



Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board

Winter 2011 - Vol 16, Number 2

We have so much we need to tell you this season that we're back to our former large-scale newsletter to fit it all in! This is it, the long-anticipated Fiftieth Anniversary of Gilbert and Sullivan on a Grand Scale, Savoyard-style. As the tale has oft been told in our big show playbills, fifty years ago, in 1961, a group of Sudbury Methodists donned choir robes and performed *Trial by Jury* as a fundraiser for SUMC construction. We reprise that show this year, coupled with another G&S favorite, *HMS Pinafore*, in a production considerably larger than that staged so long ago.

We're still in it for charity, however, and we are nearing total donations in relief of world hunger of \$200,000. We hope you can help us reach that goal this year. But enough for the intro - there are details galore in this issue, about the show, its unusual schedule this year, and the magnificent festival weekend we have planned for May to focus on fifty years of Art, Charity, and Community. We're glad you're with us, and hope you can find the time to sample everything we have planned for this special year.

Fifty years of presenting Gilbert and Sullivan "on a Grand Scale"



Yes, the Sudbury Savoyards celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2011! Our winter production will be a double bill of *Trial by Jury*, the first G&S show presented by the group that eventually became the Sudbury Savoyards, paired with *HMS Pinafore*.

The production previews with a public Dress Rehearsal performance on February 24th, and formally opens on Friday the 25th, but the wider anniversary celebration kicks off on Sunday, February 27th with a Reunion Brunch at the Marlborough Country Club, for past and present members to gather and reminisce. That will be followed by the Matinee performance at a special, later time of 3:00pm, when we will feature guest speaker Mr. Royston Nash, conductor of the D'Oyly Carte Company orchestra from 1971 to 1979. Reservations are required for the brunch, and a brunch/matinee ticket combination is available. For more information, please visit the website or leave a message on the info line.

To help celebrate our long and glorious history, the Savoyards have arranged with Sudbury's Community Access Cable TV system to broadcast recordings of past Savoyard productions. FiOS subscribers in eastern Massachusetts can get Sudbury Community access on channel 31, and Comcast subscribers in Sudbury on channel 8. The recordings are available in streaming format to anywhere on the web. Check schedule and availability at www.sudburytv.org.

The 50th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook, featuring favorite recipes submitted by Savoyards near and far, will be first available in the Lobby Shoppe during the performances. Individual copies will be \$12 with an introductory show special of two for \$20. Email cookbook@sudburysavoyards.org to reserve your copies.

The weekend of May 14th and 15th will be the 50th anniversary Festival Weekend at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. Hawes Hall will be turned into a museum, with 50 years of memorabilia on display and many commemorative items available for purchase in the Savoyard Shoppe.

Teams of Savoyards will present numerous programs during the weekend, including Musical Vignettes of "Patter Songs," "Madrigals," and "Parodies;" a G&S Retrospective written and presented by Tony Parkes; and Panel Discussions including "Behind the Scenes of the Sudbury Savoyards on a Grand Scale."

Keynote Speaker Royston Nash will address the Festival on Saturday afternoon, with an intimate Q&A reception to follow.

Kathryn Denney will direct a Savoyard chorus in "Places, Please," a concert version of selections from various Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, on Saturday evening. David C. Larrick will direct a Company Sing-Along on Sunday afternoon, co-sponsored by the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS). Further information about participating will be on the website soon and all are welcome to attend.

A commemorative video has been in preparation for much of the past year and will be premiered during the festival weekend. It includes slides donated by the family of Warren Colson, musical recordings from many of the Savoyards' earlier productions, backstage and company photos from across the years, video clips from more recent productions, and stories from notable Savoyards from all eras.

A "Discovery Room" will be available for the entertainment of younger Savoyards.

The Savoyards will present their annual donation check during the Sunday, May 15th church service at SUMC. Since the late 1970s all net proceeds of Savoyard activities have been donated to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, nominally for "relief of world hunger," though UMCOR's relief efforts are far more comprehensive than that. To date, the Savoyards have donated over \$185,000 to this worthy cause.

The weekend of festivities is free to all to attend, but donations to support the celebration are greatly appreciated. A printed commemorative program will include the names of our valued patrons and serve as a memento of our celebratory weekend. All proceeds will continue to be donated to UMCOR with the hope of reaching the goal of \$200,000 during our 50th anniversary year.

There are a great many "Missing Members" that we would like to find in order to invite them to join the celebrations. There are also a number of deceased members who are "Gone But Not Forgotten." Please visit the 50th Anniversary Page on the website and check these lists to see if you can help us find lost or departed members.

