

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



~ NEGASS EVENTS ~

Mark your calendars for Fantasy Day and NEGASS annual meeting on June 23

By Elaine Crane

We are pleased to announce our NEGASS Annual Meeting and Fantasy Day on Sunday, June 23! The fabulous Tom Dawkins will be at the piano, so bring your favorite Piece-That-You've-Always-Wanted-To-Sing and have a blast entertaining your fellow G&S enthusiasts! You don't need to be a member to attend, although guests are welcome become members. Please mark your calendars, bring your friends, and help make it a fun, enjoyable and meaningful event by being there! Tentative time and location (subject to final approval): 2:00 PM, Park Avenue Congregational Church, Arlington.

~ NEGASS NEWS ~

NEGASS Board of Directors change

There has been a change in the NEGASS board of directors. Graham Christian has resigned and Jacqueline Haney has joined as our representative from the Western MA region. Welcome, Jacki!

~ G&S EVENTS ~

Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society to present *Thespis* this fall

By Dr. John Dreslin

The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society has announced that *Thespis* will be their October, 2019 production. This will be the 30th anniversary of the

premiere of Prof. Jonathan Strong's version, which they presented in Hartford on Oct. 20, 1989. A subsequent production was mounted by Valley Light Opera in Northampton, MA in 1991.



Jonathan Strong

Unlike other reconstructions, this version only utilizes Sullivan music, with the sources including all thirteen of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, plus the ballets *L'Ile Enchantee* and *Victoria and Merrie England*. The three selections that are known to be actual survivors of the original *Thespis* are the chorus *Climbing Over Rocky Mountain* (later reused in *Pirates of Penzance*), the solo *Little Maid of Arcadée* (which was published as a separate song), and the ballet music which was only discovered in 1990 (in fact the Valley Light Opera production was its first performance following this discovery – it has since been recorded on various labels). Prof. Strong, a

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RUDDIGORE PATTERNINGS

Ruddigore's patter song "My eyes are fully open to my awful situation" sung by Robin, Despard, and Margaret was adapted for use in the of 1980 Papp production of *The Pirates of Penzance* and the 1967 film *Thoroughly Modern Millie* as "The Speed Test."



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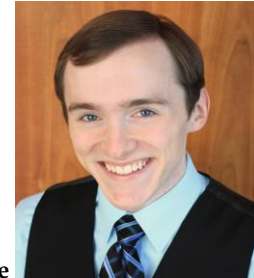
DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL: 15th of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

www.negass.org



published author, has for many years been on the faculty of Tufts University and is a life-long Gilbert and Sullivan devotee and researcher.

This year's production will also introduce Spencer Reese as artistic director. He is currently finishing his Doctoral of Musical Arts degree at the University of Connecticut. A native of Connecticut,



Spencer Reese

he earned a Bachelor of Music degree at UConn in 2013, graduating as a University Scholar with a specialty in opera performance and production. Spencer went on to earn a master's degree in opera stage directing at the Eastman School of Music. While there, he assistant directed two complete opera seasons, as well as directing a double bill of *The Old Maid and the Thief* and *La Voix Humaine*. Spencer has spent the last five summers in residence with the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster, Ohio, acting as the company's assistant director and choreographer. He has worked on more than thirty shows with OLO, including more than half of the Gilbert and Sullivan canon. He will return to Ohio this summer to choreograph the season, as well as perform the roles of Frederic in *Pirates of Penzance*, Jack in *Into the Woods*, and Danny Churchill in *Girl Crazy*. Spencer is thrilled to combine his investment in the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire with his love for his home state as artistic director of this fall's production of *Thespis*. Longtime music director Dr. John Dreslin will be returning, as well as most of the production team from the last several years, including producer John Freedman, and choreographer Marcia Miller.

Auditions for CG&SS's *Thespis* will be held at Congregation Adath Israel, 8 Broad Street, Middletown, CT on Tuesday, May 14 from 7–9 pm, and Sunday, May 19 from 6–8 pm. Auditioners should be prepared to perform a number of their choosing from the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire (please bring your own music). A script reading will then follow. An accompanist will be provided. Questions should be forwarded to their website: <http://ctgands.org/contact/> or 860-554-1256.

Hot Mikado to swing into Belmont

By Marcus Hatch (co-producer)

The Belmont Dramatic Club is pleased to announce our spring show, *Hot Mikado*, directed and choreographed by Amelia Boyce Munson, and music direction by Isaiah Evans. This Gilbert and Sullivan comic masterpiece has been updated with the swinging sounds of 1940s jazz and blues and will be performed on Saturdays, April 27 and May 4 at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays, April 28 and May 5 at 4:00 p.m., at the Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont St, Belmont, MA.

