



The Sudbury Savoyards' Sandwich Board

Winter 2006 - Vol 11, Number 2

Forty-four productions under our belts, and only one extant Gilbert and Sullivan collaboration remains unperformed by the Savoyards. This is an omission soon to be repaired. Production forty-five is the main topic of this issue, but you can find out what production forty-six will be as well, and also those other tidbits of Savoyard life we have space to report. All you have to do is read on.....

The Grand Duke

Even stalwart Savoyards can be forgiven for admitting a lack of familiarity with the first and last of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Nearly twenty-five years passed between the staging of the first collaboration, *Thespis*, in late 1871 and the last, *The Grand Duke*, in early 1896. The music for *Thespis* was lost long ago, and while the libretto survives, the piece can only be performed with imaginative recreations of the missing score. The Sudbury Savoyards have never attempted *Thespis*, an oversight excused, perhaps, by the lack of historical grounding. But neither have we attempted *The Grand Duke*, an oversight that has no similar justification. In truth, *The Grand Duke* is seldom performed by any theater group. The reference version of the score and libretto do present a long show, one that the pair were apparently reluctant to trim. By the 1890s, the style of theater in vogue was moving away from the mode the pair had popularized over their aforementioned twenty-five years of partnership, and the production was not the hit its predecessors had been. It's unlikely that Londoners of the day would have been heard in the street humming from *The Grand Duke* the way that *Pirates'* Major General Stanley would "whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense Pinafore." It would seem that a lack of contemporary popularity could have played a part in the subsequent aversion to revival. Contemporary opinion aside, Gilbert and Sullivan had learned much from their two dozen years together. There is a mature richness in Sullivan's music, and Gilbert continued to poke fun at the foibles of aristocracy and legal paradox. The Savoyards are pleased to remedy our forty-four years of implicit aversion with our current production of *The Grand Duke*!

Our cast for the production is a vibrant mix of Sudbury veterans and newcomers. **Tony Parkes** has the title role of the despotic, despised, to-be-deposed Rudolph. **Michael Belle** has the role of the would-be replacement Duke, Ernest Dummkopf. **Dennis O'Brien** is Ludwig, the actual, eventual (interim) replacement Duke, who is faced with more potential marriages than he can handle. **Kathy Lague** is the theater company diva, Julia Jellicoe, prospective Grand Duchess. **Tambre Tarleton Knox** is the Baroness von Krakenfeldt, also a candidate Grand Duchess. **Stephanie Mann** is Lisa, truly beloved of Ludwig, but only one of four contending for his hand. **Elaine Crane** is The Princess of Monte Carlo

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(what, another potential duchess?). **Sara Williams, Mary Finn, Cavalyn Galano, Laurel Martin,** and **Julie Kingman** round out the female leads. **Ed Fell** is the Notary who instigates the legal paradox; **Marco Bonito** is The Prince of Monte Carlo, potential ducal father-in-law; **Art Dunlap** is the Herald; and **David Owen** the Costumier.

Our chorus meets our standard for "Grand Scale," filling out the cast to nearly 50 members: **Russ Adams, David Baldwin, John Covert, Debbie Crane, Janice Dallas, Meryl Epstein, Beth Fowler, Marcia Goldensher, Beth Goldstein, John Gorgone, Fred Hughes, Rollin Jeglum, Bill Johnson, David Kehs, Dave Lopshire, Neil McCormick, June McKnight, Rich Olsen, Roy Paro, Tom Porcher, Karen Powers, Nancy Powers, Jon Saul, Ellen Simmons, Heather Sliney, Paul Sliney, J. Donald Smith, Ellen Spear, Ted Sullivan, Stacey Teman, and Marla Zucker.**

We have a new directorial team this year, but one of solidly experienced Savoyards. **Stage Director Paula Moravek** and **Music Director Steve Malionek** lead the team, with **Assistant Stage Director Jim Parmentier** and **Assistant Music Director Katherine Engel Meifert**. This is **Paula's** first G&S directorship with us, though she is a veteran of two Summer Show directorships and has performed with us in G&S shows going back to 1989. **Steve** has been Music Director for most of our G&S shows over the last decade. **Jim** is new to directing, but has been active on and behind the stage with us for nearly fifteen years. **Katherine** was Music Director for our 2004's *Pirates*, and has had several lead and choral roles in our casts since 1998.

It is our habit to let our directors offer their observations on the process and progress of the show in this space, and music director Steve is pleased to submit the following.

January with the Sudbury Savoyards means that we are actively rehearsing our winter Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. However, this year's effort will be a landmark as we present our premiere production of *The Grand Duke*. It is quite exciting to be a part of this endeavor. Not many of our cast members were familiar with this final work of Gilbert and Sullivan, and I suspect many of our audience members will be in the same situation. One of the great thrills of this production thus far has been to expose our cast to this music and story and teach them what can be thought of as a "new" Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. When we bring our production to the stage of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, we can share this excitement with our audience, providing an opportunity to enjoy and experience what may seem to be *new* words and music of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Producing *The Grand Duke* can present quite a challenge, but things have been progressing quite well thus far. The other directors and I made edits for pacing and the length before rehearsals started in November. The cast of lead roles is large and there are twenty-nine musical numbers, with the chorus singing in more numbers than in any other Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. What this means is that there is quite a lot to rehearse before the show reaches the stage. We are well along, and as of this writing are nearly finished with Act I! Our cast has done a great job in learning the music and movements on stage and things are looking and sounding great. Orchestra rehearsals begin soon, which is always an exciting moment in the process. We are very pleased to present *The Grand Duke* for the very first time in our history and hope that you will join us in this momentous occasion.

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.

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The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to present Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Grand Duke* at **8:00PM Friday, February 24th; Saturday, February 25th; Wednesday, March 1st; Friday, March 3rd; and Saturday March 4th**. with matinee performances at **2:00PM on Sunday, February 26th and Saturday, March 4th**. 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 26th** 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. Previous stage tours have been 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 Grand Duke 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. For your convenience, there is a ticket order form on the insert page of this newsletter. 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, orders without payment, or orders you request not be sent will be held at the door. You can also purchase tickets from any participating Savoyard.

2006 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 2006. 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 serve an invaluable role in streamlining the summer effort! We anticipate announcing our summer show in our *Grand Duke* 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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2007: *Iolanthe*

The Board of Trustees of the Sudbury Savoyards has selected Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* as the company's 46th main stage production, to be presented in winter/spring of 2007. Directors' interviews will be held in June. Other senior staff recruiting will begin soon, and interested candidates are encouraged to contact the Board through any of our contact addresses.

Fall Craft Fair Repeats Success

In October, more than three dozen crafters participated in the 3rd annual Savoyard-organized Craft Fair that overflowed Hawes Hall onto its stage, and into the chapel and a classroom at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. This event was again well-attended by the public, raising nearly \$1,500 for relief of world hunger through table fees and bake table sales. Plans are already in the works for the Fall 2006 event. Please contact **Donna Roessler** or **Andrea Roessler** at 508-628-9772 if you would like to receive an application for the next fair. Applications will be mailed out starting sometime in March.

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.

**Sudbury Savoyards
Sudbury United Methodist Church
251 Old Sudbury Road
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