



THE
TRUMPET BRAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY



~ ~ UPCOMING MEETINGS ~ ~

Love in the Subjunctive: An Evening of Dubious Love Songs

September 19, 2009, 7:15 p.m.

Southgate, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Love in the Subjunctive: An Evening of Dubious Love Songs is based on a concept by Philadelphia-based conductor **Florrie Marks** in which the subject of "subjunctive love" – as *Princess Ida's* Lady Blanche would say, "the May, the Might, the Would, the Could, the Should" – is explored in a variety of selections, first from the world of musical theater, and then from the Gilbert & Sullivan canon.

On September 19, 2009 at 7:15 p.m., **Florrie Marks** will present her latest version of this concert, featuring music by Gilbert & Sullivan, Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and others. NEGASS members **Elaine Crane** (soprano), **Rebecca Hains** (soprano), **Brad Amidon** (tenor), and **Tyler Hains** (baritone) will present these theatrical gems on September 19th, 2009 at 7:15 pm at Southgate, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

The program has been presented twice previously by **Florrie**, with soprano **Katie Holler**: at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, UK in August 2008, and for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of New York this past March.

How to get to our next meeting

From Route 2:

- Take exit **52A** to merge onto **I-95 S/MA-128 S** toward **Attleboro**
- Merge onto **I-90 W**
- Take exit **12** to merge onto **MA-9/Worcester Rd** toward **Marlborough**. Continue to follow **MA-9**
- Turn **right** at **South St**
- Turn **left** at **Julio Dr**

About Southgate: <http://www.southgateatshrewsbury.com/>

About Guest Artist Florrie Marks:

Named Best Musical Director of the 3rd International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival, **Florrie Marks** has achieved the rare distinction of having music directed all 14 G&S operas. She is well-known for her thoughtful interpretation of the G&S canon, with Festival adjudicator David Turner saying of her work, "I thought precision, interpretation, thoughtfulness were there throughout; I thought it was musical direction of a very high order." Since 1992 she has been Music Director of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County (West Chester, PA). Active in the G&S community in the Philadelphia area, she has also music directed the *Ardensingers* (Arden, DE) and the Penn Singers, the light opera company of the University of Pennsylvania.



~ ~ RECENT PRODUCTIONS ~ ~

G&S Fans Chill Out at NELO Concert

Every year since 2003, New England Light Opera (NELO) has produced a series of low-priced summer concerts, using volunteer singers, as a fund-raising vehicle for its regular season. The

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming meetings	1
Recent productions	1
Upcoming productions	3
Ask Pooh-Bah	4
Announcements	5
Calendar.....	5
NEGASS meeting schedule	6

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GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS may be sent to editor@negass.org. **REVIEWS** may be sent to programchair@negass.org. **CALENDAR ITEMS** may be sent to calendar@negass.org.

SUBSCRIPTIONS To join NEGASS, please contact membership chair **Janice Dallas**, 63 Everett St. Arlington, MA 02474; membership@negass.org. Standard membership in NEGASS pays for a printed copy of each issue of the *Bray*, plus a password to the current issue of the on-line PDF version. NEGASS membership dues are \$20, \$30, \$50 and \$100. Members may also opt out of the mailed issues of the *Bray* and receive it via email attachment or online only. To receive a password and/or to receive the *Bray* online only, please email membership@negass.org.

ARCHIVES Past issues of *The Trumpet Bray* can be found at <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>

NEXT BRAY DEADLINE: October, 14, 2009

<http://www.negass.org/>

Gilbert and Sullivan Night has generally been well attended, but this year's on July 22 was blessed with the fullest house in recent memory. Of more than 140 chairs set up, all but a few in the last row were occupied. One reason may have been the series' move this year to an air-conditioned venue, the Hamilton-Wenham Community House.

It was definitely "ladies' night." Although there are arguably more major G&S roles written for the baritone voice than any other, a shortage of male singers and an abundance of female ones



turned the evening into an in-depth survey of soprano, mezzo and contralto pieces. Most were solos, with a few duets and one trio ("Three Little Maids"). The performers were a mix of newcomers to the genre and local G&S regulars. **Erin Burgess, Susan Craft, Kaori Emery, Rebecca Hains, Anne-Louise Klaus, Kathryn McKellar, Angeliki Theoharis, and Jacque Wilson** made an impressive women's team, while **Tyler Hains, Mark Morgan, Tony Parkes, and Christopher Aaron Smith** did their best to hold up the men's side. Voices ranged from adequate (though I say it who shouldn't) to thoroughly professional, but everyone sang with the energy that good G&S needs - no doubt assisted by the new luxury of air conditioning!

