

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



~ NEGASS NEWS ~

**NEGASS holds January concert of G&S selections to benefit Sudbury Savoyards**

The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS) sponsored a concert on January 21, 2017 featuring selections from all 13 of the G&S comic operas. Proceeds from the event in the amount of \$1,260 went to benefit the Sudbury Savoyards.

Performers included **Connie Benn, Ethan Butler, Elaine Crane, Kaori Emery, Tom Frates, Angela Jajko, Katherine Meifert, Ben Morse, Tom Ostrowski, Lonnie Powell, and Carolyn Schwartz.**

The event was held in the United Methodist Church Sanctuary in Sudbury.

~ G&S EVENTS ~

**Sudbury Savoyards to present their production of *The Mikado* in Maynard**

**Courtesy of Sudbury Savoyards**  
 Sudbury Savoyards announces that *The Mikado* will be arriving on April 22-29. This year, the performance venue will be the Maynard High School which boasts a large auditorium with wonderful acoustics, amazing sight lines and the most modern of technical facilities. Performers and audiences alike will surely be favorably impressed.



The senior production team for this production consists of Producer Brendon Chetwynd, Stage Director James Ravan, Music Director Craig Tata, Assistant Music Director Matt Tragert, and Technical Director Tom Powers.



**Greater Worcester Opera to present concert version of *Pirates* at 5 locations**

Join us for a fully staged concert version of Gilbert & Sullivan's rollicking tale of pirates, constables, wards and generals costumed and dramatically performed and sung by GWO's fabulous artists! You can see GWO's offering in June 2017 at any of five different performance venues.

Performance dates are June 9, 2017 at the Eagle Hill Cultural Center, Hardwick, June 10 & 11 at New Players Theatre Guild Fitchburg, June 16 at Southgate in Shrewsbury, and June 23-25 at Briarwood Community Center, Worcester.

Richard Monroe is stage director and Aldo Fabrizi is music director.

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#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

David DeVries – [editor@negass.org](mailto:editor@negass.org)

#### ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Kaori Emery, design manager – [kaori@negass.org](mailto:kaori@negass.org)  
Martha Birnbaum, webmistress – [web@negass.org](mailto:web@negass.org)  
Martha Birnbaum, membership - [memb@negass.org](mailto:memb@negass.org)

#### NEGASS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Martha Birnbaum, secretary – [sec@negass.org](mailto:sec@negass.org)  
Elaine Crane, member-at-large – [elaine@negass.org](mailto:elaine@negass.org)  
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Shannon Lebron, member-at-large  
Christine Petkus, member-at-large - [christine@negass.org](mailto:christine@negass.org)  
Carolyn Schwartz, member-at-large and publicity chair – [carolyn@negass.org](mailto:carolyn@negass.org)

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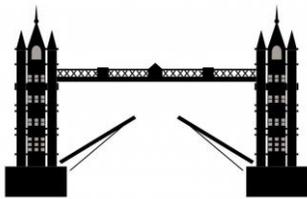
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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL: 15<sup>th</sup> of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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



## The 14<sup>th</sup> GWO Annual Summer concert series is planned for July and August

Greater Worcester Opera is planning its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Concert Series for July and August 2017. Concerts include Broadway Melodies, The Great American Songbook, G&S and More!, and Opera Gala. Performance dates and venue are yet to be announced.

## Harvard-Radcliffe G&S Society will be staging *The Sorcerer* in March and April

*The Sorcerer* is being presented by the Harvard Radcliffe G&S Society beginning March 24 and running through April 2, 2017. The Black Tie Opening will be on Friday, March 24 at 8 pm and the traditional Milk and Cookies matinee will follow on March 25 at 2 pm. Performances will be held at the Agassiz Theater, 5 James Street, Cambridge MA 02138.



## Spring to bring *The Yeomen of the Guard* to the stage at MIT's Student Center

The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players will be springing into spring with their production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Performance dates will be May 5-13. The performance venue will be at the MIT Student Center, Sala de Puerto Rico, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139.

