

Savoyardage

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON SAVOYARDS, LTD.

Madison Savoyards presents

The Zoo

& Assorted Sullivan Songs
in concert

Sunday March 2 The Forum Room
Saturday March 8 Monona Public Library
at 2:30pm



Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, by George Johann Scharf 1835
courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Zoo & Assorted Sullivan Songs **March 2 & 8** at 2:30pm

Monona Public Library
1000 Nichols Rd, Madison
FREE

Grace Presents: **The Madison Savoyards** **April 12** at 12:00pm

Grace Episcopal Church
116 West Washington Ave, Madison
FREE

Tickets available now for
Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe*
August 1, 8 at 7:30pm
August 2, 3, 9, 10 at 3:00pm
NEW this year: **Saturday 3:00pm**
performances!

The Bartell Theatre
113 E Mifflin St, Madison
Box Office: 608-661-9696
Online: bartelltheatre.org
madisonsavoyards.org

Early spring greetings, Savoyards! We're eagerly looking forward to this year's expanded programming, which includes concert performances of Gilbert & Sullivan in song. These spring concerts are free and open to the public--please bring family and friends!

First up we have a concert performance of *The Zoo*: a one-act comic opera with music by Arthur Sullivan and a libretto by B.C. Stephenson. Sullivan composed the score after the unexpected popularity of *Trial by Jury*, another one-act operetta with no spoken dialogue. *The Zoo's* farcical story is about two pairs of lovers. The first couple is made up of a disguised nobleman, who goes to the zoo to woo the girl who sells snacks there; he tries to impress her by buying and eating all of the food. The other couple is a young chemist who believes that he has poisoned his beloved by mixing up her father's prescription with peppermint that he had meant for her. Melodrama ensues. *The Zoo* will be followed by concert selections of some of Sullivan's works, with and without Gilbert.

GRACE PRESENTS THE MADISON SAVOYARDS



Saturday, April 12 Grace Episcopal Church
at 12:00pm 116 W Washginton Ave
Madison, WI

Free monthly concerts on the Square
gracepresents.org

Join us again on April 12, the first day of the Dane County farmer's market, for a Grace Presents concert of selected pieces by Gilbert & Sullivan. Grace Presents is a free monthly concert series that takes place in the historic Grace Episcopal Church on the Capitol Square. All concerts are at noon on Saturdays.

Lastly, we are busy making plans for this year's August production of *Iolanthe*. This was Madison Savoyards' inaugural production in 1963, and we're looking forward to celebrating it with you. We welcome back Christopher Ramaekers as Music Director, and J. Michael Bruno as Stage Director. We held auditions in January and are so excited about the level of talent in this year's cast. New this year: Saturday matinees! Given the extremely popular matinee performances on Sundays, we have moved Saturday performances to 3:00pm; we hope you'll see the show and then stay downtown for a bite to eat.



Madison Savoyards at the WPR studio on August 1, 2024 on Midday Classics with Norman Gilliland. From L to R: Bradley J. Carter, Wade Troyer, Roland Beach, Cat Richmond, Christopher Ramaekers and Brendin Larson; photo by J. Potter

Updating Gilbert's lyrics: a long and fun tradition

One of the long-standing traditions when performing *The Mikado* is inserting modern-day and local references into the "As some day it may happen" lyrics. In this song, Ko-Ko describes his "little list" of irritating people who never would be missed (if added to the execution queue). Companies all through time and across the globe make updates to this list to reference modern culture and happenings.

This past summer, Bradley J. Carter made similar updates to Colonel Calverley's "The soldiers of our Queen" patter lyrics. The original lyrics reference Lord Nelson, Paget, Jullien, Macaulay, etc., all of whom were known admirals, architects, playwrights and clergy living from the 1600s to the 1890s. Bradley's aim in updating the lyrics was to preserve the spirit of the song but fill it with recognizable 20th century characters.

"Gilbert's meters and rhyme schemes are so tightly constructed that writing new lyrics to fit his patterns is akin to solving a puzzle. The "If you want a receipt" patter section is a concoction of many threes. The tune itself is a brisk 6/8 with trisyllabic division strictly stressing only the downbeat syllables, which left me often reordering Star Wars characters and Muppets to yield sufficient prosody. Throughout the section, there are three main rhyming rules to preserve: the trisyllabic ends to approximately half of the lines, the lines they alternate with that always rhyme with "man," and the need for each verse's final rhyme to have a nice open "Oh" sound to segue into the "Ah!" that takes us into the refrain. It is the first of these rules, the trisyllabic rhymes, that are so quintessentially Gilbertian and which are the most difficult (and the most fun!) to find. Indeed, the Major-General himself ponders how to end his own trisyllabic rhymes in his patter song in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Thankfully, I had a little more time than he; I believe that "yellow ship" and "fellowship" was the first such rhyme I came up with as a stray thought a few months before writing the bulk of the lyrics in mid-June of 2024. I hope my alternate solution to this puzzle brings you some amusement!"

