



The  
*Sudbury Savoyards'*  
*Sandwich Board*

Winter 2007 - Vol 12, Number 2

If you're one of our local patrons, you've been sharing an unusually warm and snow-free season (up to this writing, anyway). But, yes, the dateline above does say "Winter," and that means we are just a few weeks from taking our Big Show to the stage. *Iolanthe* is on the way, the Sudbury Savoyards' 46<sup>th</sup> Gilbert and Sullivan production. We hope you can join us for a performance or two. Read on for details....

# Iolanthe

is a fairy story, in more ways than the obvious. A "Peri," by the way, is a form of Turkish or Persian fairy, the name probably chosen by Gilbert as the subtitle of the play for its alliterative value more than as a plot element. The Peers, of course, are those of

the House of Lords of the English Parliament. What's the connection? Well, just consider what a little magic might do to the passage of laws and the conduct of the government, matters that were probably somewhat shocking and borderline subversive in Victorian England. Peerage by competitive evaluation? Preposterous! But it was neither the first nor the last time that Gilbert and Sullivan skewered the social order - the order to which they, themselves, had been born!

Our directorial team for this year's *Iolanthe* is again **Stage Director Kathy Lague** and **Music Director Steve Malonek**, with **Choreographer Sara Williams** assisting.

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

With the turn of the new year, rehearsals are well underway for our production of *Iolanthe*. We had a great start in December learning the music to this delightful operetta and the show is now coming to life as we add the movements on stage, start to build the sets and sew our costumes. Our cast of 43 includes many familiar faces from previous years (both as leads and in the chorus) along with a handful of newcomers to the group. The women's chorus in *Iolanthe* is a band of fairies while the men are members of Parliament's House of Peers. Each group has its own moment to shine. The fairies open Act I with a marvelous song and dance as they "trip 'round about their fairy ring". The men's chorus has the distinction of making their entrance in what is arguably one of the greatest moments in the Gilbert and Sullivan canon, both musically and visually, in The March of the Peers ("Loudly let the trumpet bray"). As of this writing, we have just finished rehearsing the march and it most certainly will be one of many highlights of this year's show. Our lead characters each have much to add to the musical enjoyment including one of the most famous of all the patter songs, "Love, unrequited, robs me of my rest" (The Nightmare Song) sung by

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the Lord Chancellor. *Iolanthe* will be performed with our usual full orchestra of almost 30 players and will start each performance off with one of the most delightful overtures of all the operettas. So please come and join us for our production of *Iolanthe*.

Our cast includes the healthy mix of veterans and newcomers we have come to expect in Savoyard shows. Veterans **Dennis O'Brien**, **Ed Fell**, and **Tony Parkes** lead the Peers as the Lords Mountarat, Tolloller, and the Chancellor, respectively. **Art Dunlap** rejoined the Savoyards for last year's *Grand Duke* after a nine year absence, and returns (more quickly this time) as Private Willis. **Lyman Opie** makes his Sudbury debut as Strephon, secret son of the fairie Iolanthe. Among our Peris, we have two firsts. **Laura Gouillart**, as Queen of the Fairies, has sung and played many roles with the Savoyards, including the role of the Queen in our last previous production of *Iolanthe*. Laura offers that this show is special in that this is her first opportunity to share the stage with daughter **Emily Gouillart**, who plays Iolanthe. While the Savoyards have long been a family-friendly group, and many husband-wife, parent-child, and sibling pairs have taken the stage together, this is probably the first time both members of such a pair have held lead roles. Newcomers **Kate Harper** and **Alison Smith-Vaniz** join veteran **Laurel Martin** to round out our principal Peri roles as Celia, Leila, and Fleta, respectively. **Catherine Lee** makes her Sudbury debut as Phyllis, beloved of, well, everybody.

Our chorus of remaining Peers and Peris consists of David Baldwin, Jamie Cobleigh, Graham Daley, Janice Dallas, Tom Frates, Janine Gauntt, Lissa Gilbert, Marcia Goldensher, Beth Goldstein, John Gorgone, Ruth Griesel, Fred Hughes, Rollin Jeglum, Bill Johnson, Pat Kinney, Sharon Kivnik, Dave Lopshire, Neil McCormick, June McKnight, Rich Olsen, Tom Porcher, Karen Powers, Nancy Powers, Sarah Roth, Jon Saul, Ellen Simmons, Paul Sliney, Ted Sullivan, Erin Van Speybroeck, Sara Williams, and Marla Zucker.

