



∞ NEGASS NEWS ∞

NEGASS Performs with the Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra

In a season filled with an exceptional variety of artistic choice in its concert programming from Mahler to “Carmina Burana” to operatic works, the Cape Symphony Orchestra’s *Passport to England* concert at the Barnstable Performing Arts Center in Hyannis, MA on January 17-18, 2015 was a celebration of the music of England, including works by Handel, Elgar, an arrangement of the Beatles’ *Penny Lane* and, notably, the music of Gilbert and Sullivan, as performed by members of the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society.



Featured soloists **Rebecca Hains**, **Tom Frates** and **Angela Jajko**, together with ensemble members **Connell West Benn**, **Christine Petkus**, **Shannon Bullis Lebron**, **Katherine Engel Meifert**,

Christine St. Pierre, **David Bell**, **Stephen Lebron**, **Tyler Hains** and **Larry Millner**, took the stage in full Victorian costume to perform with Conductor **Jung-Ho Pak** and the fine musicians of the Cape Symphony.

In the concert-opening selection “Rule Britannia”, **Connie Benn**, **Christine Petkus** and **Angela Jajko** appeared as a featured trio. Later in the concert, the NEGASS ensemble performed highlights from G&S, including “I’m called Little Buttercup”, “I am the very model of a Modern Major-General”, and “Poor wand’ring one”, featuring **Angela Jajko**, **Thomas Frates** and **Rebecca Hains**, respectively, and then, from the two *H.M.S. Pinafore* finales, “For a British tar” and “For he is an Englishman”.

Rebecca Hains returned to the stage to perform the soprano solo in the theme from *Downtown Abbey*. Both concerts were sold out, and the audience gave thunderous applause for all performers. When **Angela**, **Christine** and **Connie** entered in Victorian dresses, the audience responded with “oohs” and ahs”, and then at the end of the G&S set, there was tremendous laughter when **Stephen Lebron** (dressed as a Grenadier Guard) saluted the Maestro, and the Maestro saluted him back.

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

Many compliments were given on both the vocal quality and professional demeanor of the NEGASS performers. During the intermission, the audience was greeted in the lobby by the cast in full costume. Many were excited to take group photos, share G&S experiences, and learn more about NEGASS. Some audience members even asked if we were really from England!

They were a delight to sing for--so receptive and appreciative.



The evening before opening night, the CCSO held an artists' dinner, treating the three soloists to dinner at a delightful local restaurant, where **Maestro Pak** interviewed each soloist in turn before an audience of CCSO supporters, who also attended the open dress rehearsal that evening.

The Maestro's questions were thoughtful and interesting, and were informed by his wide range of rich experiences, from his work as director of the San Francisco Symphony to his work directing at Interlochen. The artists enjoyed learning from Maestro Pak and the dinner attendees alike about the CCSO's remarkable successes in their creative programming, driven by Pak's vision, and in fostering strong connections with their enthusiastically supportive audience members. It is no wonder that CCSO is second in New England only to the BSO: it is truly a world-class orchestra and a very special group to have performed with.

Behind the scenes, **Angela Jajko** served as NEGASS's liaison to CCSO and chief organizer of the entire endeavor. A very effective Lord High Everything Else, **Angela Jajko** also selected and did the necessary alterations on costumes, renting them from the Sudbury Savoyards and Valley Light Opera. NEGASS is most grateful for the loan of their beautiful costumes, for which there were many compliments.

The NEGASS performers and family members stayed in the beautiful and historic Nathan Stone House in Dennis, MA, and everyone pitched in with food shopping, cooking, childcare, and anything that needed to be done. This included **Christine Petkus** doing much of the shopping and meal planning, Connie Benn making beautiful hatpins for the tiny Victorian hats, and friends of NEGASS **Cathy Hennessey, Katrina Kidder, and Jo Anne Koenig** providing childcare so the parents could perform.

