



*The
Sudbury Savoyards'
Sandwich Board*

Winter 2005 - Vol 10, Number 2

All *Mikado*, all the time? Well, that's the focus of this winter season, and the big topic of this issue. While we do have a bit of advance planning in the works for the coming summer, and even next winter, we are concentrating on getting our latest Big Show on the boards in the newly-completed Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. We're really hoping you can join us in warming up the new hall. Details? Read on.....

The MIKADO

or The Town of Titipu

Cultural references derived from popular entertainment are nothing new. Some catchphrase fads pass so fast you never know you've missed them. Some hang around so long, you never know where they really came from. In the latter camp you will find "Pooh-Bah," "I've Got a Little List," and "Make the Punishment Fit the Crime." If you'd like to find out how a Pooh-Bah came to mean a do-it-all, officious control freak, you should plan on attending the Sudbury Savoyards' upcoming production of *The Mikado*, to be presented in seven performances over two weekends in February and March in the brand new Rogers-Kirschner Auditorium of the brand new Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

The Savoyards' last previous production of *The Mikado* was in 1995, and two of the principals in that production return in different roles for the present edition. **Dennis O'Brien**, Pooh-Bah in 1995, now takes on the role of Ko-Ko, Lord High Executioner, and **Paul Lemieux**, last seen as Pish-Tush, returns as Nanki-Poo, incognito son of the Mikado of Japan. Rounding out the remainder of the leads are **Mike Lague** as Pooh-Bah, **Tony Parkes** as Pish-Tush, **Eric Ruben** as The Mikado himself, **Karen Pierce** as Katisha, and **Jacque Wilson, Katherine Meifert, and Nectaria Kordan** as "the Three Little Girls from School," Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, and Peep-Bo, respectively.

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Our chorus of schoolgirls, nobles, and other townspeople of Titipu consists of Sara Ballard, Debbie Crane, Randy Divinski, Jennifer Dohm, Ed Fell, Ann Ferentz, Janine Gauntt, Lissa Gilbert, Marcia Goldensher, Beth Goldstein, John Gorgone, Ruth Griesel, Cynthia Horn, Fred Hughes, Suford Lewis, Dave Lopshire, Kris Maples, Marylee Marsh, Laurel Martin, Neil McCormick, June McKnight, Patricia McMahon, Rich Olsen, David Owen, Roy Paro, Mei-Lin Po, Tom Porcher, Karen Powers, Nancy Powers, Phil Radoff, Anne Rollins, Jon Saul, Karen Schlosberg, Ellen Simmons, Maxim Smith, Patricia Smith, Emily Snodgrass, Ted Sullivan, Erin Van Speybroeck, Suzanne White, Sara Williams, Jack Wirtz, and Marla Zucker.

Returning as a directorial team are **Stage Director Kathy Lague** and **Music Director Steve Malionek**, with **Assistant Stage Director Bill Kuhlman** and **Assistant Music Director Katherine Meifert**. Steve here describes the state of the production so far:

It is January so that means that we are well into rehearsals for this season's production of *The Mikado*. It's exciting to be working once again with Kathy, Katherine, and Bill on this, one of the most well known and well loved of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Each tune of Sullivan's score is a musical gem and should keep you humming melodies long after the final curtain closes.

As usual there are many familiar faces in the cast this year, with some newcomers as well. We welcome Jacque Wilson (Yum-Yum) and Nectaria Kordan (Peep-Bo) to the Savoyards, as well as our first time chorus members. Paul Lemieux was Pish-Tush in the 1995 Production and returns this season as Nanki-Poo. Dennis O'Brien (Ko-Ko), Tony Parkes (Pish-Tush), Mike Lague (Pooh-Bah), Eric Ruben (The Mikado), Katherine Meifert (Pitti-Sing), and Karen Pierce (Katisha) are all Sudbury regulars and round out our cast.

One of the most exciting elements of this year's production of *The Mikado* will be performing in a brand new theater at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. As audience members, you will find the seats more comfortable, the acoustics more favorable, and the view of the stage better as the orchestra is submerged in a more proper pit. It will be a great setting for all of us to enjoy the show. With this excitement will be some challenges as we learn the ins and outs of a completely new and different setting. We are happily up for the challenge.

Rehearsals have gone extremely well thus far. We have spent the month of December carefully learning the music to *The Mikado*, and I am extremely pleased with the progress of the singers. In January we add the blocking, and that is the first stage in seeing the "vision" of the show come together. January also marks the beginning of orchestra rehearsals. Once again we have gathered a group of 30 fine musicians who, along with a spectacular set and lighting design, will once again create "Gilbert and Sullivan on a Grand Scale." My big project for this year was in creating a new set of parts for the orchestra. As a performing musician I know from first-hand experience how important it is to have a good part to read from. This will be a welcome addition to the Sudbury Savoyards Music Library.

With opening night a mere seven weeks away at this writing, we are all preparing diligently for the 2005 production of *The Mikado*. I'm sure you will enjoy the show immensely in our new performing space. Please come and share the experience with us!

Kathy adds: I'd just like to add a few notes to Steve's about our upcoming production, speaking from my side of the rehearsal hall, as it were.

I'm also pleased to be working again with Steve and Katherine, as well as with my assistant, Bill Kuhlman. We have a great cast and chorus (as usual!), who are all working very hard to make this a wonderful production.

The Mikado is the first G&S show that I helped to direct, being Associate Stage Director for the 1995 production. I'm very excited to "come home" to this show by directing it this year.