The cast is comprised of **Jeremy White** (The Mikado/Gentleman 3), **Elliot Raff** (Ko Ko),



Chantel Deane (Katisha), **Jordan Potash** (Nanki Poo), **Peter Cavicchio** (Pooh Bah), **Sebastian Espinosa** (Pish Tush), **Gabriella Manuell Barrera** (Yum Yum), **Laura Gosenca** (Pitti Sing), **Chelsea Zabel** (Peep Bo), **Bill Barnert** (Gentleman 1), **Dorian Burks** (Gentleman 2), **Aurora La Veglia** (Lady 1), and **Abigail Bowling** (Lady 2).

Ticket information will be available at <https://hotmikado.brownpapertickets.com/>

Pirates will dock in Chelsea in May

The Longwood Players is scheduled to present *The Pirates of Penzance* on May 2-18, 2019 at the Chelsea Theatre Works, 119 Winnisimmet Street, Chelsea MA. Under the direction of Kaitlyn Chantry, ten performers will take on 30 roles in "an intimate black box setting" in this tale of duty, courtship and piracy.

H.M.S. Pinafore and Ruddigore are included in CLOC 2019 lineup



Opening night for the College Light Opera 2019 season will be June 25 when the curtain will go up with *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Also planned are *Ruddigore* in mid-July. Six other contemporary shows complete the company's roster of productions this year. See the website for CLOC for more information.

NELO to continue with North Shore Summer Concert Series

New England Light Opera is presenting their 16th annual North Shore Summer Concert Series. Programs will be held at 7:30 pm Wednesday evenings in July in the air-conditioned comfort of the Hamilton-Wenham Community House, 284 Bay Road, Hamilton MA.



The programs for this year's concert series will be: July 10: "Opera Favorites" featuring songs and scenes from the greatest operas; July 17: "Operetta Night" featuring songs and scenes the beloved G&S shows; July 24: "Broadway Lights" featuring songs and scenes from the best of Broadway; and on July 31: "Cabaret Night" including favorite jazz, cabaret and torch songs.

For more information search newenglandlightopera.org. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance by visiting NELO facebook page fb.me/NorthShoreSummerConcerts.

The Gondoliers sailed to Barataria at Harvard-Radcliffe in March

The Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan Players run of *The Gondoliers* as their spring 2019 production began on March 29. Performance dates at the Agassiz Theatre are continuing through April 4-7.

Special performances and events included the Creative Black Tie on opening night on Friday, March 29. Attendees joined the cast, crew and the Board of Directors after the show. Following the Saturday matinee on March 30, children were invited to enjoy a “Milk and Cookies” reception which included meeting the cast and orchestra members as well as a special backstage tour. On Saturday, April 6 at 6 pm is the Alumni Performance to be followed by “The Victorian Ball.”



VLO’s spring production was “Costumes through the Ages”

This year Valley Light Opera decided to do something a little different for their spring production. On March 29, a fashion show of VLO costumes, accompanied by some favorite songs from their repertoire was staged. There were selections from a full range of Gilbert and Sullivan's works (*The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore*, and more), other light operas including *The Merry Widow*, and classic Broadway musicals (*My Fair Lady*, *Brigadoon*). There was even a preview of their fall 2019 show, *Camelot!* Many reasons contributed to their decision to highlight Valley Light Opera's costumes in this way.

First, it was a terrific celebration of the art of costuming and of VLO's commitment to high quality production values, as seen through our costumes. Audience members were able to get a closer look at some of our most fabulous designs

and be treated to gorgeous singing by some of their leading performers.

Second, this show was a fundraiser. VLO is blessed to own a large barn that we use for storage, which has allowed them to build up an impressive collection of high-quality costumes and accessories. This collection, created over several decades, is an important resource not only for VLO, but also for the surrounding community. You may not be aware that VLO earns enough money each year by renting costumes to other theater companies to cover the cost of the next year's costumes! Donations are still being accepted on their website

The show was presented at the Flex in the Northampton Center for the Performing Arts.

News from The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of New York

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of NY invites you to join them at their meetings during the balance of the 2018-2019 season. There are three meetings scheduled in the near future on Monday, April 15; Friday, May 17; and Saturday, June 15. All regular meetings take place at 7:30 pm at Pearl Studios, 500 Eighth Avenue, NYC (Between 35th & 36th Streets).

Meetings of The G&S Society of New York feature some of the city's finest performances of favorites and lesser-known gems from the canon of Gilbert & Sullivan. The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of NY is affiliated with [The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of London](#), England.

∞ CAST SPOTLIGHT ∞

David Schancupp is indeed a Trouper

David celebrated his thirty-sixth year with Troupers (CT) Light Opera Company in their take of *The Mikado* set in Milan, Italy. David played the part of Il Ducato (the Mikado), a role he last performed with Troupers in 1985 under its standard name.

