

# Savoyardage

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON SAVOYARDS, LTD.



**This summer Madison Savoyards presents a streamed performance of songs from all 14 of G&S's collaborative works! We are grateful to J. Adam Shelton, our resident stage director / opera performer / G&S enthusiast for developing this program for us!**

**Adam, What was the inspiration for this program?**

I wanted something that showcased all of the works of G&S like a tasting menu. A digital production allows us to try a little bit of everything, and we have the opportunity to transport our audience to multiple settings and hear pieces that have not been produced in several seasons.

**What can we expect to see and hear?**

One treat this summer is Kingsley Day's (of the Evanston Savoyaires) musical reconstruction of Mercury's aria from *Thespis*, the lost G&S collaboration. We also have duets, a couple trios, and a quartet! We'll have high-quality audio and video showcasing our singers, digital effects, costume changes, and some cinematography to continue pushing the envelope of our art form.

**Where will the pieces be recorded?**

SoundVision Co. on the east side is collaborating with us to film and edit the performances. Nick Cardarella (owner) has a rockin' studio filled with professional lighting rigs, cameras, and technology to assemble these exciting videos.

**What safety precautions are being taken as masks are being lifted?**

Like any MSL production, safety is our top priority. During this time of COVID-19, singers are considered "super-spreaders" due to the aerosols emitted during singing—particularly acoustic, projection-based singing. A short run down of our precautions are:

- The production team will continue wearing masks during filming and maintain appropriate distances with each other and the performers.
- Mark Wurzelbacher has produced tracks for us independently in his home studio. I have been assured he wore a mask while he recorded.
- Performers will be unmasked while recording their

performances and safely distanced in group numbers. Between numbers we will evacuate the premises so the HVAC can cycle in the space.

- Performers disclosed their vaccination status to the production manager who adapted the recording schedule to protect everyone and their privacy.

We will continue to adapt our staging and recording schedule to arrive at our final product safely. Ultimately, this creates some challenges for direction. Interactions as in a normal stage production cannot completely exist. However, I've spent much of the pandemic brushing up on my television magic to lead this endeavor. We'll use jump cuts, fisheye lenses, wide shots, and even a close up or two to make it feel as if everyone is always in the same space working together! We've assembled another team full of talent that will produce something totally unique for MSL— GET READY!!

~ J. Adam Shelton

## 2021 *I have a song to sing, O!* Artists



**Kelsey Wang** (Soprano) is a recent graduate of UW-Madison with a Master of Music in vocal performance. Past roles include Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Titania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Drusilla (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*) and Rapunzel (*Into the Woods*). She holds a Bachelor of Music in

vocal performance and a Bachelor of Arts in theatre from Lawrence University.



**Noah Strube** (Tenor) is excited to be doing his first opera work with Savoyards. Noah is currently a junior at UW Madison working on a Bachelor's in vocal performance. Previous roles include Wallace Hartley in *Titanic* with Oregon Strawhat Players, and Corny Collins in *Hairspray* with Verona Area

Community Theatre. Noah is also a tour guide at Cave of the Mounds, delighting people with geological information every summer.

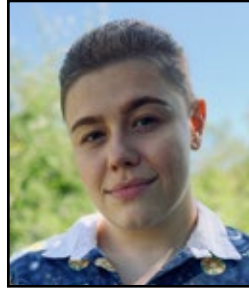


**Mike Brady** (Baritone) returns to the Savoyards after last year's debut as the Pirate King! Prior to that, you may have seen him in roles such as The Monster from *Young Frankenstein* or Bill from *Mamma Mia*, both with Verona Area Community Theater. During the day, Mike trains software developers and does voice-over

work at Epic. He is also a taekwondo instructor and two-time state champion, training at ATA Madison West. He thanks his wife and children for their continued patience as he spontaneously belts out songs around the house.



**J. Adam Shelton** (Director) is a lyric tenor hailed for his comedic timing and ringing tone. He completed his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin and is an associate lecturer of voice at UW-Whitewater, where he co-directs the opera workshop program.



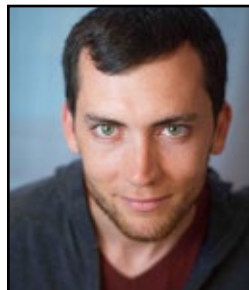
**Beck Buechel** (Mezzo-soprano), is based in Chicago, IL. They are so excited to return to in-person singing with Madison Savoyards! They received degrees in Vocal Performance from Illinois Wesleyan University and The University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite past roles include Lancelot in *Camelot*

with Janus Concert Series, Joan in *Fun Home* with Towle Theater, understudy for Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance* with The Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago, Little Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore* and The Duchess of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers* with Madison Savoyards. They also perform musical theatre drag and burlesque under the stage name Mx. O'Lydian.

