



The Sudbury Savoyards' Sandwich Board

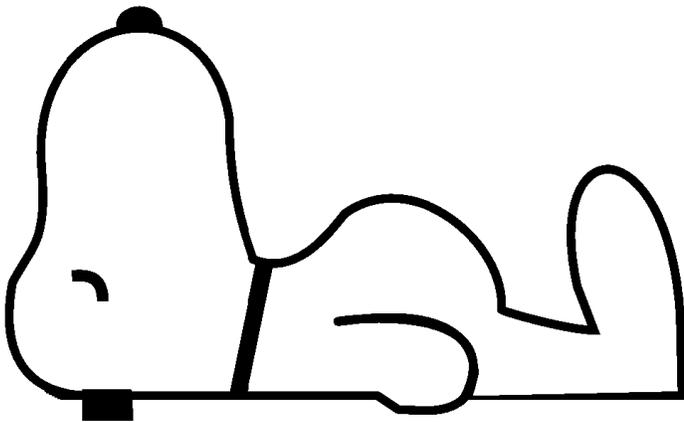
Spring 2007 - Vol 12, Number 3

Financial success for charitable goals, good art, and fun doing it are the three pillars of the Sudbury Savoyard experience. We can unequivocally claim the first with recent results, modestly claim the second, and look forward to more of the last with our first fully-musical Summer Show since the inception of the series in 1996, and the first to be performed outside the friendly confines of Hawes Hall. We also look forward to the Fall with plans for the fifth Sudbury Savoyard Craft Fair and planning for next Winter's big show. As your Summer moves into full gear, we hope you'll be able to join us and have fun too.

Iolanthe

By the time you read this, the Savoyards will have presented our donation for UMCOR to the Sudbury United Methodist Church, our sponsor. Our donation this year is \$5000, a modest amount by some measures, but it means that **we have met our goal to have donated \$100,000 to UMCOR** since our last previous *Iolanthe*, in 1999. Because of the structure of UMCOR's fund raising, overhead is covered from other sources, and every penny of our donations are dedicated to direct relief, feeding the needy, providing refugee services, and providing support in disaster areas around the world. Thanks go out to all our supporters: on stage, behind the stage, and (of course!) in the audience.

Summer Show 2007: *Peanuts!*



Charles Schulz published the first Peanuts comic in the newspaper on October 2, 1950. The first televised animated Peanuts special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, aired in 1965. In March of 1967, the gang reached off-Broadway with the original *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, which was restaged and moved to Broadway in 1971. In 1999, the musical was updated with new dialogue and orchestration, and finally, in July of 2007, it comes to Sudbury as the 2007 Sudbury Savoyards Summer Show.

Ed Knights returns to direct our Savoyard Summer Show, this time a full-fledged musical, following on his 2005 edition of *The Matchmaker*, which he embellished with gay-90s barbershop serenades to punctuate the action. Ed has some tricks up his sleeve again, as he explains:

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“This summer's show, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, is for children of all ages. The show has been to Broadway twice, and we are doing a home-grown version of the revised 1970's production. Along with Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Sally, Schroeder, and Snoopy, we've added Marcie, Frieda, Peppermint Patty, and Pig Pen. We've also added a school-room scene and a camp scene. There is all the creativity and polish you've come to expect from the Savoyard actors and production team. Of course, you'll see Snoopy's doghouse, Schroeder's piano, and Lucy's portable therapy booth. We also have a bus for school and camp and a tree for distressed characters to bang their heads. The new space has great acoustics, comfortable seats, and AIR CONDITIONING! So, round up your parents and children and “come on down.” As a show of support for Linus, anyone who still has a baby blanket should bring it for introductions after the show. (Thumb sucking is optional.)”

Our cast for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* is evenly divided between first-time Savoyards and those of longer tenure. Our Charlie Brown is **Tom Frates**, who joined the Savoyards only last winter to appear as a Peer in our *Iolanthe*. Our Schroeder is **Dennis O'Brien**, who has appeared in more Savoyard Big Shows than can be easily counted, and only now comes to his first Summer Show acting role. **Jim Ravan** will shuffle across the stage raising dust as Pig Pen. Jim has been a main show stage manager and conductor, and appeared as Marvin Michaels in last summer's *California Suite*. **Shahn Knights** choreographs this show, as she did for our 2005 *The Matchmaker*, and appears as Marcie, pal (chaperone?) of Peppermint Patty. Frieda, of the “naturally curly hair,” will be played by **Laurel Martin**, who has had an administrative or performing role in every Savoyard production of at least the last five years.