Every extant G&S opera was represented, save *Trial by Jury*, *Iolanthe*, and *The Grand Duke*. The omission of *Iolanthe* was unfortunate but perhaps understandable, as it has fewer neatly excerptable songs - for soprano in particular - than most of the shows. A welcome bonus was Sullivan's song "The Lost Chord", ably rendered by NELO director **Mark Morgan**. **Eric Schwartz** did his usual fine job of accompanying at the piano. The evening ended with "He Is an Englishman," with the audience joining in on the final chorus.

Most of the audience were past retirement age, with at least one busload from a local senior center. Some writers have decried the supposed lack of interest in G&S among younger people, but I submit that in the Boston area at least, the college productions are filling that niche, for performers and audiences alike. And I routinely see a healthy sprinkling of children and teenagers in the audience at shows given by the Savoyard Light Opera Company and the Sudbury Savoyards. All these events play their part in introducing new folks, young and old, to our favorite light operas.

- **Tony Parkes**

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Topsy Turvy Loves

The New Gilbert & Sullivan Musical

John Chatterton presents, in association with William Fox and the Wings Theatre Co., *The New Gilbert & Sullivan Musical*.

Adapted and directed by **Robert Sickinger**
Musical Staging by **Ron Schwinn**
Musical Director **Mark Evans**
With the *Topsy Turvy Orchestra*

Sets **William Fox**
Costumes **Veronica Ferr'e**
Cast:

Charles E. Gerber	Preston Cuer
Julia Hirsch	Dian Jelmini
Adam Kee	Mary Lawrence
Brian Long	Christie Oakes
Daniel Schock	Lauren Schroeder
John Taylor Thomas	

Equity Showcase Opens Thursday October 1 thru
October 17

For tickets, visit
<http://www.wingstheatre.com/main.html>
Follow the link "Purchase Tickets On Line" and enter
the information required.
Box office number: 212-627-2961
Wings Theatre Company, Inc.
154 Christopher Street
New York, NY 10014

"The Pirates of Penzance" Capture MHS

The Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society's 29th annual major production will be a revival of the ever-popular *Pirates of Penzance* at the new Middletown High School Center for the Arts. Presented with orchestra conducted by Dr. **John Dreslin**, sets by **Bill Sorensen**, **Pat** and **John Sloan**, costumes by **Solveig Pflueger**, lighting by **Don Chamberlin**, sound by **Richard Ives**, and direction by **Bob Cumming** and **Theresa Kuzmenko**, the production sports a cast of fifty area artists of all ages, accompanied by **Richard Hicks**.



Heading the cast of principals is **Don Shirer** of Westbrook as the Major General, **Hal Chernoff** of Simsbury as The Pirate King, **Kathleen Thompson** of Hebron as Mabel, with both **David Henderson** (Middletown) and **Cameron Phillips** (Fairfield) as Samuel, **Bill Sorensen** of Guilford as Frederic, **Mike Reynolds** of Meriden as Sgt. of Police, **Carol Connolly** of New Haven and **Betty Olson** of Glastonbury as

Ruth. Supporting roles are taken by **Renee Haines** (Southington), **Katherine Yeager** (Middletown) as Edith, **Marissa Lovely** of East Hampton and **Amanda Ziegler** of Chester as Kate and **Katie Corbett** of Plainville as Isabel.

Pirates was the only Gilbert & Sullivan satire to premiere simultaneously in both England and the United States in order to protect its copyright in both countries. Its predecessor, **H.M.S. Pinafore**, had been "pirated" in the States by more than thirty different companies, to the financial loss of Gilbert & Sullivan and their producer, Richard D'Oyly Carte. Now that the copyright has long expired, this uniquely humorous and melodious masterpiece continues to be "pirated" by performing groups throughout the English-speaking world. One of the most widely familiar melodies ever composed is from *Pirates*, sung as "Hail, hail the gang's all here" (itself a spoof of the Anvil Chorus from Verdi's "Il Trovatore").

Pirates will be presented November 6 and 7 at 8pm and November 8 at 2pm. For tickets call 1-800-866-1606, or consult www.ctgilbertandsullivan.org, or e-mail cg.ss@snet.net --\$25 Adults/Seniors or \$15 Students. There is a surcharge of \$5 per ticket after 10/31 and a 10% discount for groups of 10 or more. Checks made out to CG&SS are mailed with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to CG&SS, P. O. Box 2152, Middletown, Ct 06457

MITG&SP's *The Mikado*

The MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players Announce Cast Auditions for *The Mikado*

Producer: **Kelsey Peterson** W '05
Stage Director: **John Deschene**
Music Director: **Shawn Gelzleichter**
Vocal Director: **Kathryn McKellar**

Auditions will take place on the following dates and times in Twenty Chimneys (W20-306)

Tuesday, 9/8/2009, 7:00pm - 10:00pm
Wednesday, 9/9/2009, 7:00pm - 10:00pm
Thursday, 9/10/2009, 7:00pm - 10:00pm

If needed, callbacks will take place on Saturday, 9/12/2009, 2:00pm - 5:00pm in Mezzanine Lounge.

