



The Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board

Spring/Summer 2009 - Vol 14, Number 3

We could hardly have had a more appropriate G&S piece to accompany last winter's financial news than *Utopia, Limited*. What could happen in the world that would echo *Princess Ida's* focus on women's education? We'll have to wait until next February to see! Meanwhile, there's a classic Summer Show to take in, and the 4th of July parade, and a Craft Fair in the Fall. We hope your Summer leaves you time to be able to join us in the fun now, while we also look to the Fall and beyond.

Utopia, Limited

The Savoyards are unique among area community theater organizations. Large-scale productions such as ours are seldom to be found among such groups. Focused as we are on just the collaborations of Gilbert and Sullivan, it is important that we take advantage of all of the thirteen extant operas of that collection. The Savoyards "went deep" (as they say in radio) this past winter with one of the more rarely-performed entries from the canon. The rarely-performed pieces offer groups the opportunity to break out of "standard" modes and G&S cliches. Stage Director **Ed Knights** and Set Designer **Shahn Knights** concentrated on South Seas flamboyance, and Music Director **Kathryn Denney** kept the cast and orchestra pepped up to match. The results were a rousing presentation of *Utopia, Limited*. It was a very timely presentation indeed, considering its theme of fiscal manipulation and corporate chicanery and its coincidence with the breaking news at the time of our own global financial distress. As for our finances, the production netted a donation of \$3000 for the United Methodist Committee on Relief for use in world-wide efforts to reduce hunger. As usual, our thanks go out to all our supporters: on stage, behind the stage, and (of course!) in the audience.

Our Town

You probably read it in high school. You may have seen the news a few years ago when it returned to Broadway, with Paul Newman in the role of the Stage Manager. It is perhaps the most classic of classic twentieth century American stage plays. Penned by Thornton Wilder in 1937 and first staged in early 1938, when it won a Pulitzer Prize, *Our Town* is the story of life in the fictitious small farming community of Grover's Corner, New Hampshire at the turn of the twentieth century. The story centers on the members of the Gibbs and Webb families, their relationships within and between their families and their community, and the change of generations as the children grow and the adults pass their responsibilities along to them.

Our Town is famous, or perhaps infamous, for its dismissal of standard theatrical convention. As written, the play is to be performed on a near-empty stage, with no true set and few props, with the actors miming the existence of

these elements. The character of the Stage Manager is a part-time participant in the stage action and part-time narrator, addressing the audience directly. Our production conserves these aspects of the play, but modernizes some elements to make the a central message of the play - to live in the moment - more immediate to modern audiences. The audience becomes part of the Grover's Corner community.

The Savoyards' production of *Our Town* is being directed by **Ed Knights**. Ed was most recently the stage director for this past Winter's production of *Utopia, Limited*, and he also directed two previous Savoyard Summer Shows, 2005's *The Matchmaker* (also written by Thornton Wilder) and 2007's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Our Town has perhaps the largest cast yet assembled for a Savoyard Summer Show. Leading the cast are **Kathy Lague** as the Stage Manager, **John Gorgone** as Charles Webb, **Gianna Sardella** as Myrtle Webb, **Brian Schimpf** as Frank Gibbs, **Janet Tyndall** as Julia Webb, **Stephen Sacchetti** as George Gibbs and **Amelia Estrada** as Emily Webb. Completing the cast as other family members and other residents of Grover's Corner are **Debbie Crane**, **Kathryn Denney**, **Randy Divinsky**, **Frank Harrigan**, **Barbara Johnson**, **Jake Kinney**, **Pat Kinney**, **Mike Lague**, **Laurel Martin**, **Neil McCormick**, **Andrea Roessler**, **Marcus Sardella**, **Marianna Sardella**, **Ellen Simmons**, and **Don Williams**. You may recognize many of these names as long-time Savoyards, and, as usual, we welcome many new Savoyards to our summer production as well.

Times, dates, and tickets....

The Savoyards are pleased to present *Our Town* in six performances over the two weekends of July 24 to August 1 at the **Curtis Middle School, 22 Pratt's Mill Road, Sudbury**. (Directions are available on our web site.) Our evening performances will be on **Friday, July 24; Saturday, July 25; Friday, July 31; and Saturday, August 1**, all at 8:00pm; our matinees will be on **Sunday, July 26 and Saturday, August 1**, both at 2:00pm. 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 performance and ticket choices and payment, to *Our Town* Tickets, 9 Marlboro Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776. A ticket order form is available on our web site. **Reserve by phone** by calling 978-443-8811. **Order by email** by sending a message to tickets@sudburysavoyards.org. 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 "tickets" from there or via the *Our Town* page. Web ticketing uses the PayPal on-line payment system. There is a \$3 per order charge, regardless of the number of tickets purchased.

Our Town- July 24 to August 1, 2009 - Sudbury's Curtis Middle School!
tickets and info: 978-443-8811 - tickets on the web: www.sudburysavoyards.org