** and **Laura Green**) clothed their cast in costumes that were historically accurate and also simply stunning – from the colors and fabrics of the ladies' gowns to the cut of the men's coats, every detail was perfect and the cast looked gorgeous from head to toe. It was a feast for the eyes!

Under **Aldo Fabrizi**'s able direction, the orchestra was well tuned and kept things moving at a lively pace. New this year was the use of supertitles to enhance the understandability of Gilbert's libretto.

Director **Graham Christian** had a vision for this production, and it came across with elegance and grace. A unique element was the addition of 2 ballroom dances, which served to enhance the Regency period style of the production.

As Josephine, **Libby Maxey** gave a traditional rendering and sang with a lovely, clear tone; a highlight was her Scena sung from one of the Academy's balconies. While one may have desired a heftier-voiced Ralph, **Steven Williams'** light tenor voice capably spanned the full range of the music. **Philip Helzer** was a Captain who took his duties seriously and sang with aplomb, and **Michael Budnick**'s Dick Deadeye was most amusing. **Heather Williams'** Hebe was always doing something interesting onstage, and **Kathy Blaisdell**

sang Buttercup with a rich, beautiful voice, crisp diction and a compelling stage presence. When **Matthew Roehrig**'s Sir Joseph came onstage he brought a palpable energy, and his resonant tone, excellent diction and lively presence brought the stage picture to life.

It would be an oversight not to mention the unsung star of the show – VLO's wonderful **chorus** of ladies and gentlemen. From the opening men's chorus to the finale, the lush, full bodied singing of these lads and lasses was simply gorgeous, and the diction was wonderfully crisp. They were a bright presence both vocally and dramatically, and while they were not given much movement, when they appeared onstage they brought excitement, energy and beauty. Bravi tutti, chor!

If you have never seen a VLO production, do yourself a favor next year. Take a trip "out West", visit the lovely town of Northampton, have some dinner and do some shopping, and experience a lovely production at the Academy of Music. You will be happy you did!

-Elaine Crane

## ❖G & S News❖

### **Sudbury Savoyards Present *The Pirates of Penzance* in Sudbury, MA**

The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to present *The Pirates of Penzance* February 20 - March 1, 2014, with Stage Director **Dennis O'Brien**, assisted by **Tony Parkes**, and Music Director **Kathryn Denney**.

This year the Savoyards are shaking things up a bit by setting this beloved classic in the slightly different world known as "Steampunk".

The cast includes a line-up of NEGASS members: **Tom Frates** as Frederic, **Brad Amidon** as Richard, the Pirate King, and **Katherine Engel Meifert** as Ruth, along with chorus members **David Baldwin**, **Jamieson Cobleigh**, **Janice Dallas**, **Tim Daughters**, **Ann Ferentz**, and **J. Donald Smith**.

Performances are at 8pm on February 21 & 22 and March 1, with matinees at 2pm on February 23 and March 1. at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Theater, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA.

For information and tickets, please visit  
[www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org), e-mail  
[tickets@sudburysavoyards.org](mailto:tickets@sudburysavoyards.org), or call 978-443-8811.



## Upcoming NEGASS Events

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| <p><b>NEGASS Outing to<br/><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i></b><br/>Sudbury Savoyards</p>           | <p><b>February 23, 2014 (2 pm)</b><br/>Join NEGASS for the show and<br/>afterparty at Bistro20<br/>Contact <a href="mailto:progchair@negass.org">progchair AT negass DOT org</a> or<br/>call 617-688-7057<br/>see page 1 for details</p> | <p>Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High<br/>School<br/>390 Lincoln Road<br/>Sudbury, MA</p>     |
| <p><b><i>The Pirates of<br/>Penzance(abridged)</i></b><br/>NEGASS School Outreach<br/>Program</p> | <p><b>March 9, 2014 (2 pm)</b><br/>Special Performance of NEGASS School<br/>Outreach Program<br/>contact <a href="mailto:education@negass.org">education AT negass DOT org</a> or<br/>call 888-684-1648<br/>see page 1 for details</p>   | <p>Winchester Unitarian Society<br/>Metcalf Hall<br/>478 Main St.<br/>Winchester, MA</p> |

## Upcoming Events

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|--|---|---|
| <p><b><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i></b><br/>Sudbury Savoyards</p> | <p><b>February 20, 21- 23, 28 and March 1, 2014</b><br/><a href="http://www.sudburysavoyards.org">www.sudburysavoyards.org</a><br/>978-443-8811<br/>see page 3 for details</p>  | <p>Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High<br/>School<br/>390 Lincoln Road<br/>Sudbury, MA</p>          |
| <p><b><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i></b><br/>Main Street Arts</p>  | <p><b>March 7, 8, 9, 2014</b><br/><a href="http://www.brattleborotix.com/events/main-street-arts-presents-pirates-penzance-1">http://www.brattleborotix.com/events/<br/>main-street-arts-presents-pirates-<br/>penzance-1</a></p> | <p>Vermont Academy<br/>Horowitz Hall<br/>35 Main St.<br/>Saxtons Rivers, VT</p>               |
| <p><b><i>Patience</i></b><br/>Harvard-Radcliffe G&amp;SP</p>       | <p><b>March 27 - April 6, 2014</b><br/>617-496-2222<br/><a href="http://www.hrgsp.org/happeningnow.htm">www.hrgsp.org/happeningnow.htm</a></p>  | <p>Agassiz Theater<br/>Radcliffe Yard<br/>Cambridge, MA</p>                                   |
| <p><b><i>Ruddigore</i></b><br/>MITG&amp;SP</p>                     | <p><b>May 2 - 10, 2014</b><br/><a href="http://gsp.mit.edu/productions/2014/spring/ruddigore/">gsp.mit.edu/productions/2014/spring/<br/>ruddigore/</a></p>  | <p>MIT Student Center<br/>Sala de Puerto Rico<br/>84 Massachusetts Ave.<br/>Cambridge, MA</p> |

## Auditions

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|--|---|---|
| <p><b><i>Ruddigore</i></b><br/>MITG&amp;SP</p> | <p><b>February 4, 5, 6, 2014 (7 - 10 pm)</b><br/>email <a href="mailto:gsp-ec@mit.edu">gsp-ec@mit.edu</a></p> | <p>MIT Student Center<br/>Sala de Puerto Rico<br/>84 Massachusetts Ave.<br/>Cambridge, MA</p> |
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