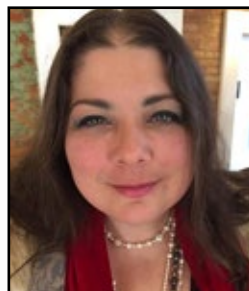


**Keith Christianson** (Baritone) is a regular Savoyards player who is pleased to return, if not to the stage, then to your screen! Keith has recently performed with Four Seasons (*All is Calm* 2019) and VACT (*Young Frankenstein* 2019). Most of his performances, however, are for an audience of one, at bedtime, when

no other act will do (except Grandma).



**Mark Wurzelbacher** (Accompanist) is a Madison, WI based musician, specializing in music direction, accompanying, orchestrating, and arranging for musical theatre. He's worked individually with children, teens, amateurs, and professionals as a piano/voice teacher, vocal coach, and répétiteur.



**Rebecca Stanley** (Costume Designer) has been costuming shows in Madison for two decades. Rebecca's other titles include Tailor, Sewing Instructor, Armchair Philosopher, and Chanteuse. You can usually find her laughing with her husband, Alec, playing with her dog, Starbuck, or singing the blues. She

sends a big thanks to her costume team Kayla Wilson and Megan Dickel for helping make the magic happen.

*Savoyards Family –*

We, like the pirates (of Penzance), continue to imitate the cautious tread of the cat however much we wish to sail in-person, the (musical) seas again!

We have decided to continue with freely available virtual offerings through 2021. Keep an eye on your inbox to learn when they become available.

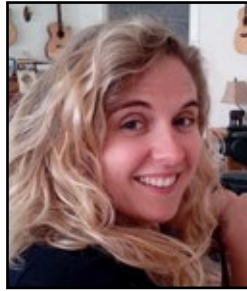
In August, we present *I Have a Song to Sing, O!*, a compilation of G&S songs from each of their 14 collaborated operettas. The videos are being recorded this month (June), under the direction of Adam Shelton, and with the help of the audio/visual team at Sound Vision. In October we hold our annual meeting to discuss plans for summer 2022 and beyond, and to elect board members and officers. We invite you to join us for this meeting and welcome your comments, questions, and energy!

The University League has invited us to create a streamed Gilbert and Sullivan concert for their early December event. The University League is a non-profit organization that raises funds for student scholarships and promotes volunteer services, educational opportunities and social activities for its members, and we are pleased to support their work. They have graciously given us permission to share this recording with the public following the event.

In the spring of 2022 we are looking forward to partnering with Madison Theater Guild on their production of *Primrose* and are planning on a return to the theater for a full-scale summer production of *The Pirates of Penzance!*

As always, we hope you and yours are safe and healthy, and we look forward to entertaining and engaging with you with the music of Gilbert and Sullivan however we can.

Sincerely, *Catherine Killam*, Board President



**SAVE THE DATE**

**OCTOBER 12, 2021, 6:30-7:30pm  
MSL Annual Meeting**

send an email to [madison.savoyards@gmail.com](mailto:madison.savoyards@gmail.com) for a Zoom link and meet us online! Hear about how we're doing and our thoughts for the future, we'd love for you to be part of the discussion.

**MARCH 6-19, 2022  
*Primrose, or The Town Time Left Behind, an American operetta in the style of Gilbert & Sullivan***

Madison Theater Guild partners with with Madison Savoyards to bring this modern-day operetta to life!

**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 theater.

**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 during this time of COVID-19 have supported our general operations—costume, prop and set storage, insurance, website, mailings and email service, as well as our artists who participated in the streamed performances in 2020 and 2021.

We continue to recruit active board members to help shepherd our organization into 2022 and beyond. If you have interest in joining us please reach out to any current board member for a quick coffee and chat. We'd love to hear from you.

**2021 Board of Directors**

- Catherine S. Killam, President
- Rebecca Stanley, Vice President
- Aimee Teo Broman, Treasurer
- Walton O. Schalick, Secretary
- Don Dexter
- Phil Saganski
- Rose Beach

**Contact Us**

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**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 \$ _____           |

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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 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 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.