If you are wondering why you suddenly received this newsletter, it may be because we finally found you! If you would prefer not to receive mailings in the future just let us know and we will remove your name from the mailing list. Please don't become a missing member. If you have a mailing or email address change, or even a seasonal mailing address, please let us know so we can update our lists.

Please visit www.sudburysavoyards.org for further information about the 50th Anniversary Celebration as it becomes available, and visit our 50th Anniversary Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sudburysavoyards50th, or contact Andrea Roessler, Archivist & 50th Committee Chair, at 508-628-9772 or archivist@sudburysavoyards.org.

Trial ^B ^J Jury

Trial by Jury is the oldest and shortest of the surviving Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas. It is the only one-act piece, and the only one that fits the classic definition of "opera," in that it has no spoken dialog - all the words are sung. Wordsmith Gilbert was a lawyer by

training, and he aims his satirical pen at those who would twist the legal system to their own ends, be they plaintiffs, defendants, or the judiciary itself. In *HMS Pinafore* that same pen jibes those whose rank derives from the good-ole-boy network as opposed to merit and effort.

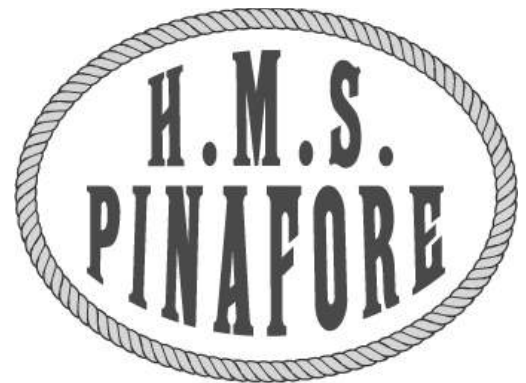
Our directorial staff is expanded for the double bill. Music Director **Steve Malione** leads our superb 28-piece orchestra for both shows. Stage Director **Kathy Lague** directs *HMS Pinafore*, and Stage Director **Joe Stallone** makes his Savoyard debut to direct *Trial by Jury*. The directors, being directors, always have personal views about the art they are helping to create. Thus Kathy and Joe reveal a bit of what's in store for the audience in hopes that you'll find their visions enticing.

Kathy: *HMS Pinafore* is one of Gilbert and Sullivan's gems and a personal favorite of mine. The cast and crew has been working very hard to get everything "ship-shape" for our production and we are ready to "set sail!" (Ok enough with the wordplay.)

With a cast of 56, our stage will be full; we are perhaps one of the few productions of *Pinafore* that actually can reckon the cousins up by dozens! We have quite the crew of strong and sober sailors as well, and our lead actors are wonderful.

The story we have to tell is a story of class conflict, but only on a personal level. Josephine and her father love "below their station," while Ralph and Buttercup love above their prescribed status in life. In 19th century England, everyone understood this system and there was quite a bit of complicit snobbery; but there was also 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. That would normally be a problem, but not for Gilbert - he always finds a way to make it work out well. We look forward to seeing you in the audience!

Joe: *Trial by Jury* was a big hit and huge success in 1875 - and will be again in 2011! A bit of a wild card, this gem has fast become my favorite G&S piece. This operetta reveals social hypocrisy, exposes mankind's baser



nature, and brings about the ridiculous and the raucous. And all with great music! One of our cast captured the essence of it perfectly: “A G&S version of Jerry Springer, but with nicer language!” There’s lots of action in this nearly-40 minute entertainment. The very talented cast and crew have been hard at work. No setbacks – including snow storms – can seem to set them back, meeting each “trial” with determination and creativity. The courtroom will be packed to capacity with a cast of 40 in full voice, costume, and make-up.

Taking place in a British Court of Law – wigs and all – the story of *Trial by Jury* concerns a lawsuit for “breach of promise of marriage” 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 Bridesmaids and The Public look on and comment at full voice as the merits of Angelina’s case and Edwin’s behaviour are debated and argued. Just when it seems there is no fair resolution to this case and we find ourselves in a “fine dilemma,” the Judge comes up with the solution... and you’ll have to come see the show if you want to know what happens!

Our casts...

Two shows lead to two overlapping casts. The Savoyards have always attracted superbly talented folks to our productions, and this year is no exception. While two shows provide an excellent audience experience, it’s also quite a good draw for performers as well. You’ll see from the lists below that many of the leads in one show are also members of the chorus in the other. You can be sure that these folks are determined to show you a good time.

