



≈ G&S EVENTS ≈

***The Yeomen of the Guard* will be Sudbury Savoyards' spring 2019 production**

By Tony Parkes

The Sudbury Savoyards are proud to announce that our 58th mainstage show will be *The Yeomen of the Guard*, the grandest of Gilbert and Sullivan's light operas. Although both authors considered it the best of their joint works, they were apprehensive about its reception, wondering if audiences would accept something so serious from the "masters of mirth." They need not have worried: *Yeomen* was an instant hit and has remained an audience favorite for well over a century.



Tony Parkes as himself (Photo by Doug Plummer) left, and as Jack Point in *Yeomen of the Guard*.

Performances will be on February 22 and 23 and March 1 and 2 at 8 pm. Matinees will be at 2 pm on February 24 and March 2. Stage director is **Tony Parkes**, music director is **Kathryn Denney**, and producer is **Graham Daley**. See their website for additional information.

The Sudbury Savoyards, known for producing G&S on a grand scale, are going all-out to make this *Yeomen* our grandest ever. We are using Sullivan's

original orchestration, which calls for two more wind players than most of the Savoy operas: a second bassoon and a third trombone. We have also engaged what we believe to be the largest string section in our company's history. Our multi-generational cast, which includes a chorus of 28, is a mix of newcomers and long-time Savoyards.

Not only the set, but most of the principals' costumes are being newly constructed. This includes multiple costumes for Elsie, Fairfax, and Jack Point. Several enhancements are being made to our Yeomen's uniforms, which first appeared in 1997 and have been in demand for rental to companies across North America.

For this production of *Yeomen*, we are returning to our long-time home at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. We are also returning to our popular format of six performances in late February and early March, with matinees and evenings on various days of the week to accommodate everyone's schedule.

On a personal note, it is both my pleasure and my privilege to be serving the company as stage director, and to work closely with producer Graham Daley and music director Kathryn Denney, plus the creative team, cast, crew, and orchestra, to make this show the best it can be.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 G&S Events
- 4 G&S News
- 4 Cast Spotlight
- 4 A Puzzlement
- 5 Remembrances
- 6 Calendar

FACTOID
In the middle of one of their famous quarrels, Gilbert dedicated a collection of Savoy opera lyrics, *Songs of a Savoyard*, to Sullivan.



Volume XXXXIII No. 4

February 2019

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

David DeVries – editor@negass.org

ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Martha Birnbaum, webmistress – web@negass.org
Martha Birnbaum, membership – memb@negass.org
Angela Jajko, NEGASS ensemble director – angela@negass.org
Susan Larson, education outreach – susan@negass.org

NEGASS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Crane, president – pres@negass.org
Graham Christian, vice president – vicepres@negass.org
Ann Ferentz, secretary – sec@negass.org
Brad Amidon, treasurer – treas@negass.org
tba, program chair – progchair@negass.org
Martha Birnbaum, member-at-large – martha@negass.org
Graham Daley, member-at-large – graham@negass.org
Tom Frates, member-at-large – tom@negass.org
Ben Morse, member-at-large – ben@negass.org
Christine Petkus, member-at-large – christine@negass.org
Carolyn Schwartz, member-at-large and publicity chair – carolyn@negass.org
Angela Jajko – president emerita – angela@negass.org

THE TRUMPET BRAY is published six times a year on the 1st day of February, April, June, August, October, and December by the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS), PO Box 118, Arlington MA 02476.

GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVIEWS may be sent to editor@negass.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEGASS membership dues are \$25. Please join NEGASS online at www.negass.org, or contact memb@negass.org.

THE TRUMPET BRAY Members receive the Bray as a PDF email attachment. All editions including the current one are available at www.negass.org.

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

www.negass.org



All of the cut music has been restored: solos for Wilfred Shadbolt and Sergeant Meryll, a portion of the Act I finale, and a duet for Meryll and Dame Carruthers. This is the first time in 22 years that we have presented an uncut *Yeomen*.

I was introduced to *Yeomen* at an early age, and it has been a favorite of mine ever since. Although I never saw the D'Oyly Carte production, I was fortunate to see Dorothy Raedler's American Savoyards, with the great Raymond Allen as Point. And I watched the film biography *The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan* whenever it turned up on TV's *The Late Late Show* (a not on-demand viewing in those days). Martyn Green's playing of Point's final collapse in that film moved me to tears more than once.

