



## The Sudbury Savoyards' Sandwich Board

Fall 2002 - Vol 8, Number 1

How did you spend your summer vacation? Perhaps you spent part of it with the Savoyards. You had plenty of opportunities! Several dozen dedicated Savoyards raised the bar on our summer activity schedule, presenting seven weekends of theater and cabaret in the cozy confines of the Sudbury United Methodist Church's Hawes Hall. And yes, there was a Fourth of July parade in Sudbury this year that included a Savoyard contingent. This is the issue of our newsletter where we look back on our past year of fun and community activity while we plan for our biggest single effort of the year, our winter Big Show. So stick with us while we recap our summer season and plan for the coming year.

### Patience

Teaming for their fourth consecutive main stage production are **Stage Director Kathy Lague** and **Music Director Steve Malione**. *Patience* will be presented in the Kirschner Auditorium at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in seven performances between February 21 and March 1, 2003. Kathy offers the following commentary to entice you into the show:

"Here we are once more at the scene of our former triumphs..."

Some of you may have heard that line before, someone usually says it on put-in day at the school at the start of tech week. Well, finally we're doing the show that the quote comes from!

*Patience* has always been a personal favorite of mine. Perhaps it's because I played the role in the 1994 Sudbury production, but also because it's a lot of fun. *Patience* is often identified as "the one that makes fun of Oscar Wilde." Gilbert was lampooning the Wilde-associated mode of aestheticism that was happening in Britain at the time, but any movement/culturally significant trend, such as Dadaism, rock music, self-help seminars, etc. will reveal the same kind of behavior from its

followers and skeptics as you will see from the maidens and the dragoons.

We will be setting our production in its original time period. The basic story is easily understood:

Bunthorne, an aesthetic poet, has captivated all the maidens in the village, except for the one he loves himself: the village milkmaid, Patience. Complications arise when the maidens' former flames, the dragoon guards, arrive on the scene. They are aghast at the change in the ladies' affections, being very surprised that it could be Bunthorne. Trouble compounds when a rival poet, Grosvenor, appears on the scene, cursed with a beauty that causes every woman to fall in love with him at first sight. He, of course, loves only Patience, whom he knew when both were children. Patience understands nothing of all

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this talk of Love, but is persuaded to love someone completely unselfishly; hence, she decides to fall in love with Bunthorne, professing that there can be nothing selfish about that. Since Bunthorne is now “taken,” the ladies immediately transfer their love to Grosvenor.

Now, everyone is in Love, but no one is happy; the dragoons are rejected by the maidens, the maidens are rejected by Grosvenor, Grosvenor is rejected by Patience, and Bunthorne is rejected by the maidens, except for Lady Jane (who is, of course, rejected by Bunthorne). But it all works out in the end. It always does.

“In Love” means *very much* in Love: the maidens love wildly, passionately and swoon on command, overcome with the sheer emotion of being in the presence of their idol, Bunthorne. Grosvenor loves with “a full Florentine frenzy for a full fifteen years,” the dragoons with all the fervor that a military man can muster; Bunthorne loves Patience as

an object he cannot have. Patience is the innocent in all this. Unlike the child who sees that the emperor has no clothes and calls attention to that lack, she is more concerned that she doesn’t see the splendid new finery that everyone else does.

The choruses will have a lot of fun. Ladies, practice your swooning and sighing. You must be prepared to die for Love - daily. Gentlemen, this is the era when the sun did not set on the British Empire, and you’re the guys responsible for that. You have extreme pride in your uniform and how you look in it. Officers, you are the proud leaders of your men, but you’re not above trying out something new to get your girls back. Rival poets, you are indeed that, and a heated sword battle with lilies between you two has not been ruled out!

Full character sketches and a rehearsal schedule will be available at auditions. See you all there!

Lead Auditions for *Patience* will be held in Hawes Hall at Sudbury United Methodist Church at 7:30pm on Monday and Tuesday, the 18th and 19th of November, 2002. As is our custom, there are no auditions for the chorus for our shows. However, potential choristers are encouraged to attend auditions and sing accompaniment to support the auditioners, learn a thing or two about the show, and get an initial feel for how Sudbury Savoyard productions come together. An audition poster is included with this newsletter with lead roles and their vocal ranges. Come one, come all, and bring your theatrically minded friends.

The other half of the senior staff of the production, **Producer Donna Roessler** and **Technical Director Brendon Chetwynd**, are currently concentrating on recruiting for the variety of business, staff, and technical positions required to support our production. Recall that it takes between 100 and 150 people to mount our mainstage shows! Tech work has already begun. Step forward and lend your skills to an area you might not have considered before. Talk to any staff or Board member about what needs to be done.

### What’s a Savoyard affair without a party?

As is the Sudbury Savoyards’ habit, the kick-off for the year’s big production is a party. Informally called the “**2-Ring Circus**,” this kick-off party provides an opportunity for new and old Savoyards to meet, mingle, and catch up with one another, and to meet the directors and production staff of the upcoming show. There’s *always* a sing through of the upcoming show. This year’s Circus will be held **AT A NEW LOCATION** compared to recent years. Join us on **Friday evening, the 8th of November**, at the home of **Brendon and Kirsten Chetwynd**, 82 Acton St., Maynard.

