



The
Sudbury Savoyards'
Sandwich Board

Winter 2008 - Vol 13, Number 2

By way of introduction, there's not much more to say: *The Yeomen of the Guard* is on the way, the Sudbury Savoyards' 47th Gilbert and Sullivan production. But while *Yeomen* is presently the focus of the Savoyards' attention (and this issue of the newsletter, of course) there are a few business issues to discuss, and a little news from the local G&S community. We'd like to make sure that *Yeomen* is at least near your focus of attention and tell you all you need to know join us, so read on!

The Yeomen of the Guard

We introduced this year's directorial team for *The Yeomen of the Guard* in our last issue. **Stage Director Paula Moravek** and **Music Director Thomas Dawkins** lead the team, assisted by **Jim Parmentier** and **David Leigh**, respectively. Rehearsals are well under way at this writing, and the directors are instilling their vision into an eager and responsive cast. *The Yeomen of the Guard* has one of the largest cast of leads of all the G&S operettas, so let's elaborate the characters, actors, and plot in one consolidated exposition.

The Yeomen of the Guard, or *The Merryman and His Maid*, is set in Tudor England at the Tower of London. Colonel Fairfax, a gentleman soldier, scholar, and scientist (played by long-time Savoyard **Larry Seiler**) has been falsely accused of the capital crime of sorcery and is to be beheaded in an hour. The accuser is his cousin, who stands to inherit Fairfax's estate if he dies unmarried. Here arrives Elsie Maynard, a pretty but impoverished street busker (played by Savoyard newcomer **Kaori Emery**), hoping to earn enough money to buy medicine for her deathly ill mother. Sir Richard Cholmondeley, Lieutenant of the Tower Warders (**Tyler Haines**), petitions Elsie to marry Fairfax to foil the cousin's nefarious plan. Jack Point (**Dave Leigh**), a strolling jester and Elsie's partner in street performance, encourages her to proceed with the marriage for the sake of the one hundred crowns it will earn them. While Jack professes to love Elsie, Fairfax, after all, will be dead in an hour, and the marriage will be moot. Elsie agrees, and exits, blindfolded, to marry the condemned man.

Other plots are afoot as well. Sergeant Meryll (**Tony Parkes**) and his daughter Phoebe (**Rebecca Haines**) and son Leonard (**Brad Amidon**), each of whom love and respect Fairfax for their own and separate reasons, together arrange for his escape from the Tower. Phoebe, pretending affection for Head Jailer and Assistant Tormentor Wilfred Shadbolt (**Mike Bromberg**), steals the jailer's keys and passes them to her father, who

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frees Fairfax and disguises him as Leonard, who happens to be a newly-appointed Yeoman, but not known by sight to anyone else in the Guard. The Tower Warders and general community are thrown into an uproar when the escape is discovered just as the execution is to occur. Elsie, now married to the missing Fairfax, a man she has never seen (and who has never seen her, since she was still blindfolded during their wedding), is thrown into emotional confusion. Jack is thrown into despair. Confused by it all are Yeomen and Citizens (**Jon Saul, Ed Fell, John Gorgone, and Peter Welsh**), Housekeeper to the Tower Dame Carruthers (**Laura Schall Gouillart**), and her niece Kate (**Graham Daley**).

In traditional Gilbertian style, the play ends (mostly) happily. Fairfax's cousin's perfidy is thwarted, and the major characters are paired into the (perhaps) predictable marriages. Only the unfortunate Jack Point is frustrated in his love for Elsie. In the end, he lies crumpled on the stage, alone and broken-hearted, in what many in the audience will take to be his final street performance.

To highlight the drama of the title characters, the Yeomen themselves, and emphasize Sullivan's enhanced choral scoring, our production this year features a double chorus. Our Chorus of Yeomen consists of **Randy Divinski, David Fleischmann-Rose, Marcia Goldensher, Walt Howe, Neil McCormick, Jim Miller, Ellen Simmons, and Ted Sullivan**. Our Chorus of Gentlemen, Citizens, etc. is made up of **David Baldwin, Sheldon Brown, Janice Dallas, Beth Fowler, Ruth Griesel, Fred Hughes, Rollin Jeglum, Bill Johnson, Rich Olsen, Mei-Lin Po, Tom Porcher, Karen Powers, Nancy Powers, Heather Sliney, Erin VanSpeybroeck, and Marla Zucker**.