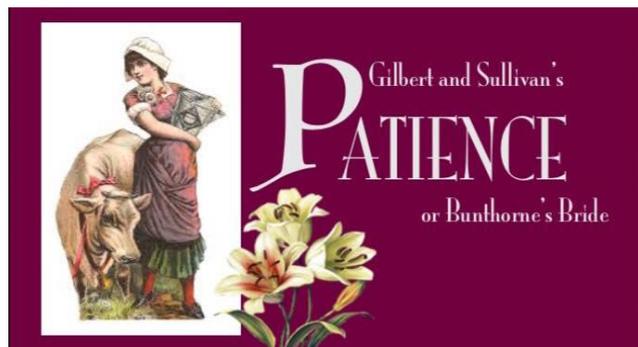
My dream since childhood was to perform G&S – most of all, the comic baritone roles, particularly Jack Point. I set this dream aside to pursue other interests, but finally joined the Sudbury Savoyards in 1997 for *Yeomen* under the direction of the eminent G&S scholar Bruce Miller. In Sudbury's 2008 *Yeomen*, I played Sergeant Meryll, and had the mountaintop experience of filling in for our Jack Point when he became ill.

As a director, my goal is to bring out all the layers of light and shade in the opera. I have seen productions of *Yeomen* that overstressed the comic or the somber aspect; I have tried to strike a balance. Similarly, I have seen productions whose director all but hung an illuminated arrow over the head of Fairfax or Jack Point, instructing the audience to root for one or the other. I prefer to trust Gilbert, who gave both characters virtues and vices. Does Jack Point die at the end of the play? According to Gilbert, "the fate of Jack Point is in the hands of the audience, who may please themselves whether he lives or dies."

I am tremendously excited at being part of the magic that is theater: the creation of a living, breathing entity, seemingly from nothing but some words and notes on a page – though of course from imagination and hard work as well. I invite you to come and be part of the magic as well – for the audience is an essential component of the mix.

SLOCO announces cast for spring *Patience* production

The Simsbury CT G&S Society has announced the cast of characters for their spring 2019 production of *Patience*. The male principals include: **Mark McNally** as Colonel Calverly, **Richard Kelpen** as Major Murgatroyd, **Jeffrey Schwartz** as The Duke of Dunstable, **Jay Wolman** as Reginald



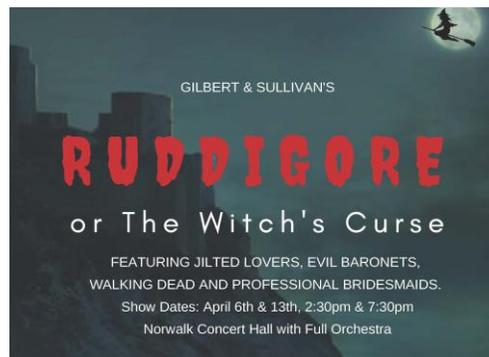
Bunthorne, **Ralph Sherman** as Archibald Grosvenor, and **Mark Callahan** as Bunthorne's Solicitor. The female principals include: **Siobhan Fitzgerald** as Lady Saphir, **Alba Clarke** as Lady Ella, **Armen Kavorkian** as Lady Jane, and **Sierra Manning** in the title role of Patience. Choristers include **Rebecca Clark**, **Rebecca McFarland**, **Cassandra Pease**, **Susan Soltis**, **Mark Callahan**, and **Andy LaPlante**. Performances will be on April 27 & 28 and May 4 & 5, 2019. Please check website for additional information.

Troupers Light Opera to present *Ruddigore* April 6 & 13

Troupers Light Opera will present *Ruddigore* April 6 & 13 at the Norwalk (CT) concert hall. **Kevin Miller** will be the director and **Eric Kramer** will be the music director.

The cast of characters include **Brett Kroeger** (Rose Maybud), **Michael Cosentino** (Robin Oakapple), **Wendy Falconer** (Dame Hannah), **Janet Aldrich Zorah**, **Ben Hoyer** (Sir Despard Murgatroyd), **Frank Sisson/Chris Hetherington** (Old Adam), **Marion Shulman** (Mad Margaret), **John Matilaine** (Sir Roderick Murgatroyd), and **Gisella Surapine** (Ruth). The position of Dick Dauntless is yet to be cast.

