

Choral Festival at Brookhaven

Our Twenty-second Year!

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Edition 1, Volume 3

Some "Sound" Advice

Just about half-way through this year's Festival, and we all might be feeling a wee bit fatigued. A search of the Internet turned up some tips that might help get over "Hump Day"

- Warm up, loosen up, energize. Stretching, relaxed humming gets both body and mind ready to concentrate on singing.
- Think posture. Erect, well balanced, shoulders relaxed, feet flat on the floor.
- Breathe. Lots. And from the diaphragm!
- Don't oversing. Just wears you out, and doesn't contribute well to choral blend.
- Articulate wisely. Keep those jaws, tongue and lips as relaxed as possible. Particularly in those Gilbert and Sullivan pieces!
- Take care of yourself. Get plenty of rest, and plenty of liquids!

Some reminders:

Raffle tickets still being accepted at the registration desk. The prizes this year are terrific! And the raffle is an important part of our revenue each year.

Tee shirts and golf shirts are available for sale. \$15 for tees, \$20 for golf shirts.

No tickets for Sunday night's performance – it is a free will donation at the door. We are suggesting \$20 per person. If someone you know can't make the concert but still would like to support the Chorus, donations can be made through PayPal. See our website, www.brookhavenchoral.org for details.

Schedule

Festival Chorus

Monday through Friday nights – 6:30 to 9:30p, Christ Episcopal Church, South Country Road, Bellport. (Keep Friday night free for our Conductors' reception after rehearsal)

Saturday 1 to 4pm at Christ Church

Sunday Dress Rehearsal 2 - 5p at the Gateway Playhouse, South Country Road, Bellport

Dinner at Gateway at 5p

Choral Festival Performance 7pm, Gateway Playhouse

Reception to follow at the Playhouse

Composer's Corner – G&S

The World Heritage Encyclopedia makes the case that Gilbert and Sullivan's cultural influence travels far and wide:

"Lines and quotations from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas have become part of the English language, such as "short, sharp shock", "What never? Well, hardly ever!", "let the punishment fit the crime", and "A policeman's lot is not a happy one".

"Gilbert's complex rhyme schemes and satirical lyrics served as a model for Edwardian musical comedy writers such as Adrian Ross and Owen Hall, and for such 20th century Broadway lyricists as P. G. Wodehouse, Cole Porter, Ira Gershwin, Yip Harburg, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein II and Sheldon Harnick. Even some of the plot elements from G&S operas entered subsequent musicals; for example, 1937's *Me and My Girl* features a portrait gallery of ancestors that, like the portraits in *Ruddigore*, come alive to remind their descendant of his duty. Johnny Mercer said, "We all come from Gilbert." Alan Jay Lerner wrote that Gilbert "raised lyric writing from a serviceable craft to a legitimate popular art form," and, despite professing not to be a Gilbert fan, Stephen Sondheim wrote "Please Hello" for *Pacific Overtures* (1976), a song that has been called "anhomage" to Gilbert."



From the Encyclopedia of Trivia:

William Schwenck Gilbert was born on November 18, 1836, in London. He started his working life as a government clerk, before becoming a lawyer, and finally a dramatist, who until he collaborated with Sullivan, had a successful but not outstanding career.

Arthur Seymour Sullivan was born in London on May 13, 1842, the son of a poor Irish musician. As a boy he was a soloist with the Chapel Royal choristers.

Before he met W. S. Gilbert, Arthur Sullivan was Victorian England's most famous composer of popular and sacred songs and oratorios. "Onward! Christian Soldiers" is his best-known hymn; "The Lost Chord" is one of his songs. Sullivan did not want to be remembered for his comic operas with Gilbert. "My sacred music is that on which I base my reputation as a composer," he wrote. "These works are the offspring of my liveliest fancy, the children of my greatest strength."

Gilbert and Sullivan first met in 1870. *HMS Pinafore* was their fourth collaboration, premiering in 1878.

In Memoriam:

We extend our sympathy to the Gateway Playhouse Organization on the recent passing of Robin Allen. She was one of the founders of the Playhouse, along with her parents, Stan and Ruth, and her brother, Paul.

We also send our thoughts to members of the Long Island Symphonic Choral Association on the death of its founder, Gregg Smith. He served as conductor of that organization for 40 years.

