



The Sudbury Savoyards' Sandwich Board

Winter 2004 - Vol 9, Number 2

Sixty very energetic and excited people stand ready (well, almost ready – they're still in rehearsal as we write and you read this) to sing and dance and act their way into a big good-bye party for our Big Show home for the past 35 years. And the horizon stretches ahead for the Savoyards, as always. Our Summer Season 2004 is in the planning stages, and we even know how we're going to welcome you to our new Big Show home in the soon-to-be-completed new Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School building next year. So to catch up on these items and more, read on.....

The Pirates of Penzance

or, The Slave of Duty

Arguably the best known of the Gilbert and Sullivan collaborations, and the source of what is certainly the most-parodied song in the English language ("I Am the Very Model of a Modern..."), *The Pirates of Penzance* comes to the Kirschner Auditorium at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School for seven performances over the last two weekends in February.

The Sudbury Savoyards' production of *Pirates* features **Dennis O'Brien** as Richard, the Pirate King; **Ben Stevens** as Frederic, his loyal apprentice; **Ed Fell** as Samuel, his right hand man; and **Tambre Tarleton Knox** as Ruth, the poor nursemaid who misheard just one little word. **Tony Parkes** takes the role of Major General Stanley, he of the famous Very Model, and Papa to the bevy of innocent young Daughters, led by **Kathy Lague, Gwenne Lopshire, Sarah Telford, and Nicole Foti** as Mabel, Kate, Edith, and Isabel, respectively. **James Thistlethwaite** takes up the Constabulary Duties to be Done as Edward, the Sergeant of Police.

Our chorus of Daughters, Pirates, and Police consists of Russell Adams, David Baldwin, Deirdre Bergeron, Debbie Crane, Jess Daigneuit, Randy Divinski, Jennifer Healey Dohm, Beth Ducot, Meryl Eisenstein, Ken Gagne, Beth Galano, Cavalyn Galano, Peter Gaunt, Marcia Goldensher, Beth Goldstein, John Gorgone, Ruth Griesel, Cynthia Horn, Fred Hughes, Rollin Jeglum, Molly Johnson, Randi Kestin, Patrick Kinney, David Lopshire, Laurel Martin, Neil McCormick, June McKnight, Patricia McMahan, Lisa Meister, Rich Olsen, David Owen, Roy Paro, Ezra Peisach, Karen Pierce, Matt Pierce, Karen Powers, Nancy Powers, Anne Rollins, Jon Saul, Allie Sebeika, John Snyder, Julie Snyder, Ellen T. Spear, Ted Sullivan, Erin Van Speybroeck, Suzanne White, Sara Williams, Jay Woodruff, T. Skyler Wrench, and Marla Zucker.

Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board - Winter 2004 - 2

Our production is led this year by a new artistic staff. **Emily Snyder**, new to our staff (though not our Company), is our Stage Director, and **Katherine Engel Meifert** takes the baton Music Director. As well-known as *Pirates* is, our directors offer a brief plot synopsis, with a tickle of their twist on how our “Slave of Duty” will address his dilemma.

Avast!

Long before any modern movie star re-popularized swashbuckling, the inimitable Gilbert and Sullivan offered us their best-beloved comic opera, *The Pirates of Penzance*. Replete with gentlemen pirates, cowardly policemen, and a bevy of beautiful maidens, *The Pirate of Penzance*, or *The Slave of Duty* is the story of Frederic, a young man caught between two conflicting worlds and his love for and duty to each.

Along the coast of Cornwall, on the last day of his indenture to the Pirate King, Frederic announces his intent to hunt down and eliminate all pirates once he is free. Saddened but understanding, the soft-hearted pirates, orphans all, bid farewell to Frederic and his nursemaid, Ruth. Once upon the shore, Frederic’s mind turns towards matrimony. Ruth immediately makes a plea for his love, but her garish winsomeness is ruined by the arrival of the wards of Major General Stanley. Seeing their beauty and youthfulness in contrast to Ruth’s age and wiles, Frederic rebukes Ruth and petitions the wards for their hands. Alas! Not one of the wards will have anything to do with an ex-pirate, except for the youngest daughter, Mabel, who sees some good in him. But just as Frederic’s new life seems complete, the pirates reappear with the intent to capture and kidnap all the wards. Fortunately, the Major General himself intervenes, falsely claiming to be an orphan himself. Disheartened but showing their sympathies, the pirates release the Stanleys, all raising a hymn to poetry and parting genteelly.

