

# Savoyardage

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON SAVOYARDS, LTD.

Madison Savoyards, Ltd. presents

Gilbert & Sullivan's

## RUDDIGORE

or. The Witch's Curse



Bartell Theatre

A tale of madcap macabre

113 E Mifflin St. Madison, WI

August 5-6-12-13 7:30pm

Box Office: 608-661-9696

August 7-14 3:00pm

Tickets: [madisonsavoyards.org](http://madisonsavoyards.org)



Poster Art by Ingrid Kallick

*Summer Greetings Savoyards!* Rehearsals have begun and we're starting to make plans for staging, costumes and set for August's production of *Ruddigore*, last performed on our stage 18 years ago in 2004!

#### To buy tickets:

**Bartell Box Office: 608-661-9696 or [bartelltheatre.org](http://bartelltheatre.org)**

#### Ticket Prices:

**\$30 General**

**\$28 Senior**

**\$15 Student / Youth**

**Given the outlook of COVID-19 for the fall, and current rates of cases in Dane County, we will require audience members to wear masks while in the Bartell Theatre.**



*Ruddigore* is an old work, opening on January 22, 1887 at the Savoy theatre in London. In the 125 years since its first performance, the sun has risen and set on the British Empire, seven monarchs have held the crown, and taste in popular music has changed radically several times. The relationships that people have to society at large have been reinvented more than once in that time. So when you reach for the old score with the gingerbread cover, how do you connect the modern viewer with it?

Gilbert and Sullivan help us out a lot in the effort to make the show fresh. Gilbert lampoons both 19th Century melodrama, and the Gothic horror genre, which many others have done since. Gilbert then goes beyond that eternally entertaining format, and uses it to skewer the social hypocrisies that people had to live by and mate by in that time (to which we may be returning).

Sullivan's music was cutting edge at the time, and the score feels very modern as it sets the mood for the story, and reveals sensations that Gilbert's characters are not permitted to put into words. Some consider this score to be the finest that he composed for any of the Savoy operettas. Our production will have an intimate staging, with a reduced orchestra and piano to accompany our cast.

I wanted to set the production in a world that would appeal to modern audiences from many backgrounds. To that end, I have put this show in a steampunk universe: a place with bright colors that cut through the smoke; a world animated by the visceral power of steam and clockwork. It's a fantastic world that frees us from historical limitations, and allows us to focus on the fun!

~ Donald Dexter, Stage Director

When *Ruddigore* was first produced in 1887, the Victorians considered its title offensive. Originally, the play was spelled "Ruddygore," but the Victorians thought this was a parody of the word, "bloody," a word that was never used in polite society. But when the spelling of the name was changed to "Ruddigore," it didn't seem to help. The Victorian audiences didn't approve of all the supernatural happenings. And when in the second act a woman sings a duet with a man who is supposed to be dead, the Victorians were appalled. The idea of people having interactions with ghosts was considered very bad taste.

~ Christopher Richter  
Theater Department Chair  
Muhlenberg College, 2007

#### FREE PREVIEW CONCERT

Hear a selection of songs from our 2022 cast of *Ruddigore*!

**Location: Capitol Lakes  
333 W Main St  
Madison, WI 53703**

**Date: Sunday, July 24**

**Time: 7:00pm**

**Capitol Lakes requires proof of vaccination and masks**

## Introducing our *Ruddigore* Principal Cast



**William Volmar** (Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd) is an undergraduate student in his third year studying vocal performance at the Mead Witter School of Music. William has previously performed with the University Opera in their production of *Two Remain (Out Of Darkness)* and *Sweeney Todd*.



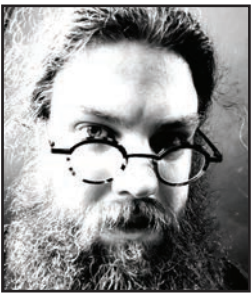
**Megan McCarthy** (Rose Maybud) is excited to be returning for her second show with Madison Savoyards. Her most recent credits include *First Spirit/Toad* in Opera MODO's (Detroit) production of *#SuperFlute (Magic Flute)* and *Gretel* in Chicago Summer Opera's production of *Hänsel und Gretel*.



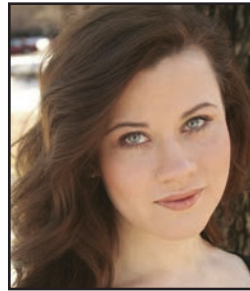
**Jude Balthazar** (Richard Dauntless) is currently studying voice and opera performance at UW-Madison with Mimmi Fulmer. Jude is a Cedar Rapids Opera Young Artist for the 2022 season. He has an A.D. from The University of Trinidad and Tobago, a B.M. Performance from Oklahoma Baptist University, and a master's studies in Vocal Performance from the University of Arkansas.



**Erin Sura** (Mad Margaret) 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*).



**Keith Christianson** (Sir Despard Murgatroyd), a sometime veteran of Madison area theater, is as happy as the proverbial clam to return to the stage with The Madison Savoyards, although somewhat uncertain how happiness in clams is measured. Previous credits include *All is Calm* (in 2019 and 2021), *Young Frankenstein* (as Victor), and *Trial by Jury* (as The Judge).