<i>Trial by Jury</i>		<i>HMS Pinafore</i>	
The Learned Judge	Dennis O'Brien	Sir Joseph Porter	Ben Morse
Angelina	Catherine Lee Christie	Captain Corcoran	Tom Frates
Edwin	Peter Boettcher	Ralph Rackstraw	Bill Kuhlman
Counsel for the Plaintiff	Ed Fell	Dick Deadeye	Mike Bromberg
Usher	Art Dunlap	Boatswain's Mate	Mike Lague
Foreman of the Jury	Tony Parkes	Carpenter's Mate	Dave Kay
Jurymen	Jamieson Cobleigh, Randy Divinski, John Gorgone, Larry Millner, Peter Welsh	Josephine	Diana Doyle
Chorus of Bridesmaids	Graham Daley, Marylee Marsh, Karen Powers, Lauren Robbins, Kerry Teman, Jenn Woodward	Cousin Hebe	Ann Ferentz
		Little Buttercup	Kathleen Larson Day

Our wonderful chorus members are **Brad Amidon, David Baldwin, Peter Boettcher, Marilyn Carr, Phyllis Clopper, Jamieson Cobleigh, Janie Cron, Graham Daley, Janice Dallas, Randy Divinski, Art Dunlap, Thomas Durgin, Meryl Eisenstein, Susan Elberger, Erinn Farmer, Ed Fell, Janine Gauntt, Lissa Gilbert, Sophie Glasser, Marcia Goldensher, Beth Goldstein, John Gorgone, Jane Graham, Fred Hughes, Bill Johnson, Barbara Johnson, Susannah Kay, Alessandra Kingsford, Eleni Kisty, Dave Lopshire, Marylee Marsh, Laurel Martin, Neil McCormick, Larry Millner, Dennis O'Brien, Rich Olsen, Tom Ostrowski, Tony Parkes, Mei-Lin Po, Tom Porcher, Karen Powers, Nancy Powers, Jon Saul, Susan Schultz, Ellen Simmons, Kerry Teman, Erin Van Speybroeck, Katy Weeks, Peter Welsh, and Marla Zucker.**

Open Ticketing Continues, by friend, phone, mail, email, or on the Web

The Sudbury Savoyards are pleased to present Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Trial by Jury* in a double bill with *HMS Pinafore* at **8:00pm on Thursday, February 24th, Friday the 25th, Saturday the 26th; Friday, March 11th and Saturday March 12th**, with matinee performances at **3:00pm on Sunday, February 27th and 2:00pm Saturday, March 12th**. Note that the two matinees start at slightly different times. All performances will be presented in the Rogers-Kirschner Auditorium at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Note that our production will be running over split weekends: February 24th to the 27th and March 11th and 12th. The Savoyards WILL NOT be performing during the weekend of March 4th and 5th, when Linclon-Sudbury Regional High School will be hosting a district music festival.

Tickets good for any performance are \$22 for adult general admission, \$17 for seniors and students, and \$12 for children under 12; Thursday night (February 24th) Dress Rehearsal tickets are \$15 for all adult age groups, and \$12 for children under 12. All tickets are for general admission seating. Lincoln-Sudbury high school is handicapped accessible and all parking is free.

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 **Trial/Pinafore Tickets, 279 Captain Eames Circle, Ashland, MA 01721-3916**. 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 Dress Rehearsal. The Savoyards again offer web-based ticket purchasing. Go to www.sudburysavoyards.org and click on the "Tickets" link. 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 12th 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.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Sudbury Savoyards will be held at the Sudbury United Methodist Church on March 12th between the matinee and evening performances of *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*.

The principal activities of the Annual Meeting are recognition of the participants of the current production and election of Trustees for the coming year. **This year a by-law change will also be voted on by the membership.** Details of the change will be posted on the web site for membership review.

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 monthly, and meetings are generally open to any Savoyard. Minutes of Board meetings are available by subscription, and are archived on the Savoyard web site. If you would like to follow the Board's activities, go to www.sudburysavoyards.org and click on "Board Meeting Minutes" on the home page and indicate your interest in receiving the minutes.

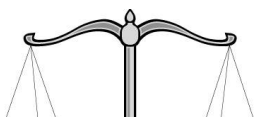
2012: *Ruddigore*

The Board of Trustees of the Sudbury Savoyards has selected *Ruddigore* (or *The Witches Curse*) as the Company's winter 2012 production. Last produced by the Savoyards in 2000, this show is most famous for the special effect of the portraits of the ancestors of the current Baronet of Ruddigore coming to life to condemn their heir. Directors and senior staff will be recruited in coming months, and interested candidates are encouraged to contact the Board by telephone or email at their earliest convenience.

Sudbury Savoyards
Sudbury United Methodist Church
251 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

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Trial by Jury and HMS Pinafore - February 24-27 & March 11-12, 2011
details and info: 978-443-8811 & www.sudburysavoyards.org

