



Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board

Fall 2010 - Vol 16, Number 1

The milestone is here! 2011 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Sudbury Savoyards, and we're going to make a big deal of it! The Savoyards are preparing for their fiftieth Gilbert and Sullivan production with the double bill of *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*. As usual, the season starts with a party! But first there is a little recapping of the past year, with our summer show and our honors for last year's Big Show. Welcome back, and thanks for reading!

Year in Review: *On Golden Pond & Princess Ida*

Last winter's offering of *Princess Ida* continued the Savoyards' string of high-quality, large-scale light opera performance. The production resulted in a \$4000 donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, presented to SUMC in July. Three Savoyards were also recognized by the Eastern Massachusetts Association of Community Theatres (EMACT) as part of their annual program honoring Distinguished Achievement. **Grace Field** and **Dennis O'Brien** were nominated for "Best Actress in a Musical" and "Best Supporting Actor in a Musical," respectively, for their performances in *Princess Ida*. In addition, **Rich Olsen** was nominated for "Best Sound Design in a Musical." Each nomination was one of six in its category from a field of more than fifty musicals judged in the 2009-2010 theater year. While none of our nominees won, a nomination is an honor in itself. Our congratulations go out to Grace, Dennis, and Rich.

Our summer production this year, *On Golden Pond*, introduced five new actors and a new director to Savoyard audiences, and cleared over \$1200 to be earmarked for world hunger relief through UMCOR. Congratulations to our wonderful summer team, and thanks to all, especially our summer audiences!

Fifty Years of Fantastic Musical Theater!

Our regular patrons know the story well, as it is recounted in every one of our big show programs: "In 1961, as a means of raising money for the new church buildings then under construction, a group of Sudbury Methodists decided to put on a production of *Trial by Jury*. Staged in the parish hall and costumed largely with choir robes, this was the beginning of a group soon to be christened The Sudbury Savoyards..." The Savoyards have grown as a group in many ways: geographically, theatrical production skills, breadth of program, and more. We remain an arm of the Sudbury United Methodist Church, and our work is still all-volunteer and fully dedicated to charity, to the tune of more than \$185,000 in donations over the past thirty years or so. This coming year, the Savoyards turn fifty years old (and some of the original Savoyards of 1961 are still with us!).

Plans for Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations and commemorations are well under way. Check with the Savoyard web site **or our fiftieth anniversary Facebook page** at www.facebook.com/sudburysavoyards50th for news about the members' cookbook, the reunion dinner during our winter production in February, and the full weekend of commemorative events on May 14 and 15. There's far more planned than can be recounted here! We want to involve as many in our community as possible, whether you've ever been an active Savoyard or not.

Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore in 2011

Trial by Jury is the oldest surviving operatic collaboration of Gilbert and Sullivan and *HMS Pinafore* is one the three pieces most often recognized as a G&S work. These two pieces make a fine pair, each short enough to not overwhelm the other, but providing a complement of short, focused plot (*Trial*) and the more complex and convoluted story of love and station (*Pinafore*). The two shows together provide an excellent opportunity for both leads and chorus to dabble in multiple personalities by participating in one combined production. The double bill was last presented by the Savoyards in 1998, and once before that, in 1974. *Trial* was the founding piece of the Savoyards, in 1961, and is commemorated now on the fiftieth anniversary of the Company.

Our directorial team consists of two long-standing veterans of Savoyard productions and one newcomer. **Steve Malioneck** takes the podium again, as Music Director for both operettas. **Kathy Lague** is the Stage Director for *Pinafore*, and **Joe Stallone** makes his Sudbury Savoyard debut as Stage Director for *Trial*. As is our habit in this newsletter, we give our directors a chance to entice potential auditioners with their visions of the pieces in question and to pique the rest of our readers with a preview of what they'll be seeing in our February and March performances. So...

from Music Director Steve:

What a great moment in Savoyard history our Fiftieth Anniversary! It is truly an honor to be directing these two wonderful operettas in this historic season. *Trial By Jury* is a short but thoroughly entertaining piece set in a courtroom as the jilted Angelina sues Edwin for breach of promise of marriage. It is the only Gilbert and Sullivan operetta in which there is no dialogue, just 35 minutes of one delightful tune after another (and quite a workout for the conductor!). Its short length makes it impractical to stage alone. But, luckily there are a few of the operettas that are short enough to enable it to be performed in a double bill. *HMS Pinafore* is one of these, and how appropriate it is to present one of the most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas during our Anniversary year. Musically it presents many tunes that will be quite well known to our audiences, from the rousing opening of "We sail the ocean blue" to "For he is an Englishman" as the show closes. The Sudbury Savoyards began with a performance of *Trial By Jury* in 1961. We now recreate the moment in 2011. Combined with *HMS Pinafore*, what a great evening of Gilbert and Sullivan!

from Stage Director Kathy:

HMS Pinafore is one of Gilbert and Sullivan's gems and one of my personal favorites. As one of their first full-length productions, they were still establishing their unique style of farce and drama, accompanied by great music. It is still fresh today, 132 years after its premiere. In other G&S productions, I've had to make a conscious effort to make the story "relevant" to make it "accessible" to modern audiences. Not so with *Pinafore* – it's just fun!