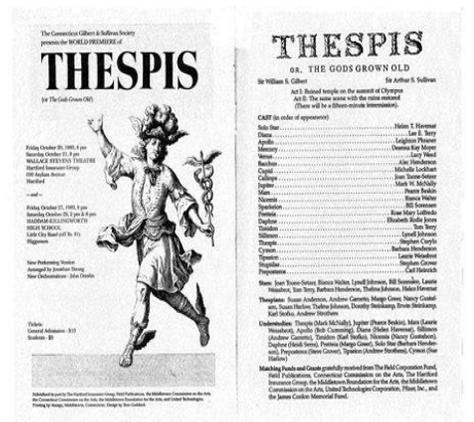
The chorus of bridesmaids will include **Rosa Parrotta**, **Sarah Callands**, **Maribeth Johnson**, **Pia Romano**, and **Leah Kessler-Shaw**. The Chorus of



Bucks and Blades (who also play the chorus of ghostly ancestors) will include **Guy Stretton**, **Jim Cooper**, **Jeffrey Rossman**, **Rob Strom**, **Bill Abbott**, **Bill Kenyon**, and **Dexter Anderson**.

CG&SS seeking Artistic Director for 2019 *Thespis*

The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society is seeking an Artistic Director for the October of 2019 staging of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Thespis*. Michael Loomis, their artistic director for the past three years, is taking the year off from both directing and performing. The successful candidate to fill this position will work with Dr. John Dreslin and the production crew to bring this show to the stage.



Interested parties can find out more about our group by checking out their website (CTGANDS) or their Facebook page. Clips of their 1989 *Thespis* performance may be accessed on their website. While there may be changes to this year's musical numbers and staging, the 1989 clip will provide the candidate some idea about the show. Anyone desiring additional information about the artistic director position may inquire of John Freedman at 560-235-8824 or send him an email at jfreedman@snet.net.

≈ G&S NEWS ≈

NYGASP ends 2018 season with *The Pirates of Penzance*

The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players rang down the curtain with performances of *The Pirates of Penzance* on December 27-30 at the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College in New York City. Albert Bergeret directed and conducted. Bill Fabris was the choreographer.

The matinee on December 27 was “Bring your Grandparents Day” with a special pre-performance program and a special backstage tour after the show. Prior to the matinee on the 29th a special “Family Overture” program was presented that featured a musical introduction plot summary for the entire family.

≈ CAST SPOTLIGHT ≈

Brad Amidon is a prolific G&S performer

Brad’s introduction to Gilbert and Sullivan came from seeing Kevin Kline perform the Pirate King on Broadway in the Joseph Papp production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Brad’s trumpet teacher at the time was the principal trumpet in the orchestra in that production. Perhaps due to this influence, his first participation in G&S productions was playing trumpet in the orchestra of *Princess Ida* and then *The Pirates of Penzance*.



A prolific performer of Gilbert and Sullivan light operas, Brad has appeared as Sir Joseph Porter in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Frederic, Samuel and The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Nanki Poo in *The Mikado*, Cyril in *Princess Ida*,

Leonard Meryll in *Yeomen of the Guard*, Strephon in *Iolanthe*, the Duke in *Patience*, and Captain Fitzbattleaxe in *Utopia, Limited*. Most recently Brad has added Luiz in *Gondoliers* to his list of characters and will be performing the role of Jack Point in the Sudbury Savoyards’ production of *The Yeomen of the Guard* this month (see page 1 for more

information). While he has enjoyed all these roles, Brad says, “The chance to present the Pirate King was such a treat, having brought me back to my first G&S experience!”

Other favorite roles include Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Charlie in *Brigadoon*, Marcellus in *Music Man*, Will Parker in *Oklahoma!* Aldolpho in *Drowsy Chaperone* and as a descamisado in *Evita*. He has also appeared as Frosch in *Die Fledermaus*, Raoul de St. Briche in *The Merry Widow*, and was the cover as Gastone in *La Traviata*.

