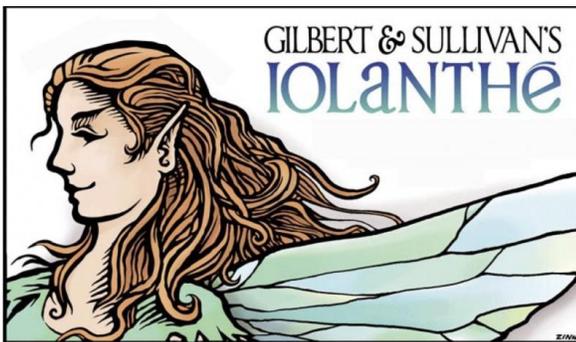




~ NEGASS EVENTS ~

~ NEGASS NEWS ~



**NEGASS and Longwood Opera to present *Iolanthe***

**By Angela Jajko**

The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society and Longwood Opera will present *Iolanthe* on June 3 at 2:30 p.m. The program, under the baton of Kathryn Denney and with Jim Hay at the piano, will be hosted in the Fellowship Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham MA.

The cast includes **Tony Parkes** as The Lord Chancellor, **Dennis O'Brien (Jon Saul\*)** as George, Earl of Mountararat; **Tom Ostrowski** as Thomas, Earl Tolloller; **Thaddeus Bell** as Private Willis, **Tom Frates** as Strephon, an Arcadian Shepherd, and **Ann Ferentz** as the Queen of the Fairies. Also **Carolyn Schwartz** as Iolanthe, **Kerry Tamm** as Celia, **Lisa Pierce-Goldstein** as Lelia, **Marion Leeds Carroll** as Fleta, and **Kaori Emery** as Phyllis, an Arcadian Shepherdess.

There is no admission and the audience is the chorus. If you have scores, please bring them along. (\*denotes covers.)

**Angela Jajko stepping down from NEGASS Board; Elaine Crane is elected president at annual meeting before Yeomen LMLO**

**By David DeVries**

After a total of eight years on the NEGASS board of directors, with the last four as president, Angela Jajko is stepping down. Elaine Crane was elected president during a meeting of NEGASS members that was held prior to a *Yeomen of the Guard* Last



**Past President Angela Jajko (right) with newly elected President Elaine Crane.** (Photo by Carolyn DeVries).

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**GOOD LUCK  
and GOD SPEED**  
to former President and  
Board Member  
**Angela Jajko**



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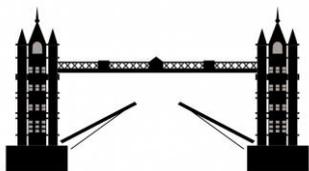
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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL: 15<sup>th</sup> of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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



Minute Light Opera sing-out held at the Brierwood auditorium in Worcester MA on Saturday, May 26.

Ms. Crane is also the executive director of Greater Worcester Opera.

Remaining on the Organizational Staff are Susan Larson as education outreach coordinator and Martha Birnbaum as webmistress and membership manager. Remaining as members-at-large are Christine Petkus and Carolyn Schwartz who is also the publicity chair.

Other newly elected members to the NEGASS Board and Staff include: Brad Amidon, Tom Frates, Ben Morse, and Graham Daley who were elected as members-at-large. Graham Christian replaces Connell Benn as NEGASS vice president. Ann Ferentz replaces Martha Birnbaum as secretary.

Also leaving are Program Chair Kate Meifert and Kaori Emery as hospitality chair and member-at-large. Three positions are yet to be filled. These are: treasurer, program chair, and hospitality chair.

## ❧ G&S EVENTS ❧

### **CLOC will team up *The Pierpoint Lobster Race* with *The Pirates of Penzance* in their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary opening season**

#### **From CLOC website**

The double bill of *The Pierpoint Lobster Race* and *The Pirates of Penzance* will be featured to open the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Season of the College Light Opera in Falmouth MA. The performances are scheduled to run on June 26 through 30 at the Highfield Theatre.

*The Pierpoint Lobster Race*, the winner of CLOC's New Works Initiative, is a one act operetta



composed by Sean Pflueger with libretto by Laura Fuentes. It is a story about the town of Pier Point and its tri-centennial celebration culminating in

the town's hotly anticipated lobster race.

Performances of other Broadway musicals are scheduled for one-week runs both before and after *Iolanthe*. Each year, CLOC schedules nine shows in nine weeks as well as other special events in Falmouth and greater Cape Cod. Please see [www.collegelightoperacompany.com](http://www.collegelightoperacompany.com) for more details about the many events of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.

## CTGANDS has scheduled auditions in June for *The Mikado*

### Courtesy of CTGANDS

The Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society has scheduled auditions for all principal and choral roles for their Autumn production of *The Mikado*. Auditions will be held on the evenings of Sunday, June 3 and Tuesday, June 5 at Congregation Adath Israel on 8 Broad Street in Middleton CT.