**DIRECTIONS:** Acton Street runs parallel to Rt. 27 in Maynard north of the center of town. From the south on Rt. 27, take a left onto Concord Street just past the Cumberland Farms

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store, then an immediate right onto Acton Street. From the north, Acton Street is the first right turn off Rt. 27 after it crosses into Maynard from Acton. The Chetwynds' house is a yellow Victorian behind a picturesque white picket fence on the southbound side of the street. The party starts at 7:30. Experienced Savoyards: BSTS.

### Sudbury Savoyards Summer Shows

When an experimental effort meets or exceeds expectations, one is likely to try to expand on the success. The Savoyards started down that road several summers ago with our first summer comedy, the well-known Victorian comedy *Charley's Aunt*. We have since presented a series of just-as-well-known and some more novel productions. This past summer's offering falls into the latter camp. Our own (by adoption!) William S. Gilbert was probably as well known in his day for his stage plays and his poetry as for the large scale operettas he is more generally remembered for today. *Engaged*, and the Savoyards' previously produced Gilbert stage play, *Foggerty's Fairy*, are not well-known today, but by that offer an unusual alternative to fans of comedic theater.

The Company's more aggressive project of this past summer was the expansion of last year's one weekend of cabaret into a four weekend series of four different sets of acts drawn from among Savoyards of many stripes.

#### ***Engaged*, A Summer Success!**

Gilbert's *Engaged* was Director **Chuck Berney's** debut with the Savoyards, and a piece not familiar to many local theater-goers. With action moving from a garden cottage in the Scottish lowlands to an urban English drawing room, the play provided set-building and other challenges in the close confines of Hawes Hall. Still, our production attracted over 450 not-to-be-disappointed patrons in seven performances, netting over \$3500 for the relief of world hunger. Congratulations are due to the entire summer show staff, led by director Berney and co-producers **Donna Roessler** and **Katherine Engel Meifert**.

#### **Savoy Club**

Impresario **David Larrick** proposed the original "Stupid Savoyard Tricks" as a one-weekend cabaret experiment for summer 2001. It worked so well that he proposed a four-weekend, multi-program series renamed as the "Savoy Club" for this summer. Did that work? Well, over 350 patrons (many for most or all of the weekends) were entertained by about 50 performers in acts of different sizes, artistic bents, and categories, generating proceeds of nearly \$1500 for the work of the Savoyards.

Will the experiment continue? In a message to the staff and performers at the end of the series, David offered this summary: "None of this would have been possible without your generosity, sharing your time and talents for a cause we all believe in. I received lots of positive comments from audience members and performers, and there seems to be enthusiastic support for continuing this sort of thing in future years."

In all Savoyard activities, the strength of the Company is based on the willingness of the members to step forward and propose and do the work that brings us all fun, fulfillment, and community. The Savoy Club and all our other efforts will persist if people want to make them happen. Do you have a talent you'd like to share? Do you know of acts you'd like to see in a Savoy Club? Note that nearly half of the performers in this year's presentations were first time Savoyards! What a way to join the group! When the call goes out next year for possible Savoy Club acts, you or your friends could be the ones to step forward.

#### **The Parade**

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Yes, the Savoyards were represented in Sudbury's annual Fourth of July parade this past summer. Coordinated by **Ted** (Arhimanes/Inquisitor) **Koban**, a smaller marching contingent replaced the large scale truck-based float of riders we have fielded for the past several years. But those marchers enthusiastically interacted with the crowds lining the parade route, passing out flyers advertising our other summer activities and handing out candy for the kids (a must in a Sudbury parade!). Everybody who participated deserves a round of applause for braving one of the hottest days of the summer on the road!

### **Opportunities to Support the Savoyards' Work Financially**

As many of our readers are aware, the Sudbury Savoyards are a 100% volunteer organization. No Savoyard is paid for his or her efforts in support of the group. Every penny of our income over expenses from our shows is earmarked for distribution in the relief of world hunger through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. In support of our charitable goals, we depend on the efforts of our members and donations from the entire community. On the back of the audition flyer that accompanies this newsletter you will find two forms. One is for advertisers in our *Patience* program, and one is for acknowledged donations. Program ads are priced to cover the cost of preparing and printing the programs; donations directly support the charitable work of the Savoyards. Donations received by mid-January are guaranteed to be acknowledged in the program; later donations will be acknowledged in a program supplement. Your donation will make a direct contribution to the relief of world hunger. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Contacting the Sudbury Savoyards Runs Both Ways**

The Sudbury Savoyards are eager to involve our area community in our productions in any way people can help. If you would like to work with the Savoyards, or attend our performances, or support our efforts financially, we want to hear from you, and we want to keep you informed.

The Savoyards have an active set of email lists and a vibrant, regularly updated web presence at [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org). But if you're not electronically connected, you're not entirely out of our loop. We're trying to develop alternative systems to stay in touch. Are you interested in receiving Sudbury Savoyard messages that are exchanged via email throughout the year? How best could we accomplish this? Paper mail? Phone chains? Please voice your opinion to Board Secretary **Paula Moravek** at 508-473-2136 or write to us in care of our sponsor, the **Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd., Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776**. You can call the Savoyards' voice message line at **978-443-8811** if you have any questions about any of our activities.