The performers of NEGASS were thrilled to bring the music of G&S to Cape Cod, and we can't wait to do it again!

❧ G & S NEWS ❧

The Sudbury Savoyards present *Patience or Bunthorne's Bride*, February 19 - 28, 2015 at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

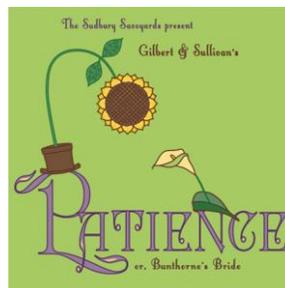
The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to present *Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride*, for their winter 2015 production, with Stage Director **James Ravan** and Music Director **Kathryn Denney**.

Patience opened on April 23, 1881 at the Opera Comique and ran for 578 performances, moving on October 10, 1881 to D'Oyly Carte's new theatre, The Savoy, the first theatre in the world to be lit entirely by electric lights.

The Sudbury Savoyards first performed *Patience* in 1972 with this being the fifth presentation of the operetta in their 54 year history. According to Stage Director James Ravan, "the approach this year is to make the piece understandable to modern audiences.

Instead of emphasizing the rise of the Aesthetic Movement in Britain we will be focusing on how the piece reflects our modern culture of celebrity and the fad of the moment - 'like that was *so* yesterday'.

There will be plenty of laughter, fun and surprises as this version focuses on the 'comic' in 'comic opera'." The cast includes a line-up of NEGASS members as Gilbert and Sullivan will once again be presented by the Sudbury group "on a grand scale": **Connell Benn** as *Patience*, **Brad Amidon** as



The Duke of Dunstable, **Randy Glidden** as Major Murgatroyd, **Tony Parkes** as Colonel Calverley, **Ann Ferentz** as Lady Angela, and **Johanna Shriver** as Lady Saphir. Members of the Chorus include **David Baldwin, Jamieson Cobleigh, Jennifer Dohm, Fred Hughes, Laurel Martin, Susan Robinson, Jon Saul, and Marla Zucker**.

Four characters have been added to this production to offer a new take on this popular G&S operetta, two of whom are NEGASS members: **Jon Saul** as Oscar Wilde and **Laurel Martin** as Scientist Dr. Roberta Sullivan, plus two Scientific Assistants. Behind the scenes are NEGASS members **Joyce Desmarais Isen** as Orchestra Manager and **Ron Dallas** as Technical/Rigging Advisor (long distance).

Performances will take place at **8pm on February 20, 21, 27 & 28** with matinees at **2pm on Sunday, February 22** and **Saturday, February 28** at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Theater, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA. There is also a **Dress Rehearsal performance on Thursday, February 19 at 8 pm**.

Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students, \$15 for children under 12, and \$15 for all seats for the February 19th Dress Performance. The theater is general seating and handicapped accessible with ample parking.

The Sudbury Savoyards, founded in 1961 and sponsored by the Sudbury United Methodist Church, is an all-volunteer organization with all of its proceeds donated to the relief of world hunger. To date, over \$225,000 has been donated to this worthy cause.

Upcoming Events

Patience
Sudbury Savoyards

February 19-28, 2015
<http://www.sudburysavoyards.org/>

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
390 Lincoln Rd.
Sudbury MA

70th Anniversary Production:
**“Trial By Jury and other
G+S selections.”**
Simsbury Light
Opera Company

March 20-22
Auditions: December 7-8, 2014
<http://sloco.org/?cat=2>

Basingstoke
5 Herman Drive
Simsbury CT

Iolanthe
Harvard-Radcliffe
G+S Players

March 27-April 5, 2015
<http://hrfsp.org/happening-now>

Agassiz Theater
5 James St.
Cambridge MA

Gondoliers
New York Gilbert
and Sullivan Players

May 15-17, 2015
http://nygasp.org/current_season/new_york_season

NYU Skirball Center for the
Performing Arts
302 West 91st Street,
New York, NY