Brad has worked with many theatrical groups in the area that present the works of Gilbert and Sullivan including the Sudbury Savoyards, Savoyard Light Opera, Greater Worcester Opera, Mass Theatrica, the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Valley Light Opera, and Opera 51 in Concord MA. When not acting on stage, He sings with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, performing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops.

≈ A PUZZLEMENT ≈

A St. Valentines Quiz

1. Oh love, true love--unworldly, abiding!
Source of all pleasure--true fountain of joy,--
2. Away we’ll go. And merrily marry, Nor tardily
tarry Till day is done!
3. Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen, the clouded sky is
now serene,
4. ’Tis done! I am a bride! Oh, little ring, that
bearest in thy circlet all the gladness That lovers
hope for, and that poets sing
5. Oh, happy day, with joyous glee they will away
and married be!
6. I love him – I love him – with fervour unceasing,
I worship and madly adore;
7. None shall part us from each other, one in life
and death are we: All in all to one another – I to
thee and thou to me!
8. O rapture, when alone together two loving hearts
and those that bear them may join in temporary
tether,

Answers on next page. (Any peeking deserves a beating!)

❧ REMEMBRANCES ❧

Laura Schall Gouillart once “stormed off the stage” during *Iolanthe*



Laura Schall Gouillart born on December 24, 1953, passed away on November 15, 2018 at her home in Concord, Massachusetts at the age of 64. She leaves her husband Francis J. Gouillart; daughter Emily F. Gouillart of Washington DC and her son Gregory D. Gouillart of Boston MA.

Laura, a member of the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society, was a star of the local community theater and played countless leading ladies. She was especially associated with the works of Gilbert and Sullivan and favorite roles included Katisha in *The Mikado*, Dame Carruthers in *Yeomen of the Guard*, the Duchess of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers*, and the Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe*. In the latter she shared the stage with her daughter Emily who played the title role of *Iolanthe*. During the climactic scene where the Fairy Queen holds a sword over *Iolanthe*'s head to execute her, the normally even-keeled Laura stormed off the stage, shouting "This is ridiculous! I'm not decapitating my daughter!" Holding back tears, it was a moment her daughter will always remember fondly and a little mischievously. According to NEGASS Board Member Martha Birnbaum, Laura will be especially remembered for her roles of Katisha and Dame Carruthers.

She was a devoted mother who stayed home to raise her two children and drive them to music lessons, soccer practices, and chaperone them on field trips. She spoke English, French and Spanish.

She had impeccable grammar, perfect manners, a mildly wicked sense of humor, and she treated you with kindness and respect every time she saw you. You were always welcome at her home, and she would always prefer that you stay for dinner. She beat cancer four different times, and in the end not a single one of them could fella her. She was a Phi Beta Kappa scholar and a graduate of Wellesley College (BA) and the University of Chicago (MA in Art History). Upon starting graduate school, a part of her hoped to be swept off her feet by a handsome Spaniard, but instead she met a skinny, nerdy French farm boy named Francis in a suit coat and shorts and wearing socks and sandals; they were married for 41 wonderful years. She will be forever remembered through the recordings of her beautiful mezzo soprano voice, the smell of meatloaf at a family gathering, and in the hearts of all who crossed her path.

❧ We Have a Little List ❧

We wish to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* including Tony Parkes, Dr. John Dreslin, NYGASP, The Sudbury Savoyards, Troupers Light Opera, The Simsbury Light Opera Co., and the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society. (Please forgive any omissions!)

A St. Valentines Quiz

Answers

1. Sorcerer
2. Mikado
3. Pinafore
4. Yeomen
5. Pirates
6. Trial by Jury
7. Iolanthe
8. Gondoliers

Topsy-Turvy.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.

G&S Events

The Yeomen of the Guard
The Sudbury Savoyards

February 22-24, 2019
March 1-2, 2019
sudburysavoyards.org

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High
School
390 Lincoln Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Patience
Simsbury Light Opera Co.

April 27-May 4, 2019
sloco.org

Eno Memorial Hall
754 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury CT 06070

Ruddigore
Troupers Light Opera

April 6 & 13, 2019
trouperlightopera.org

Union Memorial Church
58 Church Street
Stamford CT 06906

The Mikado
Greater Worcester Opera

June 7, 8 & 9, 2019
greaterworcesteropera.com

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