## Troupers Light Opera is setting sail with *H.M.S. Pinafore* April 1-9, 2017

Troupers Light Opera in Connecticut will be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* April 1-9, 2017. This was Gilbert and Sullivan's fourth collaboration and their first big hit. A send up of the British class system, the Cabinet and the British navy, this production will be staged at the Wall Street Theater in Norwalk, Connecticut. Emily Trudeau is stage director and Eric Kramer is music director.

## ***Patience* is coming in April courtesy of the NY Gilbert and Sullivan Players**

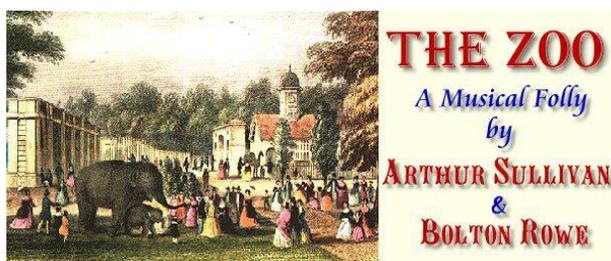
The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players are about to prove that patience is a virtue especially when the curtain goes up on *Patience* on April 29, 2017. Performances continue with a matinee on April 30. The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College on 68<sup>th</sup> Street (between Park and Lexington Avenues) in New York City will be the event for these performances. Seventy five minutes before curtain time there will be a "Family Overture." This will be a musical introduction and plot summary "made entertaining for the entire family."

## **College Light Opera plans *The Zoo*, *Trial by Jury* and *Patience* this summer**

**By David DeVries**

Mark Pearson, artistic director of the College Light Opera, has announced that they have decided on their operettas for the upcoming season. They will be doing a double bill on June 27 through July 1, 2017 of *The Zoo* by Sullivan & Bolton Rowe (aka B.C. Stephenson) coupled with *Trial by Jury*.

A few weeks later in the season Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* will follow on July 25-29. James Mills, the patter star of The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, will be the stage director of this production. Interspersed between the double-bill *Patience* will be the operetta *Desert Song* by Romberg and other musical shows.



*The Zoo* is described by Ian Bond writing for the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive as a "little one act musical folly (that) was shrouded in mystery for many years. Obviously overshadowed by the première of *Trial by Jury* just three months earlier, *The Zoo* opened on 5 June, 1875, at the St. James' Theatre, transferred to the Haymarket on 28 June and finally closed on 10 July." After a revival in 1879, the manuscript disappeared from view for almost 90 years. Following a production in 1971 by Fulham Light Opera, *The Zoo* has become popular

as a curtain raiser to the shorter Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas.

These lesser-produced comic operas should be a joy for the G&S aficionados who, like me, are "waiting in the wings" for the CLOC summer season to arrive. All shows are held at the Highfield Theatre in Falmouth MA. For further information check the CLOC website at [collegelightoperacompany.com](http://collegelightoperacompany.com).

## **MIT G&S Players announces auditions for *Yeomen of the Guard* and receiving applications for tech support**

The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players are accepting auditions for on-stage performers as well as applicants for production staff for their May production of *Yeomen of the Guard*.

Cast positions include Sir Richard Cholmondeley, Colonel Fairfax, Sergeant Meryll, Leonard Meryll, Jack Point, Elsie Maynard, Phoebe Meryll and Dame Carruthers.

Auditions will be held on February 9, 10, and 11. See Calendar on page 6 for times.

Production staff positions that are available are: Assistant Music Director/Conductor, Set Designer, Technical Director, Master Carpenter, Lighting Designer, Publicity Manager, Props Manager and Costume Designer.

**How to apply:** Please send a statement of interest to [gsp-ec@mit.edu](mailto:gsp-ec@mit.edu) indicating which role(s) or positions you are applying for and any relevant experience. Resumes appreciated but not necessary.

## **∞ G&S NEWS ∞**

### **Sullivan Society UK announces a new recording of *The Mountebanks***

#### **Courtesy of The Sullivan Society UK**

*The Mountebanks*, a comic opera written by W.S. Gilbert in collaboration with Alfred Cellier, is to be recorded by the BBC Singers and the BBC Concert Orchestra in January 2017. While not a Sullivan work, the Sir Arthur Sullivan Society allows for the promotion of the works of British composers who were Sullivan's contemporaries.

