

Savoyardage

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON SAVOYARDS, LTD.

Announcing Madison Savoyards' 2022 production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Ruddigore*, or *The Witch's Curse*!

Join us for Gilbert & Sullivan's most gothic tale, filled with jilted lovers, evil baronets, ghostly ancestors, and professional bridesmaids!

August 5, 6, 12, 13 at 7:30pm

August 7, 14 at 3:00pm

The Bartell Theatre

113 E Mifflin St, Madison, WI 53703

Information: 608-661-9696

Tickets on sale now via madisonsavoyards.org or bartelltheatre.org

Chorus, especially male voices, are needed! If you have singing / acting experience, please email **madison.savoyards@gmail.com** with your interest. Rehearsals begin June 27.



Madison Savoyards welcomes our directing team!

We're excited to welcome a newcomer to Madison Savoyards' productions, **Christopher Ramaekers**, who will be music directing for us this summer!



Chris is Director of Orchestras at UW-Whitewater, Music Director for Lake Forest Civic Orchestra and Symphony847, Artistic Director of the Davis Theater Concert Series for Access Contemporary Music, and Associate Conductor of the Chicago Composers Orchestra. Chris received his Doctor



L to R: Noah Strube, Beck Buechel and Keith Christianson perform "My eyes are fully open" (*Ruddigore*) recorded for "I have a song to sing, O!" August 2021. Photo by Nick Cardarella

of Music in Orchestral Conducting from Northwestern University. While living in Chicago, Chris performed as conductor and orchestra member with the Evanston Savoyaires and the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company at the University of Chicago. "I am consistently charmed by the wit and humor in all of these pieces, and I am thrilled to join this summer's production of *Ruddigore*!"

While not a newcomer to Madison Savoyards, **Donald Dexter** is new to our directing team, and will be our stage director this summer!



Don has been a principal player in our casts since 2011, when he played Scaphio in *Utopia, Ltd.* He has been a member of Madison Savoyards' board of directors since 2016 and

currently serves as Vice President.

Don's lifelong interest in Gilbert & Sullivan began when he was a child. Quarantined with measles, he was given an album of patter songs for entertainment. In his teenage years he identified with Gilbert's contempt for hypocrisy and with the passion in Sullivan's music. As an adult, he enjoys performing in the operettas, and presenting the wit and music of Gilbert and Sullivan to contemporary audiences. "To me, the works of Gilbert and Sullivan are a catalogue of human foibles (Gilbert) and human emotion (Sullivan), and I daily refer to their works as amusing allegories to life's contradictions and challenges."

Don has worked as an actor and a director for more than 40 years. His local directing credits include *The Sweet Lowdown* for Broom Street Theatre, *Win, Lose, Draw* for the Waunakee Actors Guild, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* for the Evansville Community Theatre.



Savoyards—

Before we reveal some of the details about our in-person 2022 offering, I wanted to do a 2021 year-in-review. I'm proud of the resilience and ingenuity of companies in the Madison area over the last couple years, and the Madison Savoyards provided some excellent entertainment, available from the comfort of

your couch.

This past year we focused on creating three virtual events: two centered on Gilbert and Sullivan, and one celebrating the contemporaries of Gilbert and Sullivan.

February's "Winter Arts Mosaic" was recorded in collaboration with Central Midwest Ballet Academy and Upstart Crows. This event featured a newly commissioned song by local composer Mark Wurzelbacher and raised awareness about our youth performing arts community.

August's "I Have a Song to Sing, O!" and December's "An Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan" were freely available to view via our website and Youtube channel, and if you've not seen either, these recordings are still available to watch and share (go to madisonsavoyards.org > **Current Season** > **Recent Offerings** and click on the program links).

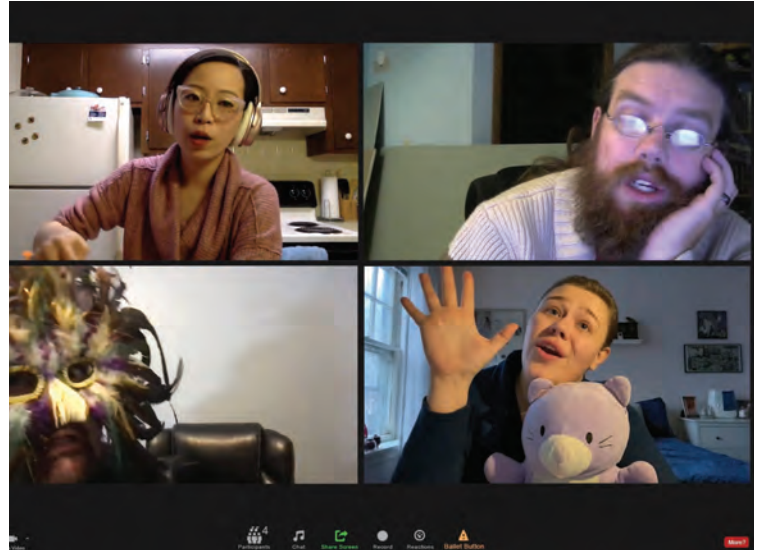
Our December concert was sponsored by the University League and recorded for their winter Candlelight Concert. They graciously allowed us to share this recording with our followers.