If you would like to be considered for one of the principal roles in this show, you must audition on one of the two dates above. Call-back, if it is needed, will be Sunday, June 10, 7-9 p.m.

The song you perform for your audition does not have to be from this show but it should be in English, and preferably for a character in an operetta or musical theater. If you are singing something that is not from *The Mikado*, please remember to bring a copy of your music for our accompanist. Your audition will also require you to read and/or perform your character's dialog from one of the scenes in the show in which they appear. Please see the CTGANDS website for more information.

## 🌀 G&S NEWS 🌀

### MIT G&S Players spring show was set on the Starship *H.M.S. Pinafore*

#### From MIT G&S Players website

The Spring 2018 production by the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players found the crew of the H.M.S. Pinafore sailing forth in the cosmos Star Trek style beginning on stardate 050418!

Not content with her earthly empire, Great Britain turned her gaze outward with Her Majesty's Navy now patrolling the vast expanse of the final frontier. Chief Security Officer Josephine Corcoran and lowly ensign Ralph Rackstraw have found themselves at sea where they have fallen madly in

love. With Romulans in the neutral zone, restless Klingons itching for a fight, and Josephine's social-climbing father, and captain, determined to marry her off to a pompous admiral, the stakes were never higher for Gilbert and Sullivan's most famous lass and the sailor she loves.



The Stage Director was **Rebecca Graber** and the Music Director was **Johnnie Han**. **Julie Liao** was the producer. Performances were on May 4-12 at MIT's Sala de Puerto Rico student center in Cambridge MA.

The cast included **Meghan Jolliffe\*** / **Gabriel Ellsworth\*\*** as Ralph Rackstraw, **Elizabeth Clutts\*** / **Julianne Freeman\*\*** as Josephine Corcoran, **Tyler Crosby** as Captain Corcoran, **Anna Richardson** as Buttercup, **Emile Lewis** as Sir Joseph Porter, **Julie Cohen\*** / **Harsh Singh\*\*** as Cousin Hebe, **Lev Kandel** as Dick Deadeye, **Nick Stevens** as Bill Bobstay, and **Jeremy White** as Bob Becket. Members of the ensemble included **Laurie Beth Brunner**, **John Covert**, **Deborah Gaz**, **Theresa Griffin**, **David Wu**, and **J. Young**

\*May 4th-6th performances

\*\*May 10th-12th performances

### VLO did a *Mikado* "pub sing" on April 9

Valley Light Opera hosted a pub sing on April 9, with a live music-only version of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. VLO provided the principals and the audience became part of the chorus. The Northampton Brewery in Northampton MA was the scene. The sing-out began at 7:00 pm with food available beforehand.



### CG&SS hosted a "Paint Night" fundraiser

Members and friends of the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society held a "Paint Night" fundraising event. The evening was hosted by the Southington



Country Club in Plantsville. Participants, who were guided by a local artist, created unique paintings to take home.

### VLO announces auditions for *Gondoliers*

Valley Light Opera announces auditions May 24, 25 and 28 for its 44th annual Fall production, Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* to be presented in the Fall of 2018 at the historic Academy of Music in Northampton, Massachusetts November 2, 3, 9 and 10 at 7:30 pm and November 4 and 11 at 2:00 pm. Music Director is Aldo Fabrizi. Artistic/Stage Director is Michael O. Budnick and the choreography is under the direction of Susan Edwards Dresser and Nicole Newell. See the VLO website for more details.



### ~ A PUZZLEMENT ~

#### Choruses and Finales

Name the piece and the comic opera it refers to. Answers on page 6.

1. "Hail, hail, the gang's all here" aka
2. Popular TV show starring Tom Selleck
3. "For he's gone and \_\_\_\_\_"
4. "Heighdy! Heighdy! \_\_\_\_\_"
5. "To treat as vanity the \_\_\_\_\_"
6. "Up in the sky, \_\_\_\_\_"
7. "That he is an \_\_\_\_\_"

### ~ RECENT PRODUCTIONS ~

#### Much to compliment Simsbury Light Opera Company's *The Gondoliers*

By John E. Dreslin, D.M.D.

Connecticut's Simsbury Light Opera Company presented four performances of *Gondoliers* during the weekend of April 8 and 9. Though there was much to be complimented on in their production, it was not without problems.

First the good. The main nine principals were all very strong performers, nearly all of them with extensive backgrounds in performing Gilbert and Sullivan. Among the standouts were **Michael Budnick** as Don Alhambra, and the ducal party consisting of **Ralph Sherman** as the Duke, **Julie Martini** as the Duchess, **Jay Marshall Wolman** as Luiz, and relative newcomer **Sierra Manning** as Casilda. All the numbers that these talented performers participated in were rock solid. I almost found myself wishing that Mr. Wolman would have more to do in Act 2. Unfortunately in *Gondoliers* there is no aria where Ms. Manning could have better shown off her considerable talents, but that's how the show goes.