Yeomen offers its audiences some of Sullivan's finest music, both martial and delicate, and some of Gilbert's sharpest satire, in puns and one-line gag jokes. All this wit and emotional turmoil, with its tales of love, sacrifice, and joy, is made more powerful by being set against a background of prison walls, torture chambers, and executions. With *The Yeomen of the Guard* Gilbert reached far beyond a topsy-turvy world, with "jibes and jokes and jollity," and cleared a space for us to share some deep and serious emotions. Would we risk selling our love for "an hundred crowns?" Do we change our emotional clothing when we encounter new worlds and people? Would we contemplate marriage to an "assistant tormentor?" And have we ever wondered if "Phoebe's heart is the same as Phoebe's hand?" Be sure not to miss this lovely and emotionally stirring production by the Sudbury Savoyards, coming to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School stage February 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, and March 1.

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 Thursday 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 Yeomen of the Guard* at **8:00PM Friday, February 22nd; Saturday, February 23rd; Thursday, February 28th; Friday, February 29th; and Saturday March 1st**. with matinee performances at **2:00PM on Sunday, February 24th and Saturday, March 1st**. All performances will be presented in the Rogers-Kirschner Auditorium at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts.

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

Tickets good for any performance are \$20 for adult general admission, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$12 for children under 12; Thursday night discount tickets are \$12 for all age groups.

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 Yeomen 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 Thursday 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 \$3 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.

It's Never Too Late to Get Involved!

The Grand Scale of the Savoyards' productions require many more hands than the forty or so players on stage and nearly thirty musicians in the pit. We use technical and house crews of twenty or more people, helping with makeup, costuming, props, concessions, and more. The Savoyards produce spectacles rare among community theater organizations. We are always in need of last-minute help, sometimes ushers and box office staff in the house, or perhaps backstage help. If there's any part you'd like to play, contact **Producer Andrea Roessler** at ajr-asid@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 1, 2008, between the matinee and evening performances of *Yeomen*. A major item of business at the annual meeting is election of Trustees for the 2008 to 2010 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.

While the Annual Membership Meeting is the once-a-year convening of all available Savoyards, the Board of Trustees operates year-round, coordinating the various activities and maintaining governance of the Company. The Board meets roughly monthly, and meetings are generally open to any Savoyard. Minutes of Board meetings are available by subscription, and will soon be archived on the Savoyard web site. If you would like to follow the Board's activities, go to www.sudburysavoyards.org and click on "email the Secretary" on the "Contacts" page and indicate your interest in receiving the minutes.

2008 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 2008. 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 *Yeomen* playbill, with audition dates in

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April or May and planned production for two or three weekends in July/August. Look for the announcement at the show, or keep an eye on our web site for the latest information.

2009: Utopia, Limited

The Board of Trustees of the Sudbury Savoyards has selected Gilbert and Sullivan's *Utopia, Limited* as the company's 48th main stage production, to be presented in winter/spring of 2009. Directors' interviews will be held in June of this year. Other senior staff recruiting will begin soon, and interested candidates are encouraged to contact the Board through any of our contact addresses.

HMS Pinafore at FOPAC

The Gilbert and Sullivan community in this area is active and broadly based. We have the opportunity to direct you to an upcoming presentation by our colleagues at The Friends for Performing Arts in Concord. FOPAC will be presenting *HMS Pinafore* in a concert format with costumed leads, a full orchestra, and as many chorus members as care to sign on. Lead auditions will have been held by the time this reaches you, but there may be openings in the chorus for fans familiar with the operetta. The performances are a benefit to support renovation and upkeep of 51 Walden, where the event will occur. Performance dates are April 5th and 6th. For more information, contact FOPAC at 978-369-7911

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.