First performed on January 4, 1892 at the Lyric Theatre in London, *The Mountebanks* features

Gilbert's notorious "lozenge plot" that Sullivan had rejected on many occasions. The production's original run was for 229 performances and then in 1893 toured the U.K. and the U.S.



The Sullivan Society feels that G&S lovers will wish to contribute to this new recording by one of Sullivan's closest colleagues with the libretto by his best known partner. Donations of any size are welcome and should be sent to Elaine Richardson, Fuchsia Cottage, Colwich, Stafford ST17 0XE or [elaineatsass@aol.com](mailto:elaineatsass@aol.com). Contributions by Paypal are welcome. Please make checks payable to Sir Arthur Sullivan Society.

## College Light Opera conducts a much-needed "wardrobe purge"

By Mark Pearson, CLOC

As anyone who has gone through a wardrobe purge will tell you, it isn't easy to decide what stays and what goes. Well, imagine if your closet held more than 5000 items? Almost fifty years of producing operetta and musicals resulted in a cramped costume storage facility. Therefore, we decided to get rid of hundreds of costumes and vintage articles that we simply didn't have room for. It wasn't an easy task. I knew the effort that went into making some of these costumes but there comes a point when you have to consider the value of the real-estate an article is taking up.

When in operation in the summer, thirty-two actors need to be costumed every week often in multiple looks and always in varying periods and styles. The result is an average of 600 costumes per summer. Now it's certainly possible that many of those nine shows will return to the repertoire at some point but it's never certain when. Take, for example, The H.M.S. Pinafore. We have multiple versions of the show and you never know which, if any, the director will be interested in using. So which do you keep? — And then you have something like The White Horse Inn. I mean, when are we going to do that show again?

In any closet you need to allow 42 inches of vertical space for hanging suits; 60 inches for dresses, and 36 inches for shirts, blouses, and hanging pants. But any closet organizer will tell you that one of the most important things is to allow extra space for future purchases or, in CLOC's case, future builds. What was the solution? A fall costume sale just in time for Halloween, of course! We gave ourselves the 'one in five' rule. Something I would recommend to anyone cleaning out their own closet. If I you know you want to reduce your wardrobe by a fifth, don't let yourself pass five articles without removing at least one. Sometimes I cheat a bit and 'bank' by removing two at a time to save up for later down the pole. But you have to be ruthless.



The CLOC "closet" after the purge. (Photo courtesy of Mark Pearson.)

The result was a wonderful event that attracted dozens of people to come pick through our costumes. We took in over \$1000 but, more importantly, made valuable space for the future, had a great time and met many new friends. Who knows, perhaps we stumbled on a new CLOC tradition!

## ≈ BOOK REVIEW ≈

### A 60-Second book review: the D'Oyly Carte Inside Story by Roberta Morrell

By Ralph MacPhail, Jr.

Ever since I fell under the spell of the original D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in 1966, I've wanted to read a book about the *functioning* of the company itself. (There is no shortage of books, of course, concerning the D'Oyly Carte's history and its personalities).

Roberta Morrell, who sang chorus and played small parts with the original company for the last decade of its existence has fulfilled my yen—and more. Her *D'Oyly Carte: The Inside Story* covers all facets of this unique organization that for over a century toured for 48 weeks every year presenting eight performances of Savoy operas each week before audiences in the U. K. and abroad. Every facet, from auditions to touring to the management are covered, with a wide array of quotations and reminiscences Roberta's friends and colleagues, many of whom pre-date her own years as a D'Oyly Carter. Her book covers the years 1950 until the company closed in 1982.

With candor and humor, Roberta regales the reader with tales of on-stage shenanigans, backstage socials, and occasional gossip, but the reader comes away with an understanding that this remarkable company was a *family*—one that cared deeply for one another and, even in later years when money was tight, management was aloof, and international touring was a grind, all members gave their all toward wonderful performances of these remarkable works.



Roberta Morrell

## 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* by emailing: [editor@negass.org](mailto:editor@negass.org) Thank-you.

## 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. Contact [editor@negass.org](mailto:editor@negass.org) for more info. *The Trumpet Bray* welcomes reviews of recent G & S shows. The editor reserves the right to amend submissions to adhere to publication requirements.