We warmly welcome our Savoyard newcomers. **Jenna Lea Scott** joins us to play fussybudget Lucy Van Pelt from, most recently, the Worcester Foothills Theater Company, where she appeared in *The Full Monty*. **Adam Sell** claims to be cast against type to play Linus Van Pelt (he's a first-born who claims no knowledge of how to be a younger brother). Adam is a journalism student at Northeastern. Charlie Brown's little sister Sally will be played by **Danielle Melillo**. Danielle currently hails from Derry, NH, and is a voice student at New England Conservatory. **Amanda Sheehan** joins us as Peppermint Patty. Amanda lives in Watertown and was recently seen in Theatre To Go's original review *Night on the Town*. Closing out our list of new Savoyards is **Katie Broach**, who will play the effervescent Snoopy. Katie lives in Worcester and most recently played Lucinda in the Westboro Players Club production of *Into the Woods*.

Times, dates, and tickets.... and a new performing venue!

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown will be presented in eight performances over the two weekends of late July and early August at the Curtis Middle School in Sudbury (see the map on the newsletter insert for a map). We fully realize the limitations of Hawes Hall, our Summer Show home for more than ten years, for summer performances; you can be assured that the staff and actors have endured the discomfort right along with our patrons. Hawes Hall remains our home base, and the Sudbury United Methodist Church remains our sponsor, but we are all excited about the prospects to do better shows in a more comfortable, better appointed environment. Note that we are down to two performing weekends instead of our usual three, but we are maintaining our eight-performance schedule with FOUR weekend matinees to accommodate as many patrons, of all ages, as possible. We hope to see you there!

Tickets are **\$15 for adults**, and **\$12 for students and seniors**. **Order by mail** by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope, with your ticket choices and payment (see the ticket order form on the insert page), to Charlie Brown Tickets, 9 Marlboro Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776. **Reserve by phone** by calling 978-443-8811. **Order by email** by sending a message to SudSavTix@aol.com. Include your ticket choices, and your name, address, and phone number, and your tickets will be held at the box office until ten minutes before show time. **Order from the web** by visiting our web site at www.sudburysavoyards.org; click on the link to “buy tickets” from there or via the *Charlie Brown* page. Web ticketing uses the PayPal on-line payment system. There is a \$2 per order charge, regardless of the number of tickets purchased.

How can you help a Summer Show?

While the cast cavorts about on the stage, a crew of a couple of dozen other folks are running lights, handling props, selling tickets and leading patrons to their seats, and all the other activities that surround a fine theater experience. Would you like to be one of those people? We're always in need of spare hands to help keep

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the show running. If you can help in any way, from ushering for a performance or two, or donating baked goods for concession snacks, or working on the stage crew, get in touch with one of our Producers, John Gorgone (johngorgone@comcast.net) and Sharon Kivnik (skivnik@rcn.com).

Board of Trustees

The Sudbury Savoyards operate under the direction of a seven member Board of Trustees, each member of which serves a two year term. Trustees are chosen by the membership at the general membership meeting held during the run of the mainstage show in the Winter. Completing their terms and leaving the Board this year were **Ed Fell** and **Laurel Martin**. **Andrea Roessler** was re-elected to a second term. Newly elected Trustees are **Jon Saul** and **John Gorgone**. Continuing Trustees are **Ellen Simmons**, **June McKnight**, and **Pat Kinney**. Soon after the election, trustee **Lin Olsen** found it necessary to resign her seat due to an out-of-state work assignment. The Board appointed **Paul Sliney** to finish out Lin's incomplete term. For the coming year, Ellen steps into the Chair with Jon Saul as Secretary, John Gorgone as Treasurer, and June continuing as Church Liaison. Andrea, Pat, and Paul will serve as Trustees-at-large. Board meetings are open to the membership. Contact any Board member or check the Savoyard web site for meeting schedules.

