

THE
TRUMPET BRAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY



NEGASS NEWS

National Public Radio program *Says You!* features several NEGASS members



NEGASS artists featured on NPR's "Says You."

By Angela Jajko

Eighteen NEGASS members took part in a taping of *Says You*, a weekly feature of National Public Radio. This number included Angela Jajko, Tom Frates, Elaine B. Crane, Christine Petkus, Susan Craft Larson, Shannon Lebron, Steve Lebron, Tony Parkes, Randy Glidden, Martha Birnbaum, Lonnie Powell, Brad Amidon, Connell Benn, Kaori Emery, Lisa Pierce-Goldstein, Larry Millner, Katherine Engel Meifert wielded the baton and Maestro Thomas Dawkins was at the piano for some amazing shows!

Our ensemble, before a live studio audience, provided lead-in and exit music as well as numbers from several G&S comic operas while members of the quiz show panel pondered the answers to a variety of questions posed by Barry Nolan, the program's moderator. Our NEGASS artists participated in one question round about G&S by singing musical hints for the panel, and then spontan-

eously participated in other rounds by volunteering answers from the wings. On several occasions Mr. Nolan called NEGASS to the stage to sing musical answers, and NEGASS was declared the second place for one show. The shows that were taped were aired over January and February on NPR and are available for download on the *Says You!* website www.saysyou.net.



Kate Meifert was recently spotlighted in a Worcester Telegram and Gazette article about the NPR program.

G&S EVENTS

Sudbury Savoyards plan to conjure up *The Sorcerer* on February 20-27

By Andrea Rössler

The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to present *The Sorcerer* for their winter 2016 production, with a full orchestra and large cast led by Stage Director, NEGASS member and veteran Savoyard Tony Parkes and Music Director Craig Tata, making his debut with the company. Before there was *Upstairs*,

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

David DeVries – editor AT negass DOT org

ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Kaori Emery, design manager – kaori AT negass DOT org

Martha Birnbaum, webmistress – web AT negass DOT org

Martha Birnbaum, membership - memb AT negass DOT org

NEGASS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angela Jajko, president – pres AT negass DOT org

Connell Benn, vice president – vicepres AT negass DOT org

Lisa Pierce-Goldstein, treasurer – treas AT negass DOT org

Kate Meifert, program chair – progchair AT negass DOT org

Martha Birnbaum, secretary – sec AT negass DOT org

Elaine Crane, member-at-large – elaine AT negass DOT org

Kaori Emery, member-at-large and hospitality chair – kaori AT negass DOT org

Tom Frates, member-at-large - tomf AT negass DOT org

Susan Larson, member-at-large and education chair – susan AT negass DOT org

Carolyn Schwartz, member-at-large and publicity chair – carolyn AT negass DOT org

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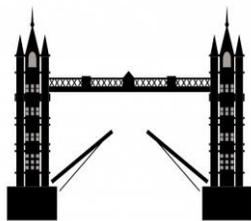
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Downstairs or Downton Abbey, there was *The Sorcerer* – Gilbert & Sullivan's playful look at love and magic in the class-conscious world of Victorian England.

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": **Ed Fell** as John Wellington Wells (aka: the Sorcerer), **Arthur Dunlap** as Sir Marmaduke, **Randy Glidden** as The Notary, **Ann Ferentz** as Lady Sangazure, and **Carolyn Schwartz** as Constance. NEGASS members in the chorus include **Brad Amidon** and **Susan Robinson**.

The Sorcerer opens its first weekend on **Saturday, February 20** with a **matinee at 2pm** as well as an **evening performance at 8pm** and a 'Family Matinee' on **Sunday, February 21 at 2 pm** after which the audience members are invited to tour the stage and meet the cast. Following performances take place on **Friday, February 26 at 8pm** and **Saturday, February 27 at 2pm and 8 pm** at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Theater, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA.

G&S Collectibles to be offered during Sudbury Savoyards *The Sorcerer*

Over the years The Sudbury Savoyards have inherited a treasure trove of Gilbert & Sullivan memorabilia from our members. To further our donation amount to the relief of world hunger, The Sudbury Savoyards archival souvenirs and other collectibles will be available for purchase in the Lobby Shoppe during performances of "The Sorcerer" February 20-27. This is a rare opportunity for Gilbert & Sullivan enthusiasts to add to their own libraries and collections while helping a good cause.



