

# Savoyardage

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON SAVOYARDS, LTD.



## Winter Arts Mosaic

Available 24/7 through March  
**TICKETS:**  
**CMBallet.org**

Upstart Crows  
 Madison Savoyards  
 Central Midwest Ballet



Photo: Kat's Photography

### Coming this February!

Together with Central Midwest Ballet Academy (CMBA) and Upstart Crows Productions, Madison Savoyards, Ltd (MSL) is excited to announce a collaborative performance containing song, dance and the spoken word, sponsored in part by Dane Arts. A **Winter Arts Mosaic** will be ticketed (\$18) and available to view online in late February, so stay tuned to our website ([madisonsavoyards.org](http://madisonsavoyards.org)) or sign up for our email notifications if you haven't already!

We're especially excited about performing an original commissioned work in the style of Gilbert & Sullivan, by local composer and musician Mark Wurzelbacher! J. Adam Shelton will be directing the Savoyards' performances.

#### **Mark, what can you tell us about the inspiration for this piece?**

When Adam approached me about writing this piece, my first idea was to play into the circumstances we're in (isolated in our homes, on video calls all the time), and that gave me the initial spark.



#### **What makes a work G&S-related to you?**

To me, recreating Gilbert's lyrical style means a fair amount of wordplay, droll and sometimes esoteric humor, and a few twists and turns along the way. As for Sullivan, his music fits pretty squarely into the mainstream of 19th-century western Europe. I use some

recognizable tropes as my launching-off point, but I don't feel beholden to stick purely to aping his musical language, especially since the content of this particular piece is a very much of this current moment, and I wanted to allow the music to reflect that.

#### **Adam, what other G&S-aligned works will we be seeing / hearing?**

We actually won't be seeing other G&S works on this program...! I wanted to choose great poetry and classical music with themes of winter and looking forward to spring by composers and poets that G&S would have recognized. Our commissioned work by Mark will shine as the G&S representation on the program! The sketches Mark has sent me are witty and tuneful -- you won't be disappointed!



#### **What excites you about this collaboration?**

Since Gilbert & Sullivan haven't produced much in the last 100+ years, I'm excited to hear Mark's comedic genius and compositional prowess in another G&S spoof. I had the fortune of performing his political satire *The Puppet* a few years ago with Music Theatre of Madison which was largely in the style of G&S. His ability to craft text and melody is refreshing, and he's politically "woke" (as the youths say).

Beyond that, we are fortunate to partner once again with CMBA and celebrate the close relationship between ballet and opera. Their students are motivated, prepared,

and gifted young performers who tell stories in a beautiful art form. And it has been wonderful to work with Upstart Crows—their story is similar to that of MSL—the group was founded by students looking to gain stage time and propel themselves forward in the craft. They do much of the legwork on their own when it comes to props, costumes, and preparation so they can focus on the text and delivery for the audience. All three of our organizations are working to build opportunities that elevate our artistic community and hone the skills of artists in Madison.

**What will the dance and theater groups be presenting?**

CMBA is presenting several pieces from their repertory; an octet filmed in two quartets and three duets (one specifically from their adaptation of *The Little Matchstick Girl*). They will feature dancers from their pre-professional and advanced divisions. Health and safety guidelines have been equally hard on the dance community regarding classes and rehearsals, and CMBA has worked to develop selections for this event that are within the safety guidelines and provide opportunity for a number of their students to perform.

Upstart Crows will highlight four of their actors with some excerpts from Shakespeare. I am sure these selections will be familiar to all of our audiences. Their director has given the performers some frameworks for filming that will challenge the normal give-and-take that happens on stage between actors. The performers are focusing on how to capture chemistry when you're not in the same room as your co-conspirator! I am excited to see how they succeed!

And then of course, there's the grand finale which involves everyone!

~ Mark Wurzelbacher and J. Adam Shelton

**A note from our President:**

We heard from many Savoyards that they enjoyed last summer's offering of "Pirate Island", our excuse to visit songs from *The Pirates of Penzance* performed by cast members in their personal spaces (pictured right). We also broadcast our 2017 production of *HMS Pinafore* during the holiday season, and hopefully you were able to catch that.

There is a lot to reflect on in the past year, and with your help the Madison Savoyards has been able to create and present content continuing the tradition of Gilbert and Sullivan, and provide humor in the face of, or despite, the challenges we find ourselves in today.

For 2021's summer offering, we've decided to stay virtual for the safety of our singers and take this opportunity to visit a selection of favorites from Gilbert and Sullivan's lesser performed shows (with something from *Pirates* thrown in for good measure!). Programming is still in development, but if you've a favorite you would like to hear, please let us know what it is, and why you love it! Keep an eye out for this streamed recording at end of July.

I look back on 2020 with gratitude for you and the support you've given to this organization. Here's to a better 2021.

Sincerely, *Catherine Killam*



Top to bottom: Amanda Reichhold as Ruth, Mike Brady as the Pirate King, Tim Rebers as Frederic, Keith Christianson as the Police Sargeant, Kelsey Wang as Mabel, and Beck Beuchel as the Major-General



**Join the Board**

We are looking for board members with a passion for the Madison music and theatre community!

Special skills we are looking for: fundraising, board development, accounting/finance, business, graphic design, marketing, events planning, and a dry sense of humor.

**Donate**

Consider a legacy gift to our Endowment Fund through Madison Community Foundation. Interest from this fund supports Madison Savoyards productions *in perpetuity*.

Gifts to our General Fund are used in their entirety to support administrative and production needs, and are vital in bringing the joy and musicality of G&S to our community every year.

**Thank You to the Wisconsin Arts Board**

Madison Savoyards is a proud and grateful recipient of a Wisconsin Arts Board 2021 Creation and Presentation grant, through funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment of the Arts.

**Winter Arts Mosaic is supported in part by**



**2021 Board of Directors**

(clockwise from top left)

- Catherine S. Killam, President
- Aimee Teo Broman, Treasurer
- Don Dexter, Member
- Rebecca Stanley, Vice President
- Phil Saganski, Member
- Rose Beach, Member (not pictured)
- Walt Schalick, Secretary

**Contact Us**

email: [madison.savoyards@gmail.com](mailto:madison.savoyards@gmail.com)  
 voicemail: (608) 616-5706  
 website: [madisonsavoyards.org](http://madisonsavoyards.org)

**In Remembrance  
John A. Kruse (1931-2020)**

John enjoyed his relationship to and with the Madison Savoyards. He was cast in all 14 operettas, some more than once! He even travelled at one time to Buxton, England where the Savoyards held forth every year.

Those who had an opportunity to work with John knew the joy he brought to every production and his tireless support off-stage as a member of the board for many years, including as board president. We send our best wishes and condolences to his wife, Ginny, and family.



**The Madison Savoyards, Ltd.**  
**P.O. Box 1612**  
**Madison, WI 53701-1612**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID MADISON, WI PERMIT #2442
---

---

### **Madison Savoyards, Ltd. Donation Form**

**Yes, I wish to ensure more Madison Savoyards productions** at the following level:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member (\$35 - \$59)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$60 - \$149) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member (\$150 - \$499) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$500 - \$999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$1000 +)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund \$ _____           |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Madison Savoyards, Ltd.**

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 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 2017 H.M.S. Pinafore:**

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