~ Bradley J. Carter

To the tune of: The soldiers of our Queen
from *Patience* by Gilbert & Sullivan, 1881
additional lyrics by Bradley J. Carter, 2024

Colonel: If you want a receipt for that popular mystery,
Known to the world as a Heavy Dragoon,

Dragoons: Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!

Colonel: Take all the remarkable people in history,
Rattle them off to a popular tune.

Dragoons: Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!

Colonel: The genius of Einstein describing a particle,
Ever enlightening, thus we began -
The wit of Ben Brantley composing an article,
Simultane'usly a rave and a pan -

The smile of a Cheshire Cat, nary a cavity
(Courtesy of the Dragoon dental plan) -
The mass of Sir Isaac, Newtonian Gravity,
Speed of a runner who rapidly ran.

The courteous bravery of Nottingham's Mister Hood,
Feminine insight of Dorothy's sisterhood:
Blanche's resil'ence, Sophia's great cooking skill
Rose without thorns for those little sharp hookings kill -
Taste of Bourdain and the voice of Bono -
Body and talent of Willem Dafoe!

Dragoons: Yes, yes, yes, yes!

Colonel: Ah!

Take of these elements, all that is fusible,
Melt them all down in a pipkin or crucible -
Set them to simmer, and take off the scum,
And a Heavy Dragoon is the residuum!

If you want a receipt for that soldier-like paragon
Know that it manages more than one man
It calls for camaraderie like in an era gone
So take your teamwork from any past clan:

John, Paul, George, and Ringo, submerged in a yellow ship -
Scooby-Doo, Shaggy, and friends in a van -
Or Frodo and Sam and the rest of the Fellowship -
Leia, Luke, Obi-Wan, Chewie, and Han -

The seemingly endless Avengers assembling,
Or the Norse deities they are resembling -
Winnie (whose honey lust I share a habit to),
Eeyore and Tigger and Piglet and Rabbit too -
Fozzie Bear, Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo,
Ernie, Bert, Big Bird, The Count, and Elmo!

Dragoons: Yes, yes, yes yes!

Colonel: Ah!

Take of these elements all that is fusible,
Melt them all down in a pipkin or crucible -
Set them to simmer, and take off the scum,
And a Heavy Dragoon is the residuum!



A look back at 2024



Clockwise from top left: (1) July 20, *Patience* Concert at Capitol Lakes, (2) August 4, Free Children's *Patience* Pre-show, (3) August 2-11, 2024 Madison Savoyards presented *Patience* at the Bartell Theatre, and (4) December 6, caroling on Monroe Street

Board of Directors 2024-25

- Phillip Saganski President
- Bradley J. Carter Vice President
- Walt Schalick Secretary
- Aimee Teo Broman Treasurer
- Jeremy Dyer Member at large
- Jesse Harrison Member at large
- Pamela Ziemlewicz Member at large

Thank You to our Supporters

Madison Savoyards is deeply grateful for your continued support of our company through your donations and well wishes. Do you have interest in board service or in helping 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

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

Thank you to *The Zoo* program sponsor

The Zoo concert is sponsored in part by Thrivent, a holistic financial services organization.



Thank You to the Wisconsin Arts Board

Madison Savoyards is a proud and grateful recipient of a Wisconsin Arts Board 2025 Creation and Presentation grant, through funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

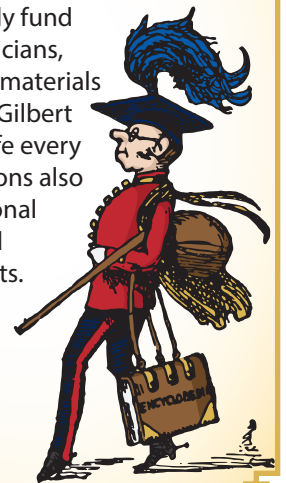


MAY-jor GENERAL-osity

Have your donation matched in May! **All donations made between May 1 and May 31, 2025 will be matched** by our latest Major General, Bradley J. Carter, up to \$1000!

Donations directly fund the artists, technicians, costume and set materials needed to bring Gilbert and Sullivan to life every summer. Donations also help fund additional free concerts and community events.

Double your donation by giving this May!



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:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$500 - \$999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$1000 +) | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund \$ _____ |

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt #: _____

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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 2023 *The Pirates of Penzance*:

I would like to purchase _____ DVDs (\$26, tax and shipping included) of *Pirates*. Shipping fee may be waived if pick-up can be arranged in Madison. Email **madison.savoyards@gmail.com** for more information.