## REMEMBRANCES

### Ted Jones had played bass parts in 1960's

Ted Jones of Sudbury passed away on October 17, 2016. Ted was a long-ago member of SUMC and an accomplished bass, appearing as Guiseppi Palmieri in the 1964 production of *The Gondoliers* and as Wilfred Shadbolt in the 1966 production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. A celebration of Ted's life took place on November 26th.



Ted Jones (left) as Wilfred Shadbolt with Bruce Campbell as Jack Point, *The Yeomen of the Guard* 1966. (Courtesy of the Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board.)

### Erin VanSpeybroeck's heart "belonged to the Sudbury Savoyards"

Erin VanSpeybroeck of Natick passed away on November 28, 2016. Erin began her Sudbury Savoyards tenure with the 1997 production of *The Yeomen of the Guard* and appeared in most productions ever since. With her large vocal range, Erin was a versatile member of the chorus whether singing soprano with the sisters, cousins and aunts or tenor with the pirates.

Erin also enjoyed behind the scenes work sewing costumes and applying make-up. Gilbert & Sullivan songs often provided the basis for affectionate parodies and tributes she prepared to mark major events in friends and colleagues' lives. Even though she performed with other regional companies her heart belonged to The Sudbury Savoyards.

### We Have a Little List

We wish to thank those who contributed to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including Roberta Morrell, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., Mark Pearson, The Sullivan Society UK, and The Sudbury Savoyards. (Please forgive any omissions!)

## ~ A G&S Q&A ~



Match the first lines of the following solos with the comic operas in which they appear. Then identify the character who is singing. Scoring: 5 points for each correct answer. Total 100 pts max (100%). Answers are on page 7.

### Q'S

1. Oh, foolish fay
2. Let us fly to a far-off land
3. A magnet hung in a hardware shop
4. If you give me your attention
5. Within this breast there beats a heart
6. Take a pair of sparkling eyes
7. Taken from a county jail
8. Sorry her lot who loves too well
9. O'er the season vernal
10. Take my advice- when deep in debt

### A'S - The Comic Operas

- A. The Gondoliers
- B. The Mikado
- C. Patience
- D. H.M.S. Pinafore
- E. Iolanthe
- F. Trial by Jury
- G. The Grand Duke
- H. The Sorcerer
- I. Ruddigore
- J. Princess Ida

### The Characters

- a. Richard
- b. Aline
- c. King Gama
- d. Josephine
- e. Grosvenor
- f. Marco
- g. Prince
- h. Plaintiff
- i. Fairy Queen
- j. Ko-Ko

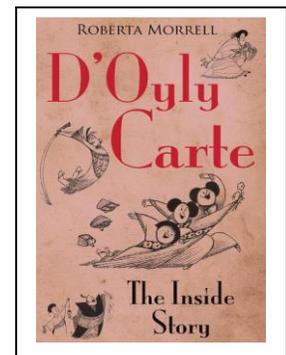


## ~ COMMUNICATIONS ~

### Roberta Morrell announces her newest book D'Oyly Carte: The Inside Story

I am writing to let your group know that my new book about the working life and characters of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is now available worldwide. Recounting how the iconic old company operated between the years of 1950 and 1982 through the medium of anecdote, I have used the recollections of past company performers to present a lasting tribute to the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company through their wonderful stories.

Although serious in purpose, the book is humorous and written in a style to appeal to any reader. It has been nominated for the British Theatre Book of the Year award after excellent reviews.



This book details the working life of all departments of the D'Oyly Carte, from its London management to the wardrobe department. Having travelled widely to interview former colleagues, their stories and recollections give a unique insight into the world of a theatre company on tour for 48 weeks of the year. Tales of travel, theatrical digs, mad-cap parties, on-stage disasters, glamorous events and other anecdotes as told by the singers, musicians, back-stage staff and senior managers highlight this book of recollections about the company that lasted for 107 years.

D'Oyly Carte: The Inside Story may be ordered from the publisher at [www.troubador.co.uk](http://www.troubador.co.uk). It will be printed locally in the USA. Cost is \$22.00 plus packing and postage.

Thanks in anticipation of your help in promoting not only my new book, but also the wonderful D'Oyly Carte Opera Company before it is forgotten.