**Erin K. Bryan** (Dame Hannah Trusty) has been praised for her "deft" operatic characterizations, with credits including work with Kentucky Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera, Madison Savoyards, and the innovative Fresco Opera. She enjoys frequent collaboration with living composers and is Assistant Professor of Music, and Voice Area Coordinator at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin.



**Jeremy Dyer** (Old Adam) is excited to be joining Madison Savoyards for his first production since the pandemic. A recent transplant to Wisconsin, Jeremy grew up in Houston, TX and spent 8 years performing with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston and Houston Savoyards choral group. In 2019, Jeremy performed in the world premiere of Alistair Donkin's *A Topsy-Turvy Mikado*.



**Cat Richmond** (Zorah) is "a versatile musician, with a clear and gorgeous soprano" (*Broadway World*), and an accomplished regional performer. During the pandemic, Ms. Richmond won Fresco Opera's *Dueling Divas* online battle competition, and sang in their *Aria Hunt* program. Ms. Richmond received her M.M. in Vocal Performance from Georgia State University and San Francisco Conservatory.

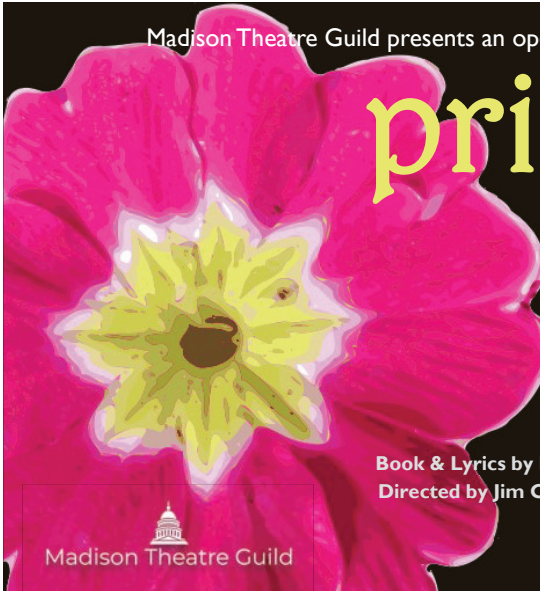


**Mike Brady** (Sir Roderic Murgatroyd) is excited to finally join the Savoyards in person, having performed in their virtual productions for the past two years! During the day, Mike trains software developers and does voice-over work at Epic. He is also a taekwondo instructor and eight-time state champion, training at ATA Madison West. Mike also frequents the stage at Verona Area Community Theaters.



**Evy Johnson** (Ruth) will be performing for the first time with Madison Savoyards this summer. Recent roles include Ness in the Backman & Kowalczyk musical, *Moonshine Abbey*, La Fee in Viardot's *Cendrillon*, and Serpetta in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*. Evy holds a Master of Music from the University of South Carolina, a Bachelor of Music Education from South Dakota State University, and will begin full time studies toward an M.A. in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas this fall.

Madison Theatre Guild presents an operetta in the style of Gilbert & Sullivan



# primrose

Or The Town Time Left Behind

Oct 14 - Oct 22

Book & Lyrics by Nick Schweitzer • Music by Ted Reinke  
Directed by Jim Chiolino • Music Direction by Eric Sayre

Madison Theatre Guild

For tickets call: 608-661-9696

## AUDITION for Madison Theatre Guild's *Primrose, or the Town Time Left Behind*

An operetta in the spirit of Gilbert & Sullivan based on American themes: politicians and elections, power relationships between the sexes, baseball and indoor plumbing.

**Where: MTG Firehouse  
2410 Monroe St, Madison**

**Audition Dates/Time:  
August 8 and 9 starting at 6:30 pm**

Come prepared to sing a G&S style song-o and to do a cold read from the script. No advance sign up, just come on 8/8 or 8/9. Callbacks will be August 10 if needed. For more information, contact Jim Chiolino at [jchiolino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jchiolino@sbcglobal.net).

OR

### 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.

### 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

Tuesday, October 11  
6:30-7:30pm on Zoom

- review 2022 activities
- discuss plans for 2023
- elect board members

Please join us! Sign up at  
<https://tinyurl.com/MSLAnnMtg22>



### Board of Directors

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

### Contact Us

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

### To our staunch Savoyards!

It's been too long since we've seen each other face to face, and I'm sure we're all embracing summer and the events it offers whole-heartedly.

With our upcoming production of *Ruddigore*, our cast, musicians and crew are singing and dancing their way through rehearsals. We are so excited by the talent and enthusiasm this group is bringing to the production and can't wait for you to experience it!

If you are a fan of Gilbert and Sullivan's ensemble pieces, you will not want to miss the trio sung by a mezzo-soprano and two baritones of "My Eyes are Fully Open" which is devilishly hard and delightfully musical.

We hope you and your family and friends will join us in enjoying the magic of *Ruddigore* in August!

We also invite you to join us virtually for our annual meeting in October, to discuss the summer production, how the year went, and talk about our plans for the future.

We hope your cup of summer joy is filled to the brim.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Killam, Board President*

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

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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 \$ _____           |

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

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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 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](mailto:madison.savoyards@gmail.com) for more information.