Please prepare two contrasting songs in English and bring a copy of the sheet music for the accompanist. You may also bring a copy of the sheet music for your own reference. (You will only need to sing the first 32 bars.)

Performances will take place on the following dates:

Friday,	12/4/2008,	8pm
Saturday,	12/5/2008,	8pm
Sunday,	12/6/2008,	2pm matinee
Thursday,	12/10/2008,	8pm
Friday,	12/11/2008,	8pm
Saturday,	12/12/2008,	2pm matinee

Auditions are open to all those interested, and do not need to be scheduled in advance. Please note our student casting policy: Any MIT student capable of performing a role shall be given preference over other candidates.

ASK POOH-BAH

Dear Pooh-Bah:

I suspect my daughter loves a young man whose station is far below our own. Perhaps it is mere infatuation, but perhaps it is something more. I am a single parent and not sure how to navigate these new, tumultuous, adolescent waters. What should I do?



Signed,
Capt. Confused, Portsmouth, England

Dear Confused:

Though it seems strange to say so, I am not inexperienced in these matters. I am, in point of fact, a most haughty and exclusive person and the idea of a lady fair of lineage high stooping to such a level disgusts me. Nevertheless, if she loves him and loves him with fervour unceasing, not to mention worships and madly adores him, there's nothing for it.

Pooh-Bah

Dear Pooh-Bah:

I have been singing in the chorus of G&S community theater groups for several years. I would like to play a principal role sometime, but I'm not sure how to prepare effectively for a solo audition. What should I do?

Maiden in a Bonnet, Stage Left

Dear Bonnet:

What a curious point, but fortunately for you, one I have met before several times. It is easy to get into a rut, and while many people are very happy to be a part of the chorus of a G&S opera (and why not? There's magnificent writing there and much fun to be had), some people aspire to something where their individual voice may be allowed to shine.

My advice is to take it slowly. Push neither your technical skills nor your comfort level too far too fast. (Not everyone is born singing and acting so beautifully as a person of my lineage is, you know.) An excellent way to prepare for an audition is to sing smaller roles at events such as NEGASS meetings. If one isn't coming up, sit around a piano with friends and sing through part or all of your favourite opera.

When auditions are announced, decide what role(s) interest you, considering also whether or not the group is likely to be interested in you for these role(s), as well. Following the instructions found in the group's audition announcement, prepare either a song for your character or from a similar role in a different opera, and learn it very well. Sing it for friends, possibly visit a vocal coach or accompanist for advice. (Working with a coach and an accompanist is so useful, it's one of the few activities I don't consider entirely beneath myself.) Get truly comfortable with your material, and you'll be well on your way to having a good audition.

Pooh-Bah

Dear Pooh-Bah:

I love a lad beneath my station! I have no confidante whose counsel might help me change my feelings; and no matter how many lengthy, dramatic arias I sing to myself about being a reasonable young lady, my love for him persists. Alas, whatever shall I do?

A Longing Lass, Portsmouth, England

Dear Lass:

So you're the one whose been singing those lengthy, dramatic arias outside my window at all hours. Please stop at once; your songs of love unrequited rob me of my rest.

If you truly love the good, brave man — is he a brave man? — then I should say chance it. Be advised, though, that I think your father may be onto you. Proceed with the utmost discretion. Muffled oars and a clergyman may prove useful tools.

P-B

If you find yourself in doubt or danger, peril or perplexity, and need advice from only the best and most qualified sources, kindly send your inquiries to pooh-bah@negass.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the President's Desk

This month marks the debut of a new design for *The Trumpet Bray*. The redesign is inspired by the new NEGASS logo (which debuted in last month's *Bray* and was designed by the Logo Company, an English graphic design firm). First, I created the *Bray* nameplate (found on page 1 and in the masthead on page 2) using that logo. Then I made some changes to the layout of the newsletter. My intention in this redesign is to apply modern design standards to the *Bray*, while still retaining elements of the *Bray*'s established visual identity (such as the two-column format, the font used in articles, and our use of Bab illustrations). My hope is that the *Bray* you hold in your hands still feels like the *Bray* you know and love, but with changes making it even more visually appealing and reader-friendly. What do you think? Feel free to send me your feedback at president@negass.org.