Mr. Budnick was especially consistently entertaining as the Don. The flip side of the cast featured **Janet Aldrich** as Gianetta, **Emily Trudeau** as Tessa, **Peter Bailey** as Marco, and **Jerald Lentini** as Giuseppe. Except for Ms. Aldrich, they were all making their first appearances with SLOCO and it is my hope that we will see more of them in the future. Marco and Giuseppe's famous duet "We're Called Gondolieri" was particularly well done as well as Ms. Aldrich's rendition of the difficult vocal line of "Kind Sir, You Can Not Have the Heart." Also of particular note was that pure gem of composition "In a Contemplative Fashion." The *Gondoliers* successive solos "Rising Early in the Morning" and "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes" were both well performed.

The whole was under the competent artistic direction of **Mike Reynolds** and the music direction under the baton of **Nathaniel Baker**, both in their third season with SLOCO. Choreography was done by **Erin Lafferty** with suitably colorful costumes by **Kari Mackey**.

Once again the production was presented at the ENO Memorial Hall. This year according to SLOCO president **Tim Colby**, the company had received a bequest from a former member that had allowed

them among other things to purchase stage extensions so that the cast no longer had to move around and to the sides of the orchestra as in previous years. At first it seemed like this would be an advantage, but it turned out that with the odd acoustics of the ENO auditorium it very often actually worked against the cast.

The excellent 14 piece orchestra came across as almost being amplified (though they obviously weren't) and often overpowered the sound from the stage. Anything behind the regular proscenium arch was almost always lost, whether dialogue or musical numbers and unfortunately the chorus was not of sufficient strength or numbers (8 ladies, and 4 men) to project through. For those of us familiar with the show this does not present that much of a problem, but novice goers probably caught little of the lyrics. There was also a distinct lack of smiles on the faces of the ensemble that seemed overly focused on mastering their choreography. This is after all a relatively upbeat opera. It is still wonderful that SLOCO is continuing to progress in their renaissance, and I will be looking forward to their future productions.

### Some smooth sailing and some choppy waters for *The Gondoliers* in Simsbury

By David DeVries

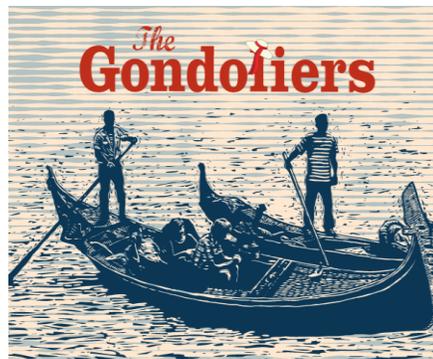
Some choppy waters were experienced in Sloco's matinee performance of *The Gondoliers* on Sunday, April 8. It is my guess that the Eno Memorial Hall in Simsbury is not well known for its acoustics as the opening numbers lacked some clarity. This thankfully became a non-issue as the show progressed. Likewise the small size of the stage limited the creativity of the performance especially when it came to the choreography in a show which offers a great deal of possibilities for dance especially with the cachucha.

The utilization of moveable panels on wheels on either side of the stage helped to give the impression of a larger area. However, during the second act a near calamity was narrowly avoided when the right hand panel in the process of being rotated, nearly fell from the stage.

Enter the Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro (**Ralph Sherman** and **Julie M. Martini**), their daughter, Casilda (**Sierra Manning**) and Luiz (**Jay Marshall Wolman**) the Duke's attendant. This quartet handled their roles quite well and seemed to surmount the previous acoustical issues. The two numbers ("Oh, rapture, when alone together" and "There was a

time") by Luiz and Casilda were well executed and have lost none of their poignancy.

**Emily Trudeau** (Tessa) gave a splendid solo ("When a merry maiden marries) depicting a love struck maiden very ably backed up by the chorus. The finale of Act I was very well executed and once again gave evidence of the limitations of the small stage requiring the cast to assemble a gondola. The principals then "boarded" the craft to make their exit descending from the stage to make their way up an aisle through the audience. Well done!



Act II was highlighted by an exceptional solo by **Peter Bailey** (Marco) with his rendition of "Take a pair of sparkling eyes." The Contadine and gondoliers followed Mr. Bailey's song with an enthusiastic "Here we are at the risk of our lives" which brought us the rousing "Dance a cachucha," one of the highlights of the act. Also ably performed were the quartet by Gianetta, Tessa, Marco and Giuseppe (**Janet Aldrich**, Ms. Trudeau, Mr. Bailey and **Jerald Lentini**) "In a contemplative fashion," and the regal "With ducal pomp" offered by the Duke and Duchess (Mr. Sherman and Ms. Martini.) backed up by the gondoliers. The Duchess (Ms. Martini) also provided a good deal of spirit with the song "On the day when I was wedded."