Some of the items that will be made available include a vast collection of vintage Gilbert & Sullivan box sets of LP's of the majority of the operettas from the 1960's and 1970's recorded by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and the New Symphony Orchestra conducted by Isidore Godfrey as well as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Royston Nash. Other LP's of the operettas are circa 1949 - 1951, as well as an RCA

Victor recording of the concert series of "Patience" in a 10-album set, complete with libretto, featuring Martin Green and George Baker, conducted by Dr. Malcolm Sargent and a 1964 premier recording of "The Mountebanks" by Lyric Theater Co. Inc. of Washington, D.C. conducted by John Landis complete with dialogue, libretto, programs, and a letter from the director himself.

Books, old as well as new, framed art and posters, plus vintage sheet music, song books, note cards, post cards, and a large variety of G&S related LP's will also be available. Cash or personal checks only. For more information regarding the Lobby Shoppe please contact Andrea Roessler at archives@sudburysavoyards.org or leave a message at 781-369-5992.

Sudbury Savoyards to offer a summer program for children ages 8-12

The Sudbury Savoyards are very excited to announce that, for the first time in their 54-year history, a children's summer theater program in 2016 will be offered. Kathryn Denney, music director for several of our shows and an elementary school music teacher, will direct a junior version of *The Pirates of Penzance* for children ages 8 to 12. The program will run from July 25 to August 12 on



weekdays from 9 am to 2 pm at the Sudbury United Methodist Church in Sudbury. The cost for the program is \$650 per child with a maximum of 20 children accepted. More information, including application forms, is available on their website sudburysavoyards.org.

❧ We Have a Little List ❧

We wish to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including: Andrea Roessler, Rebecca Rosen, Kari Mackey, Angela Jajko, and Joey Goodknight. (Please forgive any omissions!)

❧ A VALENTINE'S DAY Q&A ❧



Name the comic operas that belong to the following bits of dialog:

1. "Love, to be pure, must be absolutely unselfish."
2. "When Love has tied the knot there's no undoing."
3. "It was no crime to love but thee alone."
4. "I love him-I love him with fervor unceasing"
5. "Lovers choose a wedding day-life is love in merry May"
6. "Oh, here is love, and here is truth and here is food for joyous laughter"
7. "Then all the world aside were not too wide to hold my wealth of love"
8. "And they'll cut a dash on their wedding day"
9. "Won't it be a pretty wedding? Such a pretty, pretty wedding"
10. "When a merry maiden marries sorrow goes and pleasure tarries."
11. "But happier than any a pound for a penny, a lover is, when he embraces his bride"
12. "Oh, happy day, with joyous glee will away and married be"
13. "This is their joy-day unalloyed"
14. "Happy couples lightly treading, castle chapel will be quite full"
15. "Away we'll go, and merrily marry"

The answers are on page 4.

❧ ANOTHER G&S EVENT ❧

Harvard-Radcliffe G&S Players hold A "wonderful" Victorian Ball

By Rebecca Rosen

The Victorian Ball is my favorite event on the HRG&SP social calendar. It combines the glamour of a white-tie event with the nostalgia and fun of a reunion; that one night constitutes perhaps the largest gathering of current HRG&SP members, alumni, and patrons all year This semester we held our 10th annual Victorian Ball, and everyone had a blast!

The first Victorian Ball was held in the fall of 2006 as part of our 50th anniversary celebration. Since then, we've had lots of fun every year with a grand ball full of delicious food and stellar decorations. It was so wonderful to see the room that for as long as our organization has been in the Agassiz has spent much of our residency covered either in drop cloths and half-finished set pieces or cast members napping or doing homework during the show now transformed into a beautiful ballroom.



Lots of HRG&SP alumni! (Photo courtesy of Joey Goodknight)

This year, we had a huge group of alumni come to the ball, and it was wonderful getting to know them! Most of the alumni who came this year were HRG&SP company members from the last 15 years, but we had a few alumni come back who had been a part of our organization even earlier (the earliest alumni I spoke with at the Ball were involved in the 1975 production of *The Gondoliers*; if you were involved in earlier years and came to the ball, we'd love to know!). There was plenty of dancing and lots of chocolate mousse, and it seems like everyone had a great time getting dressed up in their fanciest attire and partying with HRG&SP old and new. Thank you to everyone who came to the ball and made it a success; I know I can't wait to come back for the Victorian Ball next year!

**Answers to the St. Valentine's Day Quiz
on page 3**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Patience | 2. The Sorcerer |
| 3. The Gondoliers | 4. Trial by Jury |
| 5. Ruddigore | 6. The Pirates of Penzance |
| 7. The Yeoman of the Guard | 8. The Mikado |
| 9. The Grand Duke | 10. The Gondoliers |
| 11. Ruddigore | 12. The Pirates of Penzance |
| 13. The Yeoman of the Guard | |
| 14. The Grand Duke | 15. The Mikado |

The origins of some of the common phrases used in *The Sorcerer*

By David DeVries

Considering there are three different companies producing *The Sorcerer* in the immediate future (see the Calendar on page 6) I thought that this compilation of familiar phrases that appear in the production might be of interest.