The story concerns itself with class struggles, but only in a personal way. Josephine and her father love "below their station," while Ralph and Buttercup love above their prescribed status in life. Everyone understands this system, and there is quite a bit of complicit snobbery – but it may surprise you to see who the biggest snobs are. There is a "nature vs. nurture" undercurrent as well. As Buttercup says, "Things are seldom what they seem," and perhaps people cannot escape or deny the station they were born into. In Gilbert's world, however, that's not a bad thing, and it all works out in the end as it should.

Potential choristers should note that *Pinafore* was written at the time when Britain was at the height of its imperial power, and the British sailor was a force to be reckoned with. There was no greater compliment than to declare that "he is an Englishman," and the men's chorus will reflect that in their "customary attitude." The women's chorus consists of Sir Joseph's sisters, cousins, and aunts. The aunts act as chaperones, the sisters as dutiful followers, and most of the cousins are along for the ride. A few definitely need the ever-watchful eye of the aunts when they're around sailors!

***Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore* – Auditions November 15-17, 2010
details and info: 978-443-8811 & www.sudburysavoyards.org**

All in all, a fun show with lots to do for both leads and chorus. I'm looking forward to it – hope you all are as well!

and from Stage Director Joe:

A comic opera in one act, *Trial by Jury* concerns a “breach of promise of marriage” lawsuit brought by Angelina against Edwin, who seems to have left her standing at the altar – bridesmaids, trousseau, and all. But is her complaint really about lost love... or is her eye trained on the monetary damages to be awarded and the notoriety to be gained? Is Edwin just a cad, or are his actions justifiable and reasonable, dictated by man’s nature?

The action takes place in a British Court of Law – wigs and all – presided over by The Learned Judge, with the court’s Usher, the Jurymen, and a Barrister for the defense. The Bridesmaids and The Public look on and comment in full voice as the merits of Angelina’s case and Edwin’s behavior are presented and argued.

This short opera is a fun-for-all production, with great roles for everyone - leads, supporting roles, a women’s ensemble, a men’s ensemble, and full chorus. You are hereby summoned to Court! Join in the fun and help move this lawsuit to its inevitable resolution – a great time and happy ending for all.

Auditions for *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*

Auditions will be held in Hawes Hall at the Sudbury United Methodist Church on Monday and Tuesday, November 15 and 16, beginning at 7:30. Callbacks and readings will be held on Wednesday, November 17. If you are interested in a lead role, please prepare a song (one verse only) in English, and bring sheet music or a score for the accompanist. We will be listening to everyone sing on Monday and Tuesday. Dialogue readings will be done at callbacks on Wednesday. Major lead roles will be cast as if the double bill were a single show – two different sopranos will do the roles of Josephine/Angelina, two different tenors for Edwin/Ralph, etc. Minor leads may be cast less restrictively, at the directors’ discretion. Leads in one show are more than welcome (indeed, strongly encouraged!) to participate in the chorus of the other show.

If you are interested in being in just the chorus (which remains open to all), you may elect to be in either or both shows, but you must come on Monday or Tuesday to register and participate in some movement exercises so the directors can better plan show blocking. Vocal scores will be available for one-night loan or purchase.

Please refer to our website at www.sudburysavoyards.org for directions to SUMC, character sketches, vocal ranges, and other information, or call 978-443-8811 and leave a message with any questions.

New (again)! Changes to the Performance Schedule

Because of scheduling conflicts at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School during our run, the Sudbury Savoyards’ production of *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore* will run for six performances and one preview over two *non-consecutive weekends*, February 24-27 and March 11-12. The weekend of March 4-6 will be dark for our purposes, though there will be a mid-week brush-up rehearsal during each post-opening week in March. The full rehearsal and performance schedule is posted on the Savoyard web site, and will be available at auditions.

The 2-Ring Kicks Off the Season Again!

The best way to kick off the Savoyard year is with a party. The 2-Ring extravaganza is the traditional opportunity for Savoyards to meet old friends and welcome new ones. The focus is on the Big Show, the double bill of *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*. The directors will reveal their plans for the show, the designers will have outlines of their concepts, and there will be a sing-through of both shows.

This year’s 2-Ring will again be held at the home of **Tom and Nancy Powers**, 201 Union Ave in Sudbury, on Sunday, November 7, starting at 7:30pm. Experienced Savoyards, Bring Something To Share, including a friend who might need an introduction to the Savoyards’ brand of community theater. Newcomers (even unaccompanied) are welcome!

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 our web site you will find two forms. One is for advertisers in our *Trial by Jury/HMS Pinafore* 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. In addition, this year we are seeking sponsorship or other donations to support our Fiftieth Anniversary activities as the Savoyards head into their second fifty years. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sudbury Savoyards
Sudbury United Methodist Church
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