



Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board

Fall 2012 - Vol 18, Number 1

A new season begins for the Savoyards, and it's time to start work on the 2013 Big Show, *The Gondoliers*. This is a great show for a large cast, with more than the usual number of lead roles and lots of exciting dancing and production numbers. As usual, we start our report with a brief recap of our summer activities, which this year were a reprise of an old attraction and a totally new opportunity that came to us.

Our Summer Vacation

This summer the Sudbury Savoyards celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Savoy Club with a weekend of cabaret-style entertainment. **David Larrick**, the originator of the Summer Show (*Charley's Aunt* in 1996) and guiding force behind our first variety event in 2001 returned as Master of Ceremonies. Anchored by a fully-staged production of *Cox and Box* under the direction of **Steve Malione** and **Kathy Lague**, the two evenings were filled with a wide assortment of acts showcasing the talents and abilities of Savoyards, their friends, and family members. Some of the featured acts included stories, comic poems, and a musical quiz. Friday night saw music across the range of Bartok, Purcell, and Tom Lehrer, along with a choral medley of TV theme songs. Saturday saw music from future Savoyards, and the Original Shepherds Pie Dixieland Band rocked the hall. It was a delightful return to this format, and we shouldn't need to wait 10 years to see it again!

August saw a visit from touring members of the British theater company Opera Comique. This is a group performing the works of Gilbert and Sullivan in order to raise money for charitable purposes – sound familiar? Led by their director and founder **Kevin Sivy** and hosted by the Savoyards, they joined forces with us to present a concert performance of *HMS Pinafore* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. The Savoyards were ably prepared by **Katherine Engel Meifert** and **Roberta Sutter**. The various lead roles were taken by members from both companies, and the concert, held on a warm August afternoon in Hawes Hall, played to a standing-room only audience.

Taken all together, it was a bit of a different summer for the Sudbury Savoyards, but a very successful one. Great thanks go out to all who helped us maintain our summer presence and support the Savoyards' goals.

The Gondoliers in 2013

The Savoyards will present *The Gondoliers, or The King of Barataria* as their 52nd mainstage Gilbert and Sullivan production from February 22 through March 2, 2013. The piece was last presented by the Savoyards in 2001.

The Gondoliers was Gilbert and Sullivan's 12th comic opera, was a rousing success when it opened at the Savoy in 1889, and it has continued to delight audiences ever since. Gilbert was able to sharpen the satirical sword he points at nobility by setting the scene in the fictional country of Barataria. Sullivan's delightful melodies make the show the closest to modern musical comedy of any he wrote. There are dances with a Spanish flare, including the extravagant Cachucha, in which our cast will magically double in size! Our production will highlight Gilbert's farce, and promises to be a rollicking adventure for all.

Our production this year will be led by a pair of veteran Savoyard directors working together as a team for the first time for this production: Stage Director **Ed Knights** and Music Director **Katherine Engel Meifert**. Kate has had numerous lead roles in past Savoyard productions, and was last our Music Director for our 2012 production of *Ruddigore*. Ed directed *Utopia, Limited* in 2009 and our Summer Show, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, in 2007.

Rehearsals will begin on November 26 and run on Mondays and Wednesdays until December 17. Choristers not involved with dance production numbers need not attend the Wednesday rehearsals. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday rehearsals begin in January and run up to production week. Most Wednesday rehearsals are reserved for leads and featured choristers.

Auditions for *The Gondoliers* will be held in Hawes Hall at the Sudbury United Methodist Church at 7:30pm on Monday and Tuesday, November 12 and 13, with callbacks (if needed) on Thursday evening, November 15. Prospective cast members are requested to visit the *Gondoliers* pages on our website at www.sudburysavoyards.org to review character sketches, vocal ranges, the audition process, and where scores for the production can be purchased. There you can also find directions to SUMC. As is our custom, choristers will not be required to audition, but are expected to come to at least one night of auditions to register. Lead auditioners or choristers can call 978-443-8811 and leave a message with any questions.

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 Gondoliers*. 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 the show. This year's 2-Ring will again be held at the home of **Tom and Nancy Powers**, 201 Union Ave in Sudbury, on Sunday, October 28, starting at 7:30pm. Experienced Savoyards, Bring Something To Share, and maybe even a friend who might need an introduction to the Savoyards' brand of community theater. Newcomers (even unaccompanied) are welcome!

Supporting the Savoyards' Work Financially

The Sudbury Savoyards are a 100% volunteer organization. Every penny over expenses goes to relieve world hunger through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. For support, we depend not only on our members' work but also on donations from the community.

Please consider making a donation this year. Just make your check out to "Sudbury Savoyards" with "Donation" in the memo line and mail it to Sudbury Savoyards, c/o Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. Donations received by mid-January will be acknowledged in the show program. If you would like your donation to be acknowledged anonymously or in honor of someone else, just include a note to that effect with your gift.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

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