Poets and other writers have recorded thousands of phrases that have become part of our manner of speech ever since man began putting pen to paper. William Schwenk Gilbert is no exception. Within the combined libretti penned by Sir William are hundreds of common phrases, sayings, quotes and cliches that he may have originated or at the least helped to perpetuate.

Searching through various web site resources one can find these quotes with their earliest employment and meanings. For the most part, Gilbert was not the originator but "helped to move it along." This is not meaning to be an exhaustive search, but just a something which I thought might be interesting to the reader.



Eheu Fugaces.

(The air is charged with amatory numbers)

In *The Sorcerer* at the beginning of Act 1, the villagers outside of Marmaduke's mansion sing a chorus containing the phrases, "with clarion sound," and "for joys abound." No immediate 'hit' is found for the former, but with the latter, an attribution was found written by Thomas Paine in *Common Sense* in 1776, "we can have no joy, knowing that this government is not sufficiently lasting to ensure any thing In almost every article of defense we abound."

Immediately following the opening segment is an aria by Constance, which refers to "**my aching**

heart," "I weep for joy," and "when I take heart." None of these came up in phrases.org.uk but are commonly used by us today. Following Constance's aria, Dr. Daly sings a ballad opening with, "Time was, when Love and I were well acquainted. Time was when we walked ever hand in hand." Again "hand in hand" is well used, but alas, no hit.

In the middle of Act 1, Aline sings in an aria, "when Love has tied the knot there's no undoing." The meaning as we know it is to get married. According to phrases.org.uk, beds in time of yore (without metal bed frames) needed to be supported by nets of knotted string tied together – hence "tied the knot(s)." English poet Matthew Prior wrote a poem in 1717 recording the phrase, "So to the priest their case they tell: He ties the knot."



"My name is John Wellington Wells (The Sorcerer's Song)" (From Gilbert & Sullivan Archive)

Just before the finale of act 1, in the middle of the patter song, "My name is John Wellington Wells," Mr. Wells sings, "he can rack your brains with chains, and gibberings grim and ghastly!" "Rack your brains," means to struggle to recall or understand something. "Rack" refers to the torture device used in medieval times. William Beveridge in his *Sermons* wrote in 1680, "They rack their brains...they hazard their lives for it." Surely most of us, as students, can attest to having "racked our brains" when taking tests in class. At least I can.



Eheu Fugaces.

COMMUNICATIONS

SLOCO performance venue corrected

I am glad to see Simsbury Light Opera's April production of *The Sorcerer* listed in *The Trumpet Bray*! However, there is a misprint concerning the location: performances for SLOCO in fact take place at Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. (Our "Basingstoke" facility is where set construction and many of our rehearsals take place). Thanks for helping to spread the word about our production.

Kari Mackey
President, Simsbury Light Opera Company

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 AT negass DOT 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*.

REVIEWERS REWARDED

Have you ever wanted to comment on your colleagues' hard work somewhere other than Facebook? Now is your chance! *The Trumpet Bray* seeks peer reviewers for local G&S productions. Plus, write a review that goes to publication, and we'll refund up to \$25 towards your ticket cost.

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.

NEGASS Events		
<i>The Gondoliers</i> Last Minute Light Opera	March 5, 2016 NEGASS and Greater Worcester Opera greaterworcesteropera.org	Briarwood 65 Briarwood Circle Worcester MA
G&S Events		
<i>The Sorcerer</i> Sudbury Savoyards	February 20-27, 2016 sudburysavoyards.org See article on page 1	Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School 390 Lincoln Rd. Sudbury MA
<i>H.M.S. Pinafore</i> Harvard-Radcliffe G&SP	March 25-April 3, 2016 617-496-2222 hrgsp.president@gmail.com	Agassiz Theater Radcliffe Yard - 5 James St. Cambridge, MA 02138
<i>The Sorcerer</i> Simsbury Light Opera Co.	April 9-17, 2016 sloco.org	Eno Memorial Hall 754 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury CT 06070
<i>The Sorcerer</i> Troupers Light Opera	April 16 & 23, 2016 trouperlightopera.org	Norwalk Concert Hall 125 East Avenue Norwalk CT 06851
<i>Patience</i> MITG&SP	April 29-May 7, 2016 gsp.mit.edu	MIT Student Center Sala de Puerto Rico 84 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge MA 02139
<i>Princess Ida</i> New York GASP	May 21-22, 2016 nygasp.org	NYU Skirbal Center 566 LaGuardia Place New York, NY 10012
Check individual websites for greater details.		