

Savoyardage

The Newsletter of the The Madison Savoyards, Ltd.

A Semi-Annual Newsletter Issue #97 - November 2011

**The Pirates of
Penzance**

UW Music Hall

July 20, 21 - 7:30
July 22 - 3:00

July 26, 27, 28 - 7:30
July 29 - 3:00

**How Quaint the
Ways of Paradox!**

First Unitarian
Meeting House

February 10 - 7:30 PM



*Celebrating the 50th
season of Gilbert &
Sullivan in Madison*

Pre-show Dinners

University Club

July 20 & 27

Fridays before per-
formances of *The Pi-
rates of Penzance*

HMS Pinafore

DVD

Our latest release -
Complete performance -
Surround sound

Now available from The
Madison Savoyards and
Amazon



Utopia, Limited

The 2011 *Utopia, Limited* could hardly have been scheduled at a better time. It is one of the least known and seldom produced of the G&S operas and was only done once before, in 1993, by the Savoyards, which marked the 100th anniversary of its first performance. It was scheduled in the early fall of 2010, before the election and long

before the eventful political season that followed. It seemed that prominent figures in politics, government, finance, and business at state and national levels were doing their utmost to create a buzz for *Utopia, Limited*. The British royal family even pitched in by scheduling the wedding of the first, and so far only, British “Princess Zara” for the second Saturday of our run. The audiences thoroughly enjoyed *Utopia* in ways they may not have anticipated: A leading character’s last

Left: *Left to right - Tara-
rara, the Public Explo-
der (Michael Ward)
exercising his
concealed-carry option
for the tools of his
unique trade. Utopia
also has out of control
Supreme Court Justices:
Phantis (Dean
Messerly) and Scaphio
(Don Dexter).*



name begins with “Fitz”, there are two particularly badly behaved Supreme Court justices, using “limited liability” to leave stock holders holding the bag, and perhaps most timely of all, implementing the two party system to perpetuate chaos and gridlock.

One of the reasons *Utopia* is so rarely produced is its large cast. The Savoyards happily welcomed several veterans back to the stage after an absence of too many years. Those included Allisanne Apple as Lady Sophy, William Rosholt as King Paramount, Greg Walters as Sir Edward Corcoran, and Justin Wilder as Mr. Goldbury.

The Pirates of Pen- zance - July 2012

The 50th annual summer production of the Madison Savoyards will be *The Pirates of Penzance*, last



Above: *The “St. James Hall” scene.* Left to right: *Sir Bailey Barre (J. Adam Shelton), Captain Fitzbattleaxe (Ryan McElDowney), Mr. Bushington (Jim Chiolino), King Paramount (William Rosholt), Sir Edward Corcoran (Greg Walters), Lord Dramaleigh (Steve Harrison), and Mr. Goldbury (Justin Wilder)*

produced in 2005. The name was aptly chosen because (spoiler alert!) as we find out at the end, the Pirates are actually members of the House of Lords who have “gone wrong”. Penzance was, and still is, a locale favored by the wealthy and powerful. In our contemporary and local terms, perhaps *The Pirates of Maple Bluff* would have similar meaning.

Friday pre-show dinners

Ushering in the 50th year celebrations, we are again offering pre-performance dinners at The University Club, 803 State Street, on both Fridays (July 20 and July 27, 2012. Planned to precede performances of *The Pirates of Penzance*, you may arrive at 5:15 PM, enjoy a drink and conversation with other fans, dine at 5:45 PM, and during dessert hear a brief talk about the show. Music Hall is a short walk and you may find arriving early for dinner eases parking effort.

Post Matinee Reception

Plan to join us after the Sunday, July 22 matinee performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* for a reception at the University Club. Meet fellow G&S fans, cast members past, present, and future. Come in your current, or classic, Savoyards tee-shirt.