The orchestra, especially the strings, under the baton of **Nathaniel Baker** did an exceptional job with both the spirited and sedate pieces.

#### 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. Send copy of ticket stub for reimbursement. Contact 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.

## ❧ A PUZZLEMENT ❧

### ANSWERS

1. Refers to the line "Come, friends who plow the sea" from the chorus "With cat-like tread" in Act II of *Prates*
2. "Blue Blood(s)" from *Iolanthe*
3. "Married Yum Yum" (*Mikado*)
4. "Misery me, lackadaydee!" (*Yeomen*)
5. "Sway of love" (*Princess Ida*)
6. "Ever so high" (*Iolanthe*)
7. "Englishman!" (*H.M.S. Pinafore*)

## ❧ CAST SPOTLIGHT ❧

### Julie Rumbold is an "important part" of CG&SS productions

#### From CT&SS website

Julie has been an important part of our productions for several years, filling the roles of Phoebe in *Yeomen of the Guard*, Buttercup in *Pinafore*, the Plaintiff in *Trial by Jury*, and the title roles in *Iolanthe* and *Princess Ida*. We are pleased to present her as our Featured CG&SS Cast Member.



**Julie Rumbold**

A native of Simsbury, she confesses to a love of musical comedy and the Red Sox in her youth. Working with vocal teacher Joanne Scattergood and Connecticut G&S companies helped develop her beautiful mezzo-soprano voice, and she is now pursuing a goal of becoming a professional opera singer.

Julie has studied and performed with the New England Opera Intensive program in Boston and at the International Music Festival in Vols am Schlern, Italy. In 2016, Julie was selected as a finalist in the American Opera Idol competition. Some of her operatic roles include Dorabella (*Così fan Tutte*), Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*) and Papagena (*The Magic Flute*).

Besides organizing and participating in fundraisers for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, she is also a trained makeup artist who created King Gama's wry persona in last year's *Princess Ida*. We look forward to enjoying her performances in other dramatic roles in the future.

## ❧ COMMUNICATIONS ❧

### NYGASP to be featured at Music Mountain Chamber Music Festival

Dear NEGASS,

I am an intern at the Music Mountain Chamber Music Festival, located in Falls Village, Connecticut. We host string quartet performances, as well as a Twilight Concert series, which features performers in the world of jazz and theatre. I wanted to reach out regarding an upcoming concert.



We are hosting the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players for a production called "I've got a little TWIST," an award winning, NYGASP original production that highlights the timelessness of Gilbert & Sullivan and its relevance in today's world. A concert and dinner package is available, including 5 pm dinner at the Falls Village Inn, a Litchfield County landmark on Saturday, June 23 at 6:30 pm. Followed by the concert at Music Mountain. Tickets must be purchased by 3 pm on Friday prior to concert. Please see a description of the event on our website:

[musicmountain.org/event/new-york-gilbert-sullivan/](http://musicmountain.org/event/new-york-gilbert-sullivan/)

Zachary Coddington  
Music Mountain Chamber Music Festival

### ❧ We Have a Little List ❧

We wish to thank those who contributed in any way to this issue of *The Trumpet Bray* Simsbury Light Opera, John Dreslin D.M.D., Angela Jajko, Zachary Coddington, Carolyn DeVries, and the websites of CLOC, CTGANDS, and CT&SS. (Please forgive any omissions!)

## G&S Calendar

*Iolanthe*  
Raylynmor Opera

June 2, 2018  
[raylynmor.com](http://raylynmor.com)  
603-357-1086

Congregation Ahavas Achim  
84 Hastings Avenue 03431  
Keene NH

*Iolanthe*  
**Sing through**  
Longwood Opera & NEGASS

June 3, 2018  
[longwoodopera.org](http://longwoodopera.org)  
see article on page 1

Christ Episcopal Church  
1132 Highland Avenue  
Needham MA 02494

*Pirates of Penzance and*  
*The Pierpoint Lobster Race*  
*Iolanthe*  
College Light Opera Company

June 26-30, 2018  
August 14-18, 2018  
[Collegelightoperacompany.com](http://Collegelightoperacompany.com)  
see article on page 2

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

*Annual Concert including*  
*G&S Selections*  
Music to Cure MS  
Concert

October 28, 2018  
[Music to Cure MS](#)

Park Avenue Congregational  
Church, 50 Paul Revere Road,  
Arlington MA 02476

*The Mikado*  
CT G&S Society

October 13 & 14, 2018  
[ctgands.org](http://ctgands.org)

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

*The Gondoliers*  
Valley Light Opera

November 2-11, 2018  
[vlo.org](http://vlo.org)  
413-584-9032 x105

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274 Main Street  
Northampton MA 01060