



The
Sudbury Savoyards'
Sandwich Board

Fall 2006 - Vol 12, Number 1

Fairies were almost the undoing of the team of Gilbert and Sullivan, and the Savoyards' "big show" this year is their most fairie-filled, *Iolanthe*. As usual, it's been a year of "olds" and "news." We return to an old tradition with our big season kickoff this year, and try some new production changes as well. We tried something new with our summer show this year, our web site and email lists have a new look, and the Fall Craft Fair has been around long enough now to be not quite new, but not yet old hat. So dig in for the overview of this year's old and new, and make your plans to be with us for the coming season.

Iolanthe

2007. **Auditions** for *Iolanthe* will be held in Hawes Hall at the Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd, Sudbury starting at 7:30pm on **November 13th and 14th**. There are some changes this year! Note that while our chorus is still open to all who commit to the show, **all prospective choristers are also expected to attend one of the two nights of auditions so that the directors can better plan their blocking and other artistic choices in advance of the start of rehearsals!** Interested choristers who can't attend audition nights should contact the directors through the Savoyards message line at 978-443-8811 before the first rehearsal, in early December.

Stage Director Kathy Lague and **Music Director Steve Malonek** will again lead the artistic staff for the Sudbury Savoyards' upcoming production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*, to be presented at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in seven performances between February 23 and March 3,

Here's what Kathy and Steve are planning for the production this year:

Kathy: I can't believe it has been 20 years since I first joined the Sudbury Savoyards – in the chorus of *Iolanthe*. (I was in blue; third from the left). Twelve years later, I found myself in the dual role of Stage and Music Director – for *Iolanthe*. This year, it's Stage Director again – for *Iolanthe*. It's a three-peat!

Iolanthe is one of the most charming of the G&S operettas. The ladies' chorus consists of magical fairies – always fun to play! – and the men are Peers of the Realm during the height of the British Empire – truly masters of their domain and proud of it. In the middle are the young lovers, Phyllis and Strephon, trying to deal with the quirks and whims of mortals and immortals.

Steve and I are really looking forward to working with everyone on this production, and to make this production the best one we can, we are going to change things slightly this year.



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Rehearsal scheduling will be different – we will not reserve Wednesdays for leads only – chorus members may be called on Wednesdays as well. This will allow us to make more efficient use of all the rehearsal time available – it's not much!

Auditions for lead roles and placement for chorus members will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 13th and 14th. Singing auditions for lead roles will be first, followed by the chorus placements. Everyone should plan to stay for the length of the evening, but it is only necessary to attend one of the two evenings.

After all the singing has been done, we will break into small groups and have everyone learn some short dance movements and sing a few bars of music. Based on this, we will determine which group is best suited for each person. These are not “auditions” – everyone is still welcome to be in the chorus! This will allow us to get a much better sense of what our cast will look like. Hopefully, it may also allow some people who may think they can't do the show because of time commitments to reconsider as some groups may be called to more rehearsals than others. A full description of the sub-groups and any additional time commitments they may require, as well as a more detailed description as to how auditions and placements are going to work can be found on our website: www.sudburysavoyards.org.

Callbacks for the lead roles will be on Wednesday, November 15, at which time we will be doing readings from the script and more singing (if necessary).

Steve: I, too, share Kathy's sentiments on *Iolanthe*, a delightful operetta that is well liked by many Savoyards. From the somber opening notes of the Overture, to one of the greatest chorus moments of all, the March of the Peers (sung by the men's chorus) to the many moods of the Act I Finale, and on to the rousing, toe tapping final chorus, *Iolanthe* is certain to delight our cast and audiences alike. No changes are planned for Sullivan's marvelous score and as usual, we will feature a 30 piece orchestra. So please join us for this season's production. It's sure to be a lot of fun.

Technical and production opportunities abound!

Producer Andrea Roessler and **Technical Director Lin Olsen** are currently concentrating on recruiting for the variety of business, staff, and technical positions required to support our production. Many of our design staff and production department heads have already been recruited, but there are many support and “apprenticeship” roles yet to fill. Recall that it takes between 100 and 150 people to mount our mainstage shows. (Last year 194 people were credited with contributing in some way to the production of the show!) Step forward and lend your skills to an area you might not have considered before. Interested? Call Andrea at 508-628-9772 or email ajr-asid@juno.com.

As has been the case for the past several years, we will be getting started on technical preparation for the show before the first of the year, including a couple of Saturday “prep-work” days. Savoyard Saturdays have always been a good opportunity to get cast and crew and their families and friends working together to get our shows on the boards. However, as our production values have become more ambitious, and the activity needed to achieve them has become more intense, we have had concerns raised that have required us to re-evaluate some of our safety practices. **While everyone will still be eagerly welcomed at Savoyard technical sessions, we are instituting a new safety awareness and conduct policy aimed at keeping our efforts safe and productive.** Please see our new “Policies” section on the web site for details.

Back to the 2-Ring!