- Rebecca Hains, President

A Celebration of Gilbert & Sullivan

A Celebration of Gilbert & Sullivan is the title of a small exhibition that will be on display at the Smithsonian Institution's Dibner Library from September 10, 2009, until September 24. The exhibition will feature memorabilia from the early days of the operas, and will include posters, playbills, programs, photographs, libretti, scores, illustrated sheet music, souvenirs and ephemera of various types. All fourteen Gilbert & Sullivan operas will be represented, as well as Gilbert and Sullivan themselves, and several works from their careers apart. There's even a little something from Sullivan's student days at the Leipzig Conservatory. In all, just over 70 items. The display is sponsored by the Washington Rare Book Group, but is open to the general public during the Dibner's normal hours of operation. The Dibner is located in the National Museum of American History, Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, NW. The library is open by appointment only from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday (except on federal holidays). Please call 202-633-3872 to arrange a visit. For further details on the exhibition itself, contact David Stone at dstone4@cox.net.

CALENDAR

Valley Light Opera, Amherst, MA

The Pirates of Penzance

Friday, October 30, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 31, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Friday, November 6, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Amherst Regional High School Auditorium
21 Mattoon St., Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 362-1701

Savoyard Light Opera Company, Carlisle, MA *The Pirates of Penzance*

November 13, 14, 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

November 15, 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Corey Auditorium, Church Street, Carlisle, MA

Joy Unbounded: A Gilbert & Sullivan Jubilee November 20-22, 27-29

Friday and Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 4pm
Cotuit Center for the Arts, 4404 Falmouth Road,
Rte. 28

P. O. Box 2042, Cotuit, MA 02635-2042
phone: 508.428.0669

<http://www.cotuitcenterforthearts.org>

Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society *The Pirates of Penzance*

November 6-8

Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m.

Middletown High School Center for the Arts

<http://www.ctgilbertandsullivan.org>

MIT G&S Players, Cambridge, MA

The Mikado

December 4, 5, 10, 11, at 8:00 p.m.

December 6, 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

La Sala de Puerto Rico, (2nd floor MIT Student
Center), Cambridge, MA

New Repertory Theatre, Watertown, MA

May 2-23, 2010

Hot Mikado

New Rep Theatre Company at Arsenal Center for
the Arts, Watertown, MA

<http://www.newrep.org/>

Gilbert & Sullivan Resources Online

The **Gilbert and Sullivan Archive**, a resource of information on all things G&S, is available at <http://diamond.boisestate.edu/gas/>. **SavoyNet**, the G&S mailing list, is always accepting new members. To subscribe, send a plain text email to listserv@bridgewater.edu with nothing in the subject line and SUBSCRIBE SAVOYNET *Your Name* in the message body.





Meeting Schedule

<p><i>Love in the Subjunctive: An Evening of Dubious Love Songs</i></p> <p>September 19, 2009 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Guest artist Florrie Marks of Philadelphia, PA directs soloists in a concert of dubious love songs from G&S and musical theater.</p>	<p>Southgate 30 Julio Drive Shrewsbury, MA 01545</p>
<p><i>Trumpet Bray stuffing</i></p> <p>October, 25, 2009 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Come chat with friends and share some snacks while we prepare the <i>Bray</i> for mailing.</p>	<p>The Dallas home 63 Everett St Arlington, MA 02474</p>
<p>A Spontaneous Savoyards production of <i>The Gondoliers</i></p> <p>November, 2009 Date and time TBD</p>	<p>Join us for an unrehearsed sing-through of <i>The Gondoliers</i>. All roles will be cast on the spot. Come prepared to sing just about anything!</p>	<p>Date and location TBA in our next between-<i>Bray</i> notice. Sign up to receive between-<i>Bray</i> email notices at http://www.negass.org/Pages/EMail.html</p>
<p>Screening: Video of Opera Della Luna's <i>HMS Pinafore</i></p> <p>January, 2009 Date and time TBD</p>	<p>Come view a professional video of Opera Della Luna's innovative <i>Pinafore</i>. How'd they produce it with only 10 cast members? Watch and see.</p>	<p>Location TBD Suggestions? Want to co-host this event? Email programchair@negass.org</p>
<p>Fantasy Day</p> <p>February, 2010 Date and time TBD</p>	<p>We'll provide the accompanist. Bring your favorite G&S songs and we'll sing solos and ensembles at the piano. Want a turn? You'll get one.</p>	<p>Location TBD Suggestions? Want to co-host this event? Email programchair@negass.org</p>
<p>Last Minute Light Opera: <i>The Sorcerer</i></p> <p>March, 2010 Date and time TBD</p>	<p>Presented by NEGASS & Mass Theatrica. Leads will be cast in advance; watch the <i>Bray</i> for the casting call. Bring your score and sing along with the choruses!</p>	<p>Location TBD</p>
<p>Outing to a G&S production</p> <p>April, 2010 Date and time TBD</p>	<p>We'll get together to watch a live production. Which one? Watch this space.</p>	<p>Location TBD</p>
<p>Fantasy Day / Elections</p> <p>May, 2010 Date and time TBD</p>	<p>Join us to sing around the piano once more. We'll have refreshments and elections for our 2010-2011 officers.</p>	<p>Location TBD</p>