Right: *Captain Fitzbattleaxe (Ryan McElDowney) and Princess Zara (Catherine Schweitzer)*



The Zoo at the Zoo

The Madison Savoyards helped Madison’s Vilas Zoo celebrate their 100th anniversary this summer with three performances of *The Zoo* in August. The performances were in the visitor center and the audiences filled the available space. We cannot confirm reports of nearby penguins and lions swaying with the music but we know the human audience, some also standing, applauded enthusiastically. The Zoo was last performed by the Madison Savoyards in September 1980.

How Quaint the ways of Paradox!

Save the date of Friday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. for a delightful evening of Gilbert and Sullivan at the the **Landmark Auditorium of the First Unitarian Society**, 900 University Bay Drive. The Madison Savoyards will present *How Quaint the Ways of Paradox*, a winter concert featuring some of the many paradoxes of Gilbert and Sullivan. As our tradition holds, great voices and characters from past and future shows will be heard

and the audience, led by Director Terry Kiss Frank, will likely be invited to join in selected choruses. Bring your friends and family, G&S fans or not. (They will likely be fans by the end of the evening) The tickets are only \$15 at the door. What can better warm a February evening than a room full of G&S fans and performers? Top it off with punch and cookies at the interval, DVDs and T-shirts for purchase, and news about Savoyards' 50th season and summer show, *The Pirates of Penzance*. It is an evening not to be missed. Wear your Savoyards tee-shirt, the older the better, as we'll celebrate alums and former shows.

Utopia Limited DVD

The 2011 production was recorded and is now in post-production with a planned DVD release in early 2012. You may order your copy in advance for delivery the moment it is released. See page 4.

From the President

It's been a great year. Our February Gala was standing room only. After seeing *Utopia Limited* in July, some were surprised just how up-to-date it sounded. Several people asked if we had made changes to the script to make it more up-to-date and were astonished when told that was the way show as written. We were pleased to be a part of Henry Vilas Zoo's 100th anniversary celebration by presenting three performances of *The Zoo* in August. The afternoon performances drew standing room only crowds. A rollicking good time was had by performers, some returning after too long an absence, and audience.

Our fiftieth annual summer production is *The Pirates of Penzance*. Fifty years is a remarkably long life for a



local theatre group. As we prepare for our fiftieth season we must celebrate and thank all that make it possible: Gilbert & Sullivan, our wonderful casts, crew, musicians, volunteers, our loyal audience and dedicated supporters.

2012 will be another great year: On February 10, 2012 we present *How Quaint the Ways of Paradox* at The First Unitarian Society. There will be a seventh performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* (on Thursday July 26) to accommodate the expected crowds, There is a reception at the University Club after the Sunday July 22 matinee. Come and meet present and former cast members.

And, appropriately, 2012 has a February 29!

*Jim Cain,
President*

Above: Utopia's "Supercommittee" - *The Flowers of Progress*. Left to right: King Paramount (William Rosholt), Mr. Goldbury (Justin Wilder), Mr. Bushington (Jim Chiolino), Lord Dramaleigh (Steve Harrison), Sir Bailey Barre (J. Adam Shelton), Captain Fitzbattleaxe (Ryan McEldowney), and Sir Edward Corcoran (Greg Walters)

All photos: John Maniaci for the Madison Savoyards.

Below: Many Savoyard veterans returned after an absence of several years including William Rosholt as King Paramount and Allisanne Apple as Lady Sophy



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* The Endowment Fund is managed by the Madison Community Foundation for the benefit of the Madison Savoyards

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Madison Savoyards DVDs

DVDs/CD desired (please specify quantities)

| Quantity | | Price |
|----------|---|----------------|
| _____ | <i>HMS Pinafore</i> (2010) DVD 103 min Dolby 5.1 | @\$25.00 _____ |
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| _____ | <i>The Mikado</i> (2008) DVD 141 min Dolby 5.1 | @\$25.00 _____ |

Please mail to:

The Madison Savoyards, Ltd.
PO Box 1612
Madison, WI 53701-1612

Phone: (608) 231-9005

_____ *Utopia Limited* (2011) DVD Advance Order - Available early 2012 @\$25.00 _____

DVD/CD Total: _____

All prices include sales tax
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Donation: (Thank You!) _____
 Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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