



The Sudbury Savoyards' Sandwich Board

Fall 2003 - Vol 9, Number 1

It almost goes without saying that summers for the Savoyards are the busiest time of the year. As has been the case for the past few years, we had a wonderful Summer Show, highlighted Savoyard talent at the Savoy Club, had a spot in the 4th of July Parade, and just finished a pleasant afternoon in the sun at Sudbury Day. But time marches on, and our activities continue. So read on about our Craft Fair and, of course, the plans for the big show of the year:

The Pirates of Penzance

The Pirates of Penzance will be presented in the Kirschner Auditorium at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in seven performances between February 20 and 28, 2004. This will be our last year in the Kirschner Auditorium, our mainstage home since 1969. The construction of the new Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School is well under way, and the new school is expected to be open, with a brand new auditorium, in May of 2004.

The Savoyards have a new directorial team for this year's mainstage show, **Stage Director Emily Snyder** and **Music Director Katherine Engel Meifert**. Emily is a prolific and skilled director, writer, and producer of theater in the Marlboro/Sudbury area. Emily has performed in our chorus, and makes her Savoyard directorial debut with *Pirates*. Katherine is perhaps better known to Savoyard audiences, having served as Associate Music Director for last year's *Patience*, recent Chairman of the Board, and roles going back to the title role in our 1999 *Iolanthe*.

Our fall newsletter is one way we entice our readers to consider auditioning with us, and by way of that enticement we encourage our director to tip her hand about her vision for the show and what our auditioners might expect. That said, here's what Emily would like you to know about our upcoming *Pirates*...

Avast! Long before any modern movie-star re-popularized swashbuckling, the inimitable Gilbert and Sullivan offered us their best-beloved comic opera, *The Pirates of Penzance*. Replete with gentlemen pirates, cowardly policemen, and a bevy of beautiful maidens, *The Pirates of Penzance*, or *The Slave of Duty* is the well-known story of Frederic, a young man caught between two conflicting worlds and his love for and duty to each.

Unlike most comic operas where the characters are "merely buffoons" a la the *Commedia dell'Arte*, *The Pirates of Penzance* offers the unique opportunity to dig deeper into Gilbert's characters. The secondary title, *The Slave of Duty* is especially telling: each character is bound to some duty—not merely an obligation imposed from the outside, but a bond created out of love. Frederic feels a close filial affinity for the Pirate King that is rivaled by his growing affection for Mabel and his own moral conscience of right and wrong. Mabel's own understanding of duty changes from seeing Frederic as a sort of "missionary project" to a conflicted love and potential enemy! Stanley, who has always regarded himself as "the very model of a modern Major General" realizes that he may have been lying to more than just the pirates, and Ruth is

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the greatest vengeful villain Gilbert ever created. The Pirate King and all his crew are *indeed* “noblemen who have gone wrong,” and who must ultimately confront who they really are and where *their* duty really lies. Stanley’s wards aren’t *quite* as disgusted by the idea of *actual* pirates for their “matrimony,” and the policemen really *do* feel a sense of sympathy for “the ‘coster [who is] finished jumping on his mother!” Never has comic opera been more topsy-turvy, nor more rich and wonderful than *Pirates of Penzance!*

This year’s production, our last *sniff sniff* on the Lincoln-Sudbury High School stage, is sure to be a blow-out. All members, old and new, are welcome to come and join in the fun! Since we will need to split the men’s chorus in Act Two into pirates and policemen, ladies may apply to be pirates if they can sing the tenor range. But never fear! Major General Stanley is a kind old man who welcomes *many* wards into his home—those like Kate who are a bit more flirty, those like Edith who are a bit more scholarly, and those like Isobel who are somewhere in-between. For those who have dancing shoes in their closets, be prepared to break them out! And for those who prefer not to dance, be prepared to really savor the beauty of Sullivan’s melodies and harmonies. For those (like myself!) who love “chorus work,” be assured that you, too, will be developing individual characters along with our hard-pressed leads who will staunchly “go [like] heroes, go to glory!” Oh, and there’ll be a swordfight.

I’m greatly looking forward to delving into working with and for you all. *Pirates* is perhaps my favorite Gilbert and Sullivan, and the Savoyards are certainly my favorite G&S company! Get ready to make the audience laugh and cry with our greatest “send-off” yet! Longer character sketches are posted on our website and will be available at the auditions. See you then, matey!

Lead Auditions for *Pirates* will be held in Hawes Hall at Sudbury United Methodist Church at 7:30pm on Monday and Tuesday, the 17th and 18th of November, 2003. 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. Come one, come all, and bring your theatrically-minded friends.

Producer Brendon Chetwynd and **Technical Director Mariah Howland**, are currently concentrating on recruiting for the variety of business, staff, and technical positions required to support our production. The senior staff is particularly interested this year in engaging folks in “apprenticeship” positions to help build our leadership ranks. 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 7th of November**, at the home of **Pat and Elizabeth Kinney**, 107 Goodmans Hill Road, Sudbury.

