

NEW YORK

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

PLAYERS

FORWARD FROM

50

WITH REFLECTED LIGHT



The morning after opening night of *The Gondoliers*, W. S. Gilbert wrote to Arthur Sullivan,

“I MUST THANK YOU FOR THE MAGNIFICENT EFFORT YOU PUT INTO THE PIECE. IT GIVES ONE A CHANCE OF SHINING RIGHT THROUGH THE 20TH CENTURY WITH A REFLECTED LIGHT.”

As New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players (NYGASP) marks its 50th season and anniversary, we are embarking on a campaign to ensure NYGASP thrives in the years and decades to come. We believe that NYGASP is the world’s best chance for Gilbert & Sullivan’s collaboration to shine through the 21st century, giving vitality to the living legacy of Gilbert & Sullivan for generations.



James Mills and Caitlin Borek in *The Gondoliers*, Photo by Danny Bristol



Albert Bergeret

For the past 50 years, Artistic Director and co-founder Albert Bergeret has shepherded the company through thick and thin with a passionate and unmatched commitment, building a world class performing arts organization that is on the brink of even greater success.

Under his leadership and his baton, the company and its reputation have grown exponentially. Today, we enjoy an international reach garnered through yearly full-scale productions in New York City, touring around the country, producing and streaming creative content online, and our educational programs for students of all ages. We are well-reviewed, well-respected, and well-managed, having expanded our staff and Board over the past 15 years.

WITH AN EYE ON THE FUTURE, WE HAVE LAUNCHED A \$1 MILLION CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE THAT NYGASP CONTINUES TO THRIVE LONG AFTER ALBERT BECOMES NYGASP’S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS AT THE END OF OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON.

As NYGASP prepares for this change in leadership, we must “Keep calm and patter on!” – and raise one million dollars to be invested over the coming years to build upon our legacy and carry us into the decades ahead.



H.M.S. Pinafore, Photo by Danny Bristol



The Pirates of Penzance, Photo by Carol Rosegg

Cover: *H.M.S. Pinafore*, photo by Danny Bristol



The Mikado, Photo by William Reynolds

THE FORWARD FROM 50 CAMPAIGN WILL ENABLE NYGASP TO:



Logan Pitts, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Photo by Danny Bristol