Yeomen of Regard

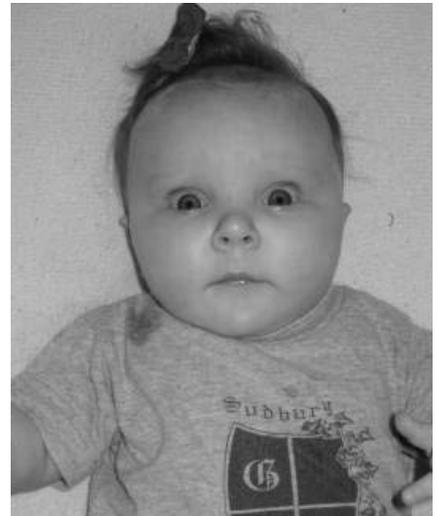
The Sudbury Savoyards' program of service recognition honored current newsletter editor and recent Chairman of the Board of Trustees **Tom Powers** as the 2007 Yeoman of Regard. Archivist **Andrea Roessler** introduced Tom to the membership as this year's Yeoman at the Annual General Meeting held during the run of this past winter's *Iolanthe*. Andrea recounted Tom's 20 year history with the Company, which started with a lunch time run to fetch set pieces and continues to this day with steps in set construction, then design, a few stints as Technical Director, Theater Liaison, a couple of acting roles in Summer Shows, four terms as a Trustee, founder of this newsletter, and one of the guiding forces in the creation of the Yeoman program in 2002. Tom, in turn, addressed the meeting and focused on the community aspects of the Savoyards as a critical factor in making the Company strong and successful.

The Yeomen of Regard program is an ongoing effort to honor Savoyards who have dedicated extraordinary service to the Company. Please see our list of honorees and a more complete description of the program on our web site. The Board of Trustees solicits nominations for Yeomen on a continuing basis. If you would like to suggest a candidate for the honor, send a note identifying yourself, your nominee, and a brief statement of his or her contribution to our Archivist, **Andrea Roessler** at ajr-asid@juno.com.

future Yeomen of Regard?

This space has been somewhat remiss over the last few issues in introducing you to the next generation of Sudbury Savoyards. We remedy that oversight with notices of four young ladies born over the past year or so.

Lily Meifert, daughter of Katherine and Brian Meifert is the eldest of this quartet, born on May 26, 2006. Kira Tringali, daughter of Beth and Scott Tringali, arrived on Sept 10. Maya Eisenstein, daughter of Meryl and Jason Eisenstein, joined older sister Kayla in their family on November 10. The youngest, Danielle Chetwynd, daughter of Kirsten and Brendon Chetwynd, came into the world during our run of *Iolanthe* this year, on February 27, 2007. The older brothers of Lily, Kira, and Danielle (Keith, Alexander, and James, respectively) graced our Spring 2003 issue, debuting the now-traditional Savoyard onesies, modeled here at the right by Danielle. We welcome (apologetically belatedly) our new arrivals and congratulate their families on their good fortune.



Yeomen of the Guard in 2008

Fall will be here before you know it and planning for the Sudbury Savoyards' next big production, *Yeomen of the Guard*, is already underway. The 2008 performances will likely be February 22nd to March 1st. **Producer Andrea Roessler** and **Technical Director Tom Powers** are recruiting for the many staff and designer positions as well as assistants for jobs already filled. Tech staff positions include Costume, Set, Lighting, Makeup, Sound, and Props Design, plus Stage Management and all the crew chief position in those disciplines. Production staff includes Graphic Design, Publicity, Cast Management, Social Chairs, Internal Sales, and Playbill and Advertising Sales. If you have any interest in taking on a Tech or Production Staff role, or if you are interested in working in a discipline in an apprentice role, please email Andrea at producer@sudburysavoyards.org or leave a message on the Savoyards phone at 978-443-8811. Music and Stage Directors will be announced on the website in July or August, along with the dates for the traditional Two-Ring Circus, auditions, and rehearsals, so please keep an eye there for all the important information.

The Sudbury Savoyards 5th Annual

FALL CRAFT FAIR



Saturday October 20, 2007

9:00 to 3:00

Free Admission



Please visit www.sudburysavoyards.org for more details.

Contacting the Sudbury Savoyards

The Savoyards have an active set of email lists and a vibrant, regularly updated web presence (including general and specific contact information) at www.sudburysavoyards.org. If you're not electronically connected, write to us in care of our sponsor, the **Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd., Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776**. You can call the Savoyards' voice message line at **978-443-8811** if you have any questions about any of our activities.