Frederic, although disapproving of Stanley’s deceit, nevertheless rouses the Major General with the arrival of Frederic’s band of stalwart Cornish policemen—who would all much rather be kind to criminals than in possible fatal pursuit of them. Before Frederic can lead the police against the pirates, however, the Pirate King and Ruth appear, disclosing to Frederic the shocking paradox that by the indenture, Frederic is bound to the Pirate King until his “one-and-twentieth birthday”...and that Frederic was born on leap year day! By the Pirates’ measure, Frederic is but a boy of “five, and a little bit!” Ever the Slave to Duty, Frederic returns to his piratical way of life, but not before securing the affections of Mabel forever. As for Mabel, her own duty is clear: she must continue Frederic’s campaign against the pirates, even if her Frederic is a pirate himself. Unfortunately, the police are not quite as obliging, and it is not until Major General Stanley himself is held at swordpoint by Frederic that the police find the courage to face the pirates. A fight ensues wherein the pirates are successful...until the Sergeant appeals to the pirates’ own sense of duty “to Queen Victoria’s name.” Defeated, the pirates yield. But before they can be incarcerated, Ruth reveals that they are “all noblemen who have gone wrong.” Acquitted then by their birth, the pirates are given the hands of Stanley’s wards, Mabel is reunited with Frederic and everyone joyfully “takes heart.”

The Pirates of Penzance is a rollicking romp, performed by the Sudbury Savoyards on a grand scale and for a great cause. Using a new edition of the *Pirates* score that includes previously unpublished material from the 1880 premiere, including a joke on their wildly popular (and pirated) operetta, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and focusing on the secondary title and the comic *humanness* of the characters, the Sudbury Savoyards’ 2004 production will leave you declaring that this is the way that *Pirates* was meant to be done.

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

Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board - Winter 2004 - 3

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 Pirates of Penzance* at 8:00PM **Friday, February 20th**; **Saturday, February 21st**; **Thursday, February 26th**; **Friday, February 27th**; and **Saturday, February 28th**, with matinee performances at 2:00PM on **Sunday, February 22nd** and **Saturday, February 28th**. All performances will be presented in the Virginia Kirschner Auditorium at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Tickets by phone, mail, or email, and New This Year – Web-based ticket purchasing!

Tickets good for any performance are \$18 for adult general admission, \$14 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children under 12; Thursday night discount tickets are \$10 for all age groups.

But a special deal applies this year only! In commemoration of our near-confluence with Leap Year Day and the paradoxical plot twist that makes *Pirates* what it is, **certifiable Leap Year Babies** (photo ID verifying a birthday of February 29) **will receive Free Admission to the show!**

Order your tickets by phone at 978-443-8811, by **email** to Pirates04Tix@aol.com, or **postal mail** (make checks payable to the Sudbury Savoyards) to Pirates 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.

And new this year, the Savoyards have implemented **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 used for eBay and other web commerce. Tickets are priced as above, but a \$2 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 and orders without payment will be held at the door.

You can also purchase tickets from any participating Savoyard.

Special Donation to UMCOR Presented

The Sudbury Savoyards are a not-for-profit organization, sponsored by the Sudbury United Methodist Church. All the proceeds of our productions are donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, earmarked for the relief of world hunger. Last November, UMCOR made a special plea for donations to cover relief works in progress all around the world. The Savoyards took that opportunity to make our Fall donation in the amount of \$4800, representing the proceeds of our successful Summer Season 2003, which featured our Summer Show, Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, and our summer cabaret, *The Savoy Club*.

Another important source of support for this work is donations from our patrons. Donations to the Savoyards are acknowledged in our program, with levels ranging from "Supporter" (under \$25) to "Angel," for donations over \$250. Please consider adding a donation to your ticket purchase, or contact the Savoyards to inquire about levels of support and program acknowledgement. Thank you.

2004 Sudbury Savoyards Summer Shows

Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board - Winter 2004 - 4

The success of the Sudbury Savoyards' summer productions is well-established. The Board is currently considering proposals for productions for Summer 2004. 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. We anticipate announcing our summer show in our *Pirates* playbill, with audition dates in early April. Look for the announcement at the show, or keep an eye on our web site for the latest information.

2005: *Mikado*

The Board of Trustees of the Sudbury Savoyards has selected Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* as the company's 43rd main stage production, to be presented in winter/spring of 2005. The Savoyards last presented *The Mikado* in 1995. Senior staff recruiting will begin soon. Selection of directors will occur in June of 2004. Interested directorial and senior staff candidates are encouraged to contact the Board through any of our contact addresses, below.

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.



***Pirates of Penzance* – February 20-21-22-26-27-28, 2004**
info and tickets: 978-443-8811 - www.sudburysavoyards.org