This production is being designed as an "homage" to Kabuki theater. Kabuki is an old form of theater in Japan, with many well-known (to the Japanese!) conventional aspects. It uses many allegorical references in its characters and plots, and its sets are usually simple and changeable to fit the state of the story. To replicate this in our production, we are using stylized shoji screens (sliding screens) to help in our scene changes, and I've added dancing in some numbers to give a more "kabuki" look.

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Add to this wonderful costumes and makeup and I'll think you'll agree that this will be a *Mikado* to remember.

Open Ticketing Continues

Our seven-performance schedule allows us to continue an important element of our ticketing policy. Again, **any ticket will be good for any one of our seven performances**, with the exception of our discount Wednesday night tickets, which will be honored only for that performance. All tickets are for general admission seating. We hope this policy will make it easier for our audience members to decide to attend a show without having to commit to a specific performance in advance.

The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to present Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* at **8:00PM Friday, February 25th; Saturday, February 26th; Wednesday, March 2nd; Friday, March 4th; and Saturday, March 5th**, with matinee performances at **2:00PM on Sunday, February 27th and Saturday, March 5th**. All performances will be presented in the Rogers-Kirschner Auditorium at the *new* Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts. [Note that the address remains the same. While the school building is new, it is on the same site as the former building. Main parking is to the right of the building as you face it from Lincoln Road. Handicapped parking is at the face of the building closest to Lincoln Road. The auditorium is in the section of the building closest to Lincoln Road. We'll have signs out to guide you!]

Family Matinee Reprised

Gilbert and Sullivan can be a rollicking time for theater-goers of all ages, and to enhance the fun, the Savoyards offer our matinee performance on **Sunday, February 27th** as our **Family Matinee**. The show remains the same, but we will have a special program insert available to help explain the show to younger audience members, and we'll offer a post-performance opportunity to peek behind the scenes of large-stage theater, meeting the actors and seeing what the other side of the set pieces look like. Last year's stage tour was a big hit with the kids, but you don't have to be or even *have* a kid to take advantage of the tour.

Tickets by friend, phone, mail, email, or on the Web

Tickets good for any performance are \$18 for adult general admission, \$14 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children under 12; Wednesday night discount tickets are \$10 for all age groups.

Order your tickets by phone at 978-443-8811, by **email** to SudSavTix@aol.com, or **postal mail** (make checks payable to the Sudbury Savoyards) to Mikado Tickets, 9 Marlboro Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776. With all orders, include your name and address, a phone number for callback, the number of tickets for each category (adult, senior/student, child), and whether you are ordering specifically for the Wednesday discount night performance.

As introduced last year, the Savoyards again offer **web-based ticket purchasing**. Go to www.sudburysavoyards.org and click on the "Tickets" link on the home page. You will be offered menus to order tickets by category and number. Payment for tickets is through the PayPal web purchasing system, as used for eBay and other web commerce. Tickets are priced as above, but a \$2 per order (regardless of number of tickets purchased) surcharge will be added to cover web processing costs.

Prepaid orders (web orders and postal mail orders with checks) received before February 14th will be mailed back to you; later orders and orders without payment will be held at the door.

You can also purchase tickets from any participating Savoyard.

2005 Sudbury Savoyards Summer Shows

The success of the Sudbury Savoyards' summer productions is well-established. The Board is currently considering proposals for productions for Summer 2005. As always, there is need for participants in every aspect of the production effort. If you would like to produce, direct, act, paint sets, collect props, manage a box office, or help in any way imaginable, contact the Board by telephone at 978-443-8811, or through our general email address, info@sudburysavoyards.org. People who can commit early to the production effort serve an invaluable role in streamlining the summer effort! We anticipate announcing our summer show in our *Mikado* playbill, with audition dates in April or May and planned production for three weekends in July. Look for the announcement at the show, or keep an eye on our web site for the latest information.

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2006: *The Grand Duke*

The Board of Trustees of the Sudbury Savoyards has selected Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Grand Duke* as the company's 44th main stage production, to be presented in winter/spring of 2006. This will be the Savoyards' first production of this, the last of the Gilbert and Sullivan collaborations. Senior staff recruiting will begin soon, and interested candidates are encouraged to contact the Board through any of our contact addresses, below.

Fall Craft Fair Repeats Success

In October, nearly three dozen crafters attended a Savoyards-organized Craft Fair that overflowed Hawes Hall, its stage, and the adjoining chapel at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. This event was a repeat of the Fall 2003 Craft Fair that was so well received. The event raised about \$1100 for relief of world hunger through table fees and food concession sales. Plans are already in the works for the Fall 2005 event.

Contacting the Sudbury Savoyards

If you would like to work with the Savoyards, or attend our performances, or support our efforts financially, we want to hear from you. Write to us in care of our sponsor, the **Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd., Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776**, or call the Savoyards' voice message line at **978-443-8811** if you have any questions about any of our activities. **Do we have your e-mail address?** The Savoyards run several different e-mail lists we use to apprise our friends and members about our activities and other local theater opportunities. Visit the Savoyards Web page at www.sudburysavoyards.org and follow the 'e-mail' links to subscribe, or send a note via info@sudburysavoyards.org.

The
MIKADO



or *The Town of Titimu*

***The Mikado* – February 25, 26, 27; March 2, 4, 5, 2005**
info and tickets: 978-443-8811 - www.sudburysavoyards.org