### 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 *Iolanthe* at **8:00PM Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**; **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**; **Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**; **Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**; and **Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. with matinee performances at **2:00PM on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. All performances will be presented in the Rogers-Kirschner Auditorium at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts.

### Family Matinee Reprised

Gilbert & Sullivan can be an enjoyable time for theater-goers of all ages, and the Sudbury Savoyards have been doing "Gilbert and Sullivan on a Grand Scale since 1961." *Iolanthe*, in particular, is attractive to the young-at-heart since it features winged fairies, British peers and a little touch of magic. With that in mind, the Savoyards offer our matinee performance on **Sunday, February 25** as our **Family Matinee**. The show remains the same, but we have a special program insert available to help explain the show to younger audience members. We'll also offer a post-performance opportunity to peek behind the scenes of a large-stage theater, meeting costumed actors and seeing the other side of set pieces. Our previous stage tours have been a big hit with the younger crowd, but you don't have to be or even *have* a child 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.

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**Order your tickets by phone** at 978-443-8811, by **email** to Tickets@SudburySavoyards.org, or **postal mail** (make checks payable to the Sudbury Savoyards) to Iolanthe 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](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org) and click on the "Tickets - HERE" 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **It's Never Too Late to Get Involved!**

Have you ever participated in a Savoyard production? Have you ever been curious as to what goes into a big stage theatrical endeavor? With more than forty players on stage, nearly thirty musicians in the pit, and a technical and house crew of twenty or more people, the Savoyards produce spectacles rare among community theater organizations. But of course these shows don't stage or run themselves. We are always in need of last-minute help, sometimes ushers and box office staff in the house, or backstage help with costuming and makeup. If there's any part you'd like to play, contact **Producer Andrea Roessler** at [ajr-aside@juno.com](mailto:ajr-aside@juno.com), or via the Savoyards' message line at 978-443-8811.

### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Sudbury Savoyards will be held at the Sudbury United Methodist Church on March 3, 2007, between the matinee and evening performances of *Iolanthe*. A major item of business at the annual meeting is election of Trustees for the 2007 to 2009 term. Savoyards (and if you ever were a Sudbury Savoyard, you still are) who can't make the meeting, but who wish to vote in the election should keep an eye on our web site to read the candidates' election statements and to find information regarding absentee voting.

### **2007 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 2007. 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](mailto: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 *Iolanthe* playbill, with audition dates in April or May and planned production for two weekends in July, for the first time in an *air conditioned* performance space! Look for the announcement at the show, or keep an eye on our web site for the latest information.

### **2008: *Yeomen of the Guard***

The Board of Trustees of the Sudbury Savoyards has selected Gilbert and Sullivan's *Yeomen of the Guard* as the company's 47<sup>th</sup> main stage production, to be presented in winter/spring of 2008. 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.

### **Learning Express Fundraiser to Aid the Savoyards**

On Tuesday, March 6, 2007 the Savoyards will partner with Learning Express in Sudbury and 20% of all purchases by our supporters will go directly back to the Sudbury Savoyards. As an incentive to encourage participation, we will hold a raffle for a Sudbury Savoyards tote bag filled with Savoyard swag. Simply stop in at Learning Express on March 6 and drop your name, address, and phone number in the Sudbury Savoyards raffle jar on the counter in the store. Are you looking for the

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perfect gift for a young Peer or Peri? Located at 515 Boston Post Road in Sudbury, Learning Express is the place for gifts and educational toys for children of all ages! Remember, all donations to the Savoyards help us in the relief of world hunger.

### **Old Shirts Needed!**

The Savoyards share a habit with many community theater groups, that being the creation of T-shirts or sweats connected with each show. The shirts provide a souvenir and a badge of community for the participants, and an advertising outlet for the show. We're not quite sure how long the Savoyards have been making shirts available for our shows, but the Archivist is trying to make sure that we have in our historical collection as many examples as possible. We have a good selection from recent years, but we need to fill in missing shirts from at least the following years: anything prior to 1987; 1990 *Ruddygore*; 1992 *The Sorcerer*; 1993 *The Pirates of Penzance*; 1996 *Princess Ida*. If you have any in decent condition and are willing to part with them, please contact Andrea Roessler at [ajr-asid@juno.com](mailto:ajr-asid@juno.com). If you're not entirely willing to part with them, we might be able to offer a trade for a shirt from another show you don't have.

### **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](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org) and follow the 'e-mail' links to subscribe, or send a note via [info@sudburysavoyards.org](mailto:info@sudburysavoyards.org).