

Savoyardage

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON SAVOYARDS, LTD.

Summer Greetings Savoyards! Rehearsals are starting now for *Pirates of Penzance*, last performed on our stage in 2012!

Performances:

August 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 at 7:30pm
August 6, 13 at 3:00pm

The Bartell Theatre

113 E Mifflin St. Madison, WI 53703

Tickets: bartelltheatre.org or

Bartell Box Office: 608-661-9696

Ticket Prices include box office fees:

\$36 General

\$32 Senior

\$21 Student / Youth

FREE Children's Pre-Show

Sunday, August 6 1:00pm

Ahoy, swashbuckling youth! Join us pre-matinee for children of all ages (particularly 4+). We'll dabble in some pirate lingo, romp through the ins and outs of Mr. Gilbert's story and Mr. Sullivan's songs, and tour the set and backstage of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The Children's Pre-show will run 45 minutes and is free and open to the public.



A Note from our Stage Director

It is not surprising that after the success of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Gilbert and Sullivan would compose a work about pirates. Back in 1879, the United States did not provide copyright protection for foreign works and they and impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte were furious at the number of unauthorized, or "pirated", productions of *Pinafore* that were being performed in the United States. However, they were eager to capitalize on the popularity of *Pinafore*, both in the United States and in Great Britain. Gilbert, Sullivan, and D'Oyly Carte hatched a scheme that would ensure their rights on both sides of the Atlantic for

MADISON SAVOYARDS PRESENTS
GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S
August 4•5
10•11•12
at 7:30pm
August 6•13
at 3:00pm
Children's Pre-show
August 6 at 1:00pm

A rollicking
piratical farce
Bartell Theatre
113 E Mifflin St.
Madison, WI
Tickets:
608-661-9696
madisonsavoyards.org

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their new opera.

Their plan was to delay the publishing of the score until the production had opened, and to stage simultaneous premiere performances in Britain and in the States. They sailed to America in November or 1879, ostensibly to stage an authorized production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which opened in New York on December 1st. While this was going on, Gilbert and Sullivan rushed to complete *Pirates*, which was rehearsed by the Pinafore company, and opened in New York on the last day of 1879. Simultaneously, another Pinafore company, located in Paignton, England, performed a very spare production of *Pirates*. They used what costumes they could scrape together and read their parts from scripts that they carried.

It is honest to say that *The Pirates of Penzance* was created as a business venture. It was written at tremendous speed, and initially produced quickly as well. One can easily say that in spite of the circumstances of its birth (Is this a legitimate way to beget art?), *Pirates* is

probably the best-loved offspring of the G & S collaboration. How did this come to be? I believe it happened because both Gilbert and Sullivan were at heart showmen; they were in a club with not only Verdi and Offenbach, but also with P. T. Barnum and Tony Pastor (the Father of Vaudeville). They had an instinctive knowledge of what the public wanted to see. Romanticized pirate stories were very popular, and Sherlock Holmes was waiting in the wings. Also, one generation of children will to the next the game of Cops and Robbers. What fun it would be to have grown-ups playing *Pirates* and *Bobbies*, and do it with an operatic score!

Writing quickly can also lend dramatic urgency where it's needed, and putting down the first absurd idea that comes to mind can lead to hilarious results. The situation encouraged Sullivan to look at themes from other composers and parody their work for comic effect. The net result is the fast and funny *Pirates of Penzance*! It is in this spirit of play that we are presenting *Pirates*, and I do hope you get a chance to enjoy it with us! ~ Don Dexter

Introducing our *Pirates* Principal Cast



Ryan Nash (Frederic) received his B.A. in Voice Performance from the University of Massachusetts and is currently in the Masters program at UW-Madison studying with Jim Doing. He most recently performed the title role in *Albert Herring*, and Gastone in *La Traviata*, with UW Opera.



Madison Holtze (Mabel) has been praised for her “liquid, silvery” and “dulcet” soprano voice, and “imbuing characters with great flair.” She is an alumnus of the Chautauqua Summer Conservatory and University of Minnesota (BM and MM) and is a four time winner of the MN NATS competition.



Bradley J. Carter (Major-General Stanley) is majorly with joy to join the Savoyards of Madison and generally glad to be a singing, acting Brad again. He recently performed out in Verona as an Ozian, as well as at the Overture within a chorus Orffian. At times he writes a tune or two, though rarely via mandolin.



