



THE HAPPY DISPATCH



NOVEMBER 2013

The Official Newsletter of the Durham Savoyards, Ltd.

durhamsavoyards.org

Happy 50th Anniversary, Savoyards!

By KIM KINGSLEY

Greetings, Savoyards!

The 50th Anniversary celebration, held the weekend of October 19 and 20, was a smashing success! The *Pineapple Poll* ballet and *Places, Please!* concert were wonderful and Sunday afternoon's High Tea was delightful!

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this gala weekend so memorable. Special thanks go to the 50th Anniversary Committee: Bobby Cameron and Cathy Lambe, co-chairs; Tracy Delius, Steve Dobbins, Hugh Mace, Evelyn McCauley, Noelle Paull, Pat Roos, Carol Sackett, and Jim Sackett. Thank you, Kent Parks, Bobby Cameron, Karen Gray, and Michael Gray for all your hard work on database management.

Saturday evening's entertainment was such a treat. Thank you to Boleyn Willis-Zeger and The Legacy Repertory Company for a historic presentation of *Pineapple Poll*. Thank you to Ben Keaton for creating *Places, Please!* in 1988, to Alan Riley Jones for directing this year's performance, to all those who sang, and extra special thanks to Sam Hammond, who filled in for Betty Romani at the last minute. Thank you, Betty, for the many rehearsals you accompanied and thank you, Noelle Paull, for producing the concert.

Thanks also to Tracy Delius, Evelyn McCauley, and Charles Register for your excellent work on the 50th Anniversary songbook for Sunday's High Tea. Thank you, Mary and Darryl Freedman, for the

great video collection, Stuart Albert for compiling photos, and Brenna Berry and Tanner Lovelace for taking pictures at the event.

It was a very memorable weekend and I second Steve Dobbins, our fabulous Master of Ceremonies at the high tea, in toasting the Savoyards Past, Present, and Future. Hear, hear! It is an honor to be your president.

Be a Fiftieth Friend

By MICHAEL HALE GRAY

We don't mean be a Friend of the Savoyards for fifty years, nor do we mean you have to donate \$50 to the Friends (though you certainly can, and more if you are so inclined). We're addressing those of you who have been supporters for several years, attending plays, but have not donated for some time.

Obviously you consider the Savoyards important enough that you are on this exclusive list of those who donate either time, talent, or money to the group. If you are a cast or crew member, you know how important the orchestra, set, and costumes are. If you aren't in the cast or crew, you know first-hand how lovely the sets and costumes are, and how finely-tuned the orchestra sounds.

Any non-profit group tries to keep costs down. Even so, the frugality of the tech staff can only go so far, and live musicians deserve fair compensation for the years of practice and skill that goes into their sound.

Honoraria for the production crew serve as little more than a "thank you," and are not close to a salary or wage.

At the same time, the Savoyards strive to keep ticket costs down as much as possible. Higher prices may mean that someone chooses another entertainment and fewer people see the hard work of the cast, crew, and orchestra. Audiences have been coming to Savoyards' shows for fifty years now, so we're obviously doing something right.

In honor of our fifty year history, please consider making a donation so that younger audience members can better afford to see the shows, get inspired, and become Savoyards in the future. Your donation will continue the tradition of excellent theatre in Durham and the Triangle, drawing people from Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia to see the Savoyards shows. They make the effort to attend. Please consider making the effort to contribute and continue the camaraderie. You can do so via a one-time donation or a sustaining monthly draft, by check or using *PayPal*.

Thank you.

The Sorcerer

AUDITIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Durham Art Council

Dec 8 from 2-5 PM

Dec 9 from 6:30-9 PM

Dec 10 - callbacks 6:30-9 PM

E-MAIL FOR APPOINTMENT

auditions@durhamsavoyards.org

SHOW DATES

March 27-30, 2014

Carolina Theatre, Durham, NC

Putting in Your Oars

BY KIM KINGSLEY
PRESIDENT, DURHAM SAVOYARDS, LTD.

Once again, happy 50th anniversary, Savoyards! Congratulations on fifty wonderful years of bringing the topsy-turvy musical comedies of Sir William S. Gilbert & Sir Arthur S. Sullivan to the greater Triangle area. We have been fueled by volunteer power for all these years! It is truly amazing what we can do just by "putting in our oars."

Everything we have accomplished in the past fifty years has been achieved through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. Without the hard work of our members, we would be little more than a large group of people who enjoy a good party. But even the parties take energy to plan and organize. The 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration took months to plan and prepare. We are very fortunate to have organizers and coordinators such as Bobby Cameron, Cathy Lambe, Tracy Delius, Steve Dobbins, Hugh Mace, Evelyn McCauley, Noelle Paull, Carol Sackett, and Jim Sackett. It is those who assist these people, the ones who work behind the scenes, that are often overlooked. We rarely notice their involvement, but their contributions are much greater than anyone realizes.

