

# THE Happy Dispatch



SPECIAL EDITION, NOVEMBER 2003

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF *The Durham Savoyards, Limited*

Amazing though it may seem, it has been a year since we last contacted you, our supporters, to ask for your continued generosity. We in the G&S press corps wanted to take this opportunity to update the people who have kept us strong on what is happening at *The Durham Savoyards, Limited (DSL)*. In this "Happy Dispatch," you'll learn why we believe that our 41st season will be our best yet.

## THOSE BLOODY YANKS ARE UP TO THEIR WITCH TRIALS AGAIN!

For this year's production of *Ruddigore*, we will be featuring the subtitle: *The Witch's Curse*, as part of a broad-based program for audience development. We hope that this will help the fans of Harry Potter and similar works to find the fun they have been missing in Gilbert & Sullivan. To better serve our mission of bringing the artistic brilliance and incisive wit of Gilbert & Sullivan to North Carolina audiences, we have amended our program in a number of ways:

- We have increased significantly the show's promotional budget over previous years to reach more people who might be interested, but are unaware of our work. This budget is backed up with a talented committee to develop and execute the publicity program for *Ruddigore: The Witch's Curse*.
- For the first time, tickets for *Ruddigore: The Witch's Curse* will be sold over the World Wide Web. This service can be accessed either from the Carolina Theatre web site ([www.carolinatheatre.org](http://www.carolinatheatre.org)) or our own web site ([www.durhamsavoyards.org](http://www.durhamsavoyards.org)).
- Even the parking situation, a big problem in 2002, has been remedied. The City of Durham has contracted out the management of the downtown garage to a commercial firm. Security guards are present at the nearby parking garage, and access – both entrance and exit – is much improved.



## AN ENCORE PLEASE FROM THE DIRECTORS

We are pleased to tell you that the same artistic team that brought you last year's innovative restaging of *The Mikado* has returned to create this year's *Ruddigore: The Witch's Curse*. Derrick Ivey will occupy the Director's Chair to interpret W. S. Gilbert's dialog with a healthy dose of fun. Alan Riley Jones will again take the podium to conduct Arthur Sullivan's brilliant music.

## AND MAY THE NEXT 40 BE JUST AS GRAND

The Durham Savoyards celebrated their 40th anniversary in a fine and festive fashion – how else? – on Saturday evening, November 1, 2003. Two stalwarts, Richard Dideriksen and Randy Lambe, were honored with the Savoyards' Lifetime Achievement Award; and a third, Charles Guidry, was presented with the Russell Sharpe Techie Extraordinaire Award. Music director Alan Jones led the group in singing selections from the thirteen G&S operettas, and was ably assisted by former music directors Paul Bryan, Isabel Samfield, and Benjamin Keaton.

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## THE SUN NEVER SETS ON OUR PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

We have created a year-round publicity director position instead of associating the position with a single show. Donna Clement has agreed to take this position which will allow us to participate in events that occur outside of the period when our show is in production.

*The Durham Savoyards, Ltd.*  
presents

**RUDDIGORE**

or

**The Witch's Curse**

MARCH 19-21 AND MARCH 26-28, 2004

CAROLINA THEATRE — DOWNTOWN DURHAM, NC



## DANCING A GIGUE (JIG) OVER OUR GIGUES (GIGS)

Gigue-Mistress Ann McCloskey has organized an expanded schedule of twelve outreach performances throughout the next year. Gigues (yes, we know that isn't the normal spelling) provide an excellent way for Savoyards who cannot spare the time required for the annual show to share their talent while still serving the Savoyards' basic mission.



As conservators of the works of Gilbert & Sullivan, we are proud to be a part of the community which we call *The Durham Savoyards, Ltd.* This community is vital and diverse. We are grateful for the generous support you have given us in the past and we hope you will continue to help us maintain this treasury for at least another 40 years.

— Dwight D. Sullivan  
Business Manager  
*Durham Savoyards, Ltd.*

For more information on the Durham Savoyards, visit our web site at [www.durhamsavoyards.org](http://www.durhamsavoyards.org)

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