Last year, in preparation for our “new” show, *The Grand Duke*, we kicked off our production season with a pair of workshops to introduce prospective cast members to a show few of them had previously encountered. This year, we return to our more traditional ways and kick-off our season of *Iolanthe* with a party. Our “**2-Ring Circus**” is to be held on **Sunday, November 5, at 7:00pm**, at the home of **Tom and Nancy Powers, 201 Union Avenue, Sudbury**. This is about halfway between Sudbury Center and Rt 20, where Union Ave meets Concord Rd. The **2-Ring** is your chance to meet old friends and new, hear what the directors and designers have to say about the production, and sing through the show. **Set Designer Ron Dallas** and **Costume Designer Lucy Dean** will have drawings introducing the ‘look’ of this year's show. Scores, T-shirts, sweats, and chorus tapes/CD will

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be available for sale, so bring your checkbooks. Everyone who is considering participating in *Iolanthe*, newcomer or old timer, is welcome to attend. Experienced Savoyards: BSTS.

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 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 *Iolanthe* 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 will 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.

October Craft Fair

The Sudbury Savoyards will be holding their Fourth Annual Fall Craft Fair on **Saturday, October 21st from 9:00am to 3:00pm**, in Hawes Hall at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. Nearly three dozen talented crafters and artisans will be presenting a wide variety of unique, high quality items for everyone. Many crafters are returning from previous years, and this year we have several new crafters with their own creative merchandise. Items featured this year include hand-crafted jewelry of many different kinds, including beads and sterling; fabric purses and bags for different purposes; designer tea cozies, aprons, and placemats; stained glass; hand-made quilts; hand-knitted sweaters and scarves and other hand-woven items; ironing board covers; custom-embroidered fleece and baby items; holiday items, including ornaments, decorations, stockings for dogs and cats, wreaths, etc.; wooden items, including toys and wood-burned products; polar fleece items; herbs and spices; original photography; several kinds of beautiful hand-made note cards; soy candles; silk and dried floral arrangements; hand-painted cow bells; hand-made Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls; Sock Monkeys; and America Girl doll clothes. We will also feature our very popular Home-Baked Goodies Table. **Admission is free!**

For the complete list of vendors, including pointers to participating crafters' websites and photographs of craft items, please visit the Savoyards' web site at www.sudburysavoyards.org.

Contributions of home-baked items are welcome, with all the proceeds from the Bake Table and the Crafter's Space Fees being donated to the Relief of World Hunger through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up on Friday October 20, as well as on the day of the Fair. To volunteer and/or contribute a home-baked item, please contact Co-Chairs Donna and Andrea Roessler at 508-628-9772 or craft-fair@sudburysavoyards.org.

California Suite

Congratulations to the cast and crew of our 2006 Summer Show, *California Suite*. We put on a fantastic production! Thanks to our visionary director, **Harriet Freidman**, and creative design staff, Hawes Hall was transformed into a circa 1972 deluxe hotel. The audience joined the cast in Suite 203/204 of the Beverly Hills Hotel as we performed our first theater-in-the-round production. The warm July weather just added to the overall atmosphere in our "California" hotel! Despite soaring temperatures, we ended the production with a profit of almost \$2700, which will go towards world hunger relief. We offer a warm thank you to all who helped with the production!

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New Look for the Web site, and Resubscribe your email!

The Savoyards maintain a web site that combines current events and news with archives of past productions and other activities, and also a collection of email interest lists covering news of the Savoyards, other community theatrical groups, and items of general interest. We have recently updated the look of our web site, improved navigation, and added several new features. The Craft Fair button, for example, will take you to a directory of crafters for the upcoming fair and photos of typical craft wares. Another addition is the Policies link, where you will find information on matters of Sudbury Savoyards governance and organization. The Company's By-Laws will be posted there, as well as the task lists for the various leadership positions in the organization. Finally, we're adding a shopping section. It featuring shirts & sweats from past shows, Savoyard mugs, Savoyard-logo polo shirts, tote bags, and other items. To get to the store, just click on the Shop button.

We also recently changed our email list service (yes, again!), which has required us to re-invite our former subscribers to opt back in to our lists. If you were previously a list member, you may have already been resubscribed. If you weren't on all the lists you might be interested in, please visit us at **www.sudburysavoyards.org** and click on the 'subscribe' button. Our lists are moderated, and traffic is light, but we like to keep you informed.

Two passings....

Finally, we note with sadness the recent loss of two Savoyard orchestra veterans.

Marilyn Sorenson played clarinet in our orchestra from the mid-80s through the early-90s. Marilyn was a serious woodwind player who performed with many notable ensembles here and in Europe. She passed away August 17 after a year-long battle with central nervous system lymphoma. At this writing, a memorial service was planned but not yet scheduled.

Julia Gabaldon was an oboist who performed with numerous symphonic and operatic orchestras in the area and abroad, and with us from 2000 to 2005. Julia succumbed to breast cancer on August 15. A memorial concert will be held at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge on October 29th. Contact Michelle Anders at michellebanders@gmail.com for details.

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

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