DIRECTIONS: Goodmans Hill Road runs from Rt. 20 just west of the Sudbury/Wayland line and Wingate at Sudbury north to Concord Rd. just south of Sudbury Center at Rt. 27. The Kinneys’ house is at the intersection of Goodmans Hill, Green Hill, and Old Lancaster Roads, about a half mile from Rt. 20. They have driveways on both the Goodmans Hill and Green Hill sides. The party starts at 7:30. Experienced Savoyards: BSTS.

Sudbury Savoyards Summer Shows

***Hay Fever*, A Summer Success!**

Noel Coward’s *Hay Fever* is a staple of community and college theater. An ascerbic comedy, it offers a collection of character studies, farce, and convoluted couplings to keep an audience

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engaged and a cast busy. Led by Director **Paula Moravek** and Producer **Mariah Howland**, the Savoyards took Coward in stride over seven performances on three weekends this past July. The Savoyards welcomed five new actors and nearly a dozen new tech and business staff to our summer production. Our thanks go out to all our members, new and veteran, and the more than 500 audience patrons who supported our summer production, raising over \$4000 for the Relief of World Hunger.

Savoy Club

Bracketing our *Hay Fever* weekends was the 2003 edition of the Savoy Club. Produced by (and sometimes starring) **Kathryn Denney**, the Savoy Club featured the eclectic collection of talent our Company harbors. Can cabaret survive in modern times? The Savoy Club is a step in that direction.

The Parade and Sudbury Day

Getting a big start on drawing attention to our upcoming 35th (and final!) mainstage show in the current L-S High School, the Savoyards presented a *Pirates*-themed float in Sudbury's annual Fourth of July parade. We didn't win any prizes this year, but we put on a good show. Thanks go out as usual to **Sudbury Lumber** for the loan of their truck as the basis for the float, and to the Savoyards who rode, walked, and talked up the Savoyards to the cheering fans lining Concord Rd.

The Town of Sudbury last year initiated a new community effort, Sudbury Day, to celebrate the diversity and community spirit of our town. This year, as last, the Savoyards were featured entertainers, singing selections from the greatest of the G&S operas. Pictured below is our ensemble, belting out one of those hits. Participation was coordinated by **Ed Fell**, and Company



Promoter **Jim Parmentier** served on the Sudbury Day Organizing Committee. Our musical presentations were directed by **Betty Farmer** and **Katherine Engel Meifert**; keyboard accompaniment was by **Bryce Denney** and **Kathryn Denney**. As the photo shows, about two dozen Savoyards provided the voices on a beautiful late-summer day.

Happy News!

Lots of families participate in Savoyards activities. In fact, the Savoyards are responsible for putting more than one or two families together. In that vein, we are pleased to recognize three Savoyard weddings and two new Savoyards (see our last issue for last winter's births!) over this summer. Deede Bergeron and Randy Divinski were wed on July 5th; Jennifer Healey and Nathan Dohm on July 12th, and Eric Ruben and Karen Schlosberg on September 20th, and active Savoyards all! Aislinn Sophia Hird, daughter of Stephen and Juli Hird, was born on June 27th. And finally, shown at right in his Savoyard Finest Regalia is Davin James Martin, born to Laurel and Dan Martin on June 30th. Congratulations to all!



Yeomen of Regard

Those who were connected with last year's production of *Patience* will recall that in 2003 we installed our first lifetime achievement award recipients, the Yeomen of Regard. The Yeomen

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are Savoyards, past or present, who have contributed extraordinary effort and results to the goals of our Company. The Yeomen program is intended to be an ongoing one for the Savoyards, continually accepting nominations for candidate Yeomen. We invite our members to suggest such nominations. The nomination process is simple. Just send the name of any Savoyard you think has contributed "Extraordinary service in support of the mission of the Sudbury Savoyards as defined in the Company's bylaws" (the official criterion for Yeomen recognition) to any Board member with a brief statement of that Savoyard's achievements that you think are the most noteworthy. Send your suggestion to any Board member - email addresses are on the web site - or paper mail your thoughts to the Savoyards c/o Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd., Sudbury, Mass. 01776.

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 insert that accompanies this newsletter you will find two forms. One is for advertisers in our *Pirates* 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.

Craft Fair

If the mails have favored you (and us), you may be reading this newsletter just in time to take in the Craft Fair jointly sponsored by the Savoyards and our sponsor, the Sudbury United Methodist Church. The craft fair, featuring crafts from members of the Savoyards and others, will be held at the Sudbury United Methodist Church Hawes Hall on Saturday, October 11, 2003 from 10am to 4pm. There will be over 25 crafters/artisans featured. Admission is free. In addition to the crafters, there will be a bake sale table, with proceeds going to our world hunger relief fund. For more information, please contact coordinators Donna and Andrea Roessler at 508-628-9772, or by email to donnarslr@rcn.com. Hope to see you there!

**Sudbury Savoyards
Sudbury United Methodist Church
251 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776**

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