Kent Parks and Michael Gray are two of the hardest working Savoyards, but very few people appreciate the time they spend on the often tedious but vital tasks they perform. They both spend long hours updating and correcting the mailing lists. I would like to personally thank Kent for the time he spends researching membership data. Michael not only pays the bills; he deals with insurance matters, accounting and tax issues,

and all mailing concerns. He is on the job almost every day of the week all year long. And yet he somehow finds time to locate and copy interesting historical facts about each show which he includes in each complimentary ticket packet. Thank you Michael for all you do to keep the Savoyards going!

The publicity committee, Kimberly Hirsh, Sonja Foust, and Janell Lovelace, has also been busy in the past year. They have updated the current website and made preparations to move it to a new platform with a new design. They helped

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us set up a *PayPal* account and now we are able to solicit donation or sell DVDs of past shows via the website. Plans are brewing for new ways to archive our videos and Board documents. These three women are making things happen and I applaud them.

I also want to thank all of those people who joined me as volunteers at this year's CenterFest on September 21 and 22: Bobby Cameron, Christine Eckermann-Ross, Karen Gray, Houston Horn, Steve Woodard, and Diane Woodard, who volunteered both days. Each DAC grant recipient organization is required to contribute a specified amount of volunteer time and we are encouraged to fulfill that commitment at CenterFest. I have enjoyed my hours of service and the Arts Council staff is a delightful group of people with whom to work. I encourage everyone to volunteer for a DAC event at least once. The Durham Arts Council is frequently in need of volunteers for other

art shows and receptions including their Durham Art Walk Holiday Market. These events are always interesting and often fun, so please be sure to contact DAC if you would like to offer your time for any of their other volunteer opportunities.

Each new season brings a variety of options for getting involved and there is something for everyone. If you have hidden talents or just a few extra hours, we need you! Do you feel the urge to put in your oar? Great! There is an entire page on our website (www.durhamsavoyards.org/join/offstage) describing the variety of positions from which to choose. We also need people who can offer to host a postcard labeling party, a meet the cast or strike party, or even an annual meeting (aka DSLAMATAP!). If there is something you would like to do but don't see it listed, let us know. There is even a form you can fill out and submit via e-mail. If you know people who would like to join our merry band, please encourage them to fill out an interest form.

We have many members who have been with us for twenty years or more and they have done so much to support the Savoyards, but we need to continue to build upon the strong foundation they have laid. We continually need to recruit and nurture new generations of volunteers. There is always more work to be done.

Thank you one and all for giving your time and talent to make The Durham Savoyards the vibrant organization it has become over the past fifty years.



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Durham Arts Council's Annual Arts Fund and the N.C. Arts Council,
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Pirates of Penzance 2013: From the Producers' Rear-View Mirror

By KAREN AND CHARLES GUIDRY

A year ago, we were at the beginning of our production process and looking forward to the Durham Savoyards' 50th anniversary production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. In anticipation of the success of our efforts, we wrote, "By March 2013, we hope you will see nothing but a beautiful, finely tuned, well-oiled machine of a show!" Thanks to the efforts of a wonderful cast, talented musicians, marvelous directors, designers beyond compare, extraordinary technicians, supportive staff volunteers, a hard-working Board of Governors, and appreciative, responsive audience members, our hopes were realized.

At first, we had expectations that the show would be extraordinary

because it was our 50th anniversary. We were proud to be performing the same show the original founders of Durham Savoyards performed for the first time in 1963, paving the way for the organization that exists today. As the production process went on, it became clear that it *was* going to be an extraordinary show, but not just because of the big anniversary. It was going to be an extraordinary show because of the love of the material itself, because of the talent and willingness to work that came from all the people involved both onstage and behind the scenes, and because we were proud to showcase the evolution of The Durham Savoyards.

Thank you to all of you for being part of our journey last year and we hope you continue to be part of our travels for the next fifty years.



Introducing the Newest Board of Governors Member, *Tanner Lovelace*

Greetings fellow Savoyards,

My name is Tanner Lovelace and as the newest member of the board I'd like to introduce myself to those of you who might not know me. This coming season will be my 8th with the Durham Savoyards. Generally, you can find me in the orchestra pit playing double bass but for the past several years I have also been our local orchestra manager helping recruit, organize, and manage the orchestra. I was also one of the assistant producers for our 2012 production of *Iolanthe*.

My wife Janell is also very active in the Savoyards, having been on stage for the last seven years, excepting *Iolanthe* where she was also an assistant producer. She also manages our web presence and is our social chair. We have hosted several Savoyard parties at our house including the annual meeting this past summer. I'm very excited to be on the board and hope to contribute in any way I can. If you have any suggestions for our group that you would like me to bring up to the board, or if you know of any orchestra musicians we should be considering, please feel free to contact me at clubjuggler@gmail.com.