Erin Sura (Ruth) regularly performs with Wisconsin opera companies including the Florentine Opera Co., Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, and is a core member of Belle Ensemble. Notable roles include 2nd Lady (*Magic Flute*), Betty (*Passion in Pigskin*), Jo (*Little Women*), and Dido (*Dido and Aeneas*). She was Mad Margaret in last year’s production of *Ruddigore*.



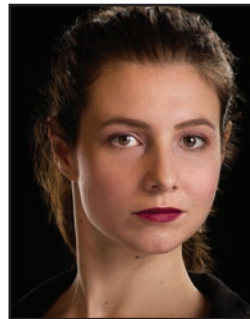
Mike Brady (Pirate King) gloriously rejoins the Savoyards, having most recently performed on our stage as Sir Roderic Murgatroyd in *Ruddigore*. During the day he teaches software development at Epic, and in the evenings he is an eight-time state champion and international competitor in taekwondo.



Kimberly Grez (Edith) grew up in Murfreesboro, TN and is a recent transplant to Wisconsin. She received a Master’s in Music from Belmont University. Her most recent roles include Orpah in Belmont’s production of *Ruth*, the title role in Belmont’s production of *Serse*, and Wendy Jo in Parkway Playhouse’s production of *Footloose*.



Aidan Howard (Sergeant of Police) is a longtime performer, and thrilled to be acting in his first Gilbert & Sullivan production. When not on stage, he writes (both novels and software), reads, sings, and generally dabbles in most other creative pursuits available.



Jesse Harrison (Kate) has performed extensively with Sun Prairie Civic Theatre and Pile of Cats Theatre Company, with some of her favorite roles being Princess Fiona in *Shrek*, Wednesday Addams in the *Addams Family Musical*, and Rose in *The Secret Garden*. When she isn’t performing, you could find her gardening, caring for her menagerie of pets, or running after her two amazing children.



Tom Kastle (Samuel) is delighted to return to Savoyards as Samuel. He has appeared on the Bartell stage as Henry IV, a tap dancing Hagrid and a political pundit with the legendary Ed Asner in *God Help Us!* He has appeared in commercials and films and hosted an Emmy nominated documentary. As a longtime folk singer and tall ship sailor, Tom was singing sea shanties around the world 30 years before TikTok.



May Kohler (Isabel) will be a first-year Master of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this fall, studying with Dr. Julia Rottmayer. May received undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Voice Performance with a minor in Integrated Liberal Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Pirates of Penzance* is May’s second production with the Madison Savoyards.

A look back at 2022-23



Clockwise from top left: **(1) August, 2022:** Madison Savoyards presents Gilbert & Sullivan's *Ruddigore*, at the Bartell Theatre, photo by J. Miner Photography; **(2) December, 2022:** Celebrating the holiday season with caroling on Monroe St. **(3) January, 2023:** Madison Savoyards' costume reorganization at the Madison Opera warehouse (A huge thanks to all our volunteers!), and **(4) May 27, 2023:** Grace Presents The Madison Savoyards, at Grace Episcopal Church, a concert of Gilbert & Sullivan pieces programmed and directed by Erin Bryan.

Board of Directors

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Thank You to our Supporters

Madison Savoyards is deeply grateful for your continued support of our company through your donations and well wishes. Your donations support our artist and musician stipends, set and costume materials, as well as ongoing administrative needs such as storage rental and communication services.

Contact Us

madison.savoyards@gmail.com
voicemail: (608) 616-5706
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Thank you to our Granting Organizations

Madison Savoyards is a proud and grateful recipient of grant awards from the Wisconsin Arts Board, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, and Madison Arts Commission! These boards are publically funded entities supporting and promoting arts and culture here in the State of Wisconsin, Dane County, and the City of Madison. Their support allows us to continue our legacy of presenting full lyric productions of Gilbert and Sullivan, engaging local artists, and educating our participants and patrons on English-language musical theatre.



Madison Savoyards Annual Meeting

**Monday, October 16
6:30-7:30pm on Zoom**

- review 2023 activities
- discuss plans for 2024
- elect board members

Please join us! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/MSLAnnMtg23>



The Madison Savoyards, Ltd.
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Yes, I wish to ensure more Madison Savoyards productions at the following level:

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Mail your check and this form to: **P.O. Box 1612, Madison, WI 53701-1612**

Madison Savoyards is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Contributors will be acknowledged in the program and online, unless otherwise requested.

Thank you for your contribution!

Order a copy of our 2022 *Ruddigore*:

I would like to purchase _____ DVDs (\$25, tax and shipping included) of *Ruddigore*. Shipping fee may be waived if pick-up can be arranged in Madison. Email madison.savoyards@gmail.com for more information.