Along with our recorded events, some hearty singers brought holiday cheer to Monroe Street in December, singing holiday carols during the Monroe Street Business Association's Holiday Glow event.

We've learned a lot in the last couple of years about recording voice and accompaniment, and bringing singers together safely during a pandemic that is spread through the breath. We thank our performers for sharing their talent, and persevering in their music in the safest possible way during this time. Thank you to SoundVision studios for providing a sanitized airspace, professional recording, audio and visual editing of our performances this year, and to our supporters, who watch our events online and donate to keep us singing and on the stage.

Sincerely,

Catherine Killam



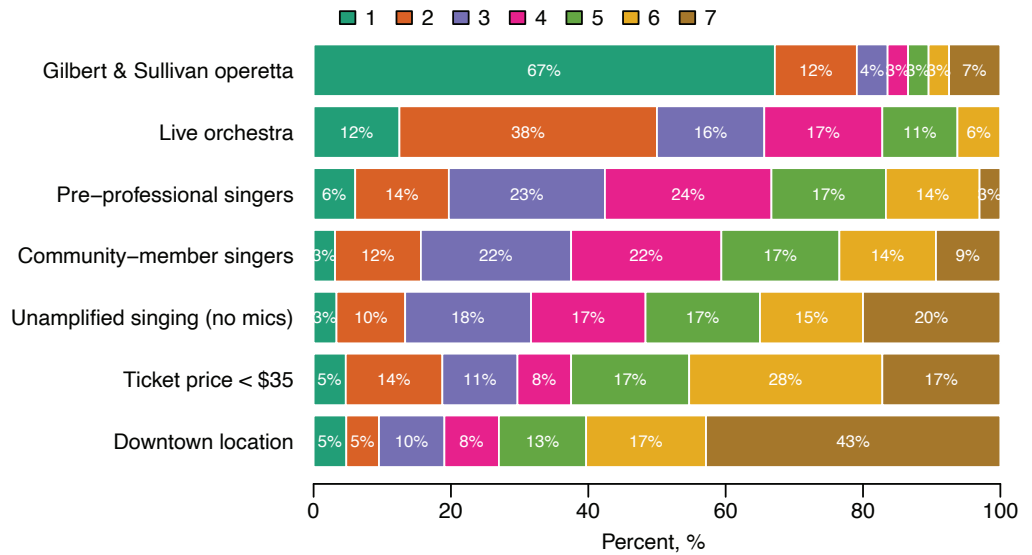
**Top to Bottom: "Another Day" from Winter Arts Mosaic; "Nevermind the why and wherefore" from I have a song to sing O! ; University League's Candlelight Conert. Singers: Kelsey Wang, Beck Buechel, J. Adam Shelton, Noah Strube, Keith Christianson, and Mike Brady
Photo credits: Benjamin Barlow, Nick Cardarella**

Thank you to everyone who filled out our survey in November!

We had 69 responses from our emailed survey, with resounding support for Gilbert & Sullivan and live orchestra. If you didn't get a chance to answer the survey, we'd love to hear from you! Email us at madison.savoyards@gmail.com. Some of our feedback included:

- The opportunity to hear the rarely performed G&S is very important
- I really like the idea of a scaled-down Ruddigore at the Bartell in 2022. I think the venue could work very well.
- We loved that you provided an option to view your last production online. We probably won't be attending the next few productions in person due to risk of covid, so we would like to be able to view your production online again. We would be happy to pay for online viewing tickets.
- The decision to depart from the G&S repertoire that the Board made a couple of years ago was a mistake.
- Have more shows. :-)

Rank the aspects of MSL you value most: 1=Most Valued, 7=Least Valued



- If we must have a pared down season, could it go on the road? Outside? The Zoo?
- The Savoyards have consistently brought together community members and young singers with a live orchestra to produce good quality productions that provide invaluable experiences for all involved and foster a brilliant sense of community. I'd much rather see a full-scale production, but we will take what we can get.
- I do think it's a good idea to do the reduced version of Ruddigore next summer. Audiences have not returned to normal levels yet, and a lower cost production next summer seems prudent. And if it worked in 2004...one more thing — I hate microphones!
- We so appreciate your hard work and efforts to keep productions alive in creative ways. We hope to support your productions however you present them!

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.

2022 Board of Directors

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

Thank You to the Wisconsin Arts Board

Madison Savoyards is a proud and grateful recipient of a Wisconsin Arts Board 2022 Creation and Presentation grant, through funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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 2020-21.

If you have interest in helping to shepherd our organization into the future, please reach out to any current board member for a quick coffee or chat. We'd love to hear from you.

Contact Us

email: madison.savoyards@gmail.com
 voicemail: (608) 616-5706
 website: madisonsavoyards.org

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: _____

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 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.