Since his debut with Troupers in 1982 as Wilfred Shadbolt in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, he has appeared with us in virtually all the leading G&S bass-baritone roles: John Wellington Wells and Sir Marmaduke in *The Sorcerer*, Sir Despard and Sir Roderic in *Ruddigore*, The Duke of Plaza-Toro and Don Alhambra in *The Gondoliers*, Dick Deadeye and

Sir Joseph in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, the Judge and the Usher in *Trial by Jury*, Private Willis in *Iolanthe*, and Sergeant Meryll in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, Major General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance*, King Gama in *Princess Ida* and his favorite G & S role, the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*. He has also performed many of the same roles with the Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society (Middletown) and Simsbury Light Opera Company, where he also appeared as Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado*.



David Schancupp

Other roles that David has been featured in include the French Ambassador in Gershwin's *Of Thee I Sing*, Sir Marmaduke *The Sorcerer* and Private Willis in *Iolanthe*. He has also appeared as the Sacristan in *Tosca* and Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Boheme* with the Greater New Britain Opera Company, and as the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* and the Imperial Commissioner in *Madama Butterfly* and directed Act I of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with the Hillhouse Opera Company (New Haven).

Among his musical comedy credits are principal roles *Oklahoma*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Kismet*, *How to Succeed in Business*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Threepenny Opera*, *Guys & Dolls*, and his favorite role, Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

~We Have a Little List~

We wish to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including Elaine Crane, Dr. John Dreslin, Marcus Hatch, The Longwood Players, New England Light Opera, College Light Opera, Valley Light Opera and Troupers Light Opera. (Please forgive any omissions!)

~ REMEMBRANCES ~

Bill Venman, founder of Valley Light Opera and Savoynet

Bill Venman, founder of Valley Light Opera and Savoynet passed away in the early hours of Saturday, March 16. We will have more details and tributes in June issue of *The Trumpet Bray*.

Walter Reed, educator and G&S "nut"

Walter Reed, a self-described Gilbert & Sullivan "nut" passed away in November 2018. A member of the Belmont Dramatic Club and The Sudbury Players, Walter first joined The Sudbury Savoyards as Annibale in the 1964 production of *The Gondoliers*. From 1966-1968 he appeared in the chorus and went on to play Pooh-Bah in the 1969 production of *The Mikado*, followed by King Hildebrand in 1970's *Princess Ida*, Don Alhambra Del Bolero in 1971's *The Gondoliers*, Colonel Calverley in 1972's *Patience*, and Sergeant of Police in 1973's *The Pirates of Penzance*.

He returned to Sudbury to reprise his role of Don Alhambra in 1980 followed by the Pirate King in the 1981 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Walter taught English and was the dramatics director at Curtis Junior High School in Sudbury for 40 years. He will be remembered fondly by his many students for his enthusiastic renditions of Edgar Allen Poe which was the reason one did not sit in the front row of his classroom.

From his 1973 playbill bio: "When there are loud noises to be made and vigorous gesticulating to be done, just call Walter Reed. After all, he puts on a show every day for the kids at Curtis Jr. High."

Andrea Stryker-Rodda in October 2018

Andrea Stryker-Rodda passed away this past October 2018. She was a dear friend of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of New York. She volunteered to play the piano at hundreds of their meetings since the early 1980s. She was similarly generous to other Gilbert and Sullivan groups and gatherings over the years. She will be deeply missed.

G&S Events

The Gondoliers
Harvard-Radcliffe G&SP

April 4-7, 2019
hrgsp.president@gmail.com

Agassiz Theater
Radcliffe Yard – 5 James Street
Cambridge MA 02138

Ruddigore
Troupers Light Opera

April 6 & 13, 2019
trouperlightopera.org

Union Memorial Church
58 Church Street
Stamford CT 06906

Patience
Simsbury Light Opera Co.

April 27-May 4, 2019
sloco.org

Eno Memorial Hall
754 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury CT 06070

Hot Mikado
Belmont Dramatic Club

April 27-May 5, 2019
belmontdramaticclub.org

Payson Park Church
365 Belmont Street
Belmont MA 02478

Pirates of Penzance
Longwood Players

May 2-18, 2019
longwoodplayers.org

Chelsea Theatre Works
119 Winnisimmet Street
Chelsea MA 02150

The Mikado
Greater Worcester Opera

June 7, 8 & 9, 2019
greaterworcesteropera.com

Calliope Theatre
150 Main Street (Route 140)
Boylston MA 01505

H.M.S. Pinafore
College Light Opera Company

June 25-29, 2019
collegelightoperacompany.com

Highfield Theatre
Depot Street (off Rt. 28)
Falmouth MA 02541

Thespis
CT G&S Society

October 12-13, 2019
ctgands.org

Valley Regional High School
256 Kelsey Hill Road
Deep River CT 06417

Operetta Night (G&S)
New England Light Opera

July 17, 2019
newenglandlightopera.org

The Community House of
Hamilton & Wenham
284 Bay Road
Hamilton, MA 01982