Concerts

By NOELLE PAULL

The Durham Savoyard Singers had a challenging season this year. We honored Alan's much deserved wish to have a vacation from conducting the concerts, and as a result had to find someone to conduct us, not an easy task as Alan's shoes are difficult to fill!

Luckily, we were able to get Dr. Jim Waddelow from the music department at Meredith College to work with us.

He conducted a concert for us at a new venue, The Carolina Preserve in Cary. The Tuscany Club there contacted me asking us to do a *Gondoliers*-heavy program. Jim somehow managed to condense the show into a one hour concert! He used the character of Don Alhambra as a narrator to help move the plot along. We had three rehearsals and thanks to the talented singers and Jim's wonderful direction, the concert was a great success! Pam Forsythe Stewart did a wonderful job as our accompanist, rising to the challenge of playing a digital piano with no chance to rehearse on it beforehand. Thanks to Mary Guy, who organized the music, and a lively group of singers which included two guest tenors, Jon Skinner and Miles Herr, we sang to an audience of almost two hundred appreciative and enthusiastic residents.

I'm hoping that, when we start working on new concert bookings after *The Sorcerer*, some schools will invite us to sing. Children are such a fun audience and it has been awhile since we did performances at schools. If you know of a school that would like to have us perform, please be sure to give them my contact information!

Financial Update

By MICHAEL HALE GRAY, BUSINESS MANAGER

Each year, there are some people who want to know where every penny spent went, and others who say, "Just tell me how many tickets we sold and how much money the Savoyards made." If you want more details than are available here, please e-mail or call me. For the rest of you, here are the basics:

Pirates ran for two weeks, for a total of 3,292 seats sold, including 127 comps. The average attendance for *Pirates* was 471, slightly lower than 2012's one-week run of *Iolanthe* at 516. Some of the difference is due to certain audiences being guaranteed to purchase tickets for a certain part of the run, such as retirement homes that buy tickets for the final Sunday, no matter how long the run is.

A big change was the cost of renting the Carolina. Until 2012, there was a "sweetheart" deal for local groups, charging a 12% flat fee, and \$200 for non-revenue (tech and dark) nights. For *Pirates*, the new flat fees of \$1,250 for weekdays including Sunday and \$1,650 for Friday and Saturday, added \$7,275 to the rent. While the box office reported \$57,949 in ticket sales, the higher rent took a big bite out of the total.

Personnel also represents a large percentage of the show's cost. Orchestra costs were \$16,750 for 27 people, for 13 services, including both rehearsals and performances. Costs for the production team totaled \$11,675.

Sets cost \$1,590, costumes and props \$1,491, and advertising was \$4,251. Printing of the programs cost \$1,706.

Personnel costs from the Carolina included stagehands (\$8,518 at union rates), equipment (\$2,828), box office staff (\$998), and front of house managers (\$1,453). The total of non-rent Carolina expenses was \$23,091. That's another big chunk!

And don't forget the Savoyards' ongoing, year-round costs. The warehouse was \$6,056, and the DAC extra rehearsal space and the office downstairs came to \$760. Insurance is \$887, cast party pizzas and drinks were \$757, and video recording was \$1,350.

The video recording cost was almost covered by DVD and Blu-Ray purchases for \$1,230. Other income, such as sales of scores and t-shirts, barely covered costs. Since we are a non-profit group, it's expected that most items will be a wash. We received some off-site concert income, and other minor additions.

Bottom line – income from show was \$57,949 at the box office.

Cost for everything at the Carolina was \$38,041.79.

The check from the Carolina came to \$24,807.21. This includes the Fletcher Fund (\$4,900.00).

The cost for all show stuff (including warehouse and DAC space, honoraria, sets, props, printing, postage, ads, costumes, and more) was \$49,186.

The cost for the show minus the check from the Carolina shows a \$24,379 shortfall.

Friends contributions finally bring that up, offsetting our losses with \$33,164.

Once again, the cast and crew really need to thank the Friends, though of course some of you are included among them!

Make Your Savoyards Donation Using *PayPal*

By KIMBERLY HIRSH

Durham Savoyards Ltd. is now on *PayPal*! To make a donation via *PayPal*, visit www.durhamsavoyards.org and click the yellow "Donate" button on the top left side of the front page or the top right side of any internal page. The button will take you to *PayPal*'s website, where you can enter your donation amount, click a check box to make your donation recurring if you choose, and then either log in to your *PayPal* account or choose to continue without logging in to make your donation directly from your credit card or bank account. Alternately, if you use *PayPal* regularly or want to use currency other than US Dollars, you can simply log in and use *PayPal*'s "Send Money" page to send the amount of your choice in the currency of your choice to business@durhamsavoyards.org. Please note: The *PayPal* account is for donations only. It cannot be used to pay for scores, t-shirts, DVDs, or tickets.

You can find us on the following social media platforms:

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/durhamsavoyards

TWITTER

@DurhamSavoyards

GOOGLE+

goo.gl/oUJzb

YOUTUBE

youtube.com/durhamsavoyardsltd