Yours sincerely,  
Roberta Morrell



## Sudbury Savoyards offers their thanks to all who helped make benefit a success

Dear Angela and Tom,

Speaking for the Board of Trustees of The Sudbury Savoyards, Inc., MANY, MANY thanks to you and all the rest of the fabulous performers at the benefit on January 21st. Those attending heard an extraordinarily talented group of performers singing wonderful music accompanied by a terrific pianist. It was a lovely night, and we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

I am afraid that I have to correct Tom's number on the revenue produced. It was not \$1,200, it was \$1,260! We will put this gift to use supporting our productions and operating expenses.

Again, our thanks to all of the performers for their willingness to support us and for donating their time and energy to do so.

Sincerely,  
Susan Elberger  
Sudbury Savoyards

### ❧ G&S TRIVIA ❧

#### W. S. Gilbert: The early years

##### Compiled by David DeVries

Gilbert's father was a writer of short stories and novels after having been a naval surgeon for a short time. Younger Gilbert employed his talent for drawing by illustrating some of his father's works.

Baby Gilbert was nicknamed "Bab" when a baby (whence comes the "Bab Ballads") and then later, in honor of his father's godparents, he was called "Schwenck."

He was seven years old while in school in France when he began to keep a diary. He wrote the entries in French so the servants could not read what he wrote.

Graduating King's College in 1856, he briefly aspired to join the Royal Artillery. However, with the end of the Crimean War, the army was downsized. He joined the Civil Service instead becoming an assistant clerk in the Privy Council office, a job which he hated.

In 1870 Gilbert became a war correspondent for the newspaper *The Observer* covering the Franco-Prussian War.



Lucy and Gilbert in 1867.

In 1867, Gilbert married Lucy Agnes Turner who was 11 years younger than he. They were active in social circles both in London and at Grim's Dyke. While "Kitty" and William had no children, they did have a plethora of pets.

Theatrical producer John Hollingshead brought Gilbert and Sullivan together in 1871. He wanted them to produce a Christmas program. The result was *Thespis*. Although the score for this was lost, we have Mr. Hollingshead to thank for the resulting thirteen comic operas.

#### The answers to the quiz on page 6.

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| 1. E, i | 6. A, f  |
| 2. H, b | 7. B, j  |
| 3. C, e | 8. D, d  |
| 4. J, c | 9. F, h  |
| 5. I, a | 10. G, g |

## G&S Events

*The Sorcerer*  
Harvard-Radcliffe G&SP

March 24-April 2, 2017  
617-496-2222  
[hrgsp.president@gmail.com](mailto:hrgsp.president@gmail.com)  
see article on page 2

Agassiz Theater  
Radcliffe Yard – 5 James Street  
Cambridge MA 02138

*H.M.S. Pinafore*  
Troupers Light Opera

April 1-9, 2017  
[trouperlightopera.org](http://trouperlightopera.org)  
See article on page 2

Wall Street Theater  
71 Wall Street  
Norwalk CT 06851

*The Mikado*  
Sudbury Savoyards

April 22-30, 2017  
[sudburysavoyards.org](http://sudburysavoyards.org)  
See article on page 1

Maynard High School  
1 Tiger Drive  
Maynard MA 01754

*Patience*  
New York GASP

April 29-30, 2017  
[nygasp.org](http://nygasp.org)  
See article on page 3

Kaye Playhouse  
Hunter College  
E 64<sup>th</sup> Street (Between Park &  
Lexington Avenues, NYC, NY

*The Yeomen of the Guard*  
MITG&SP

May 5-13, 2017  
[gsp.mit.edu](http://gsp.mit.edu)  
See article on page 2

MIT Student Center  
Sala de Puerto Rico 84  
Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge MA 02139

*The Pirates of Penzance*  
(Concert Version)  
Greater Worcester Opera

June 9-25, 2017  
[greaterworcesteropera.org](http://greaterworcesteropera.org)  
See article on page 1

Various venues  
See page one for details

## Auditions

*The Yeomen of the Guard*  
MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players

February 9-10, 2017 @ 7-10 p.m.  
February 11, 2017 @ 2-5 p.m.  
[gspmit.edu](http://gspmit.edu)

Auditions to be held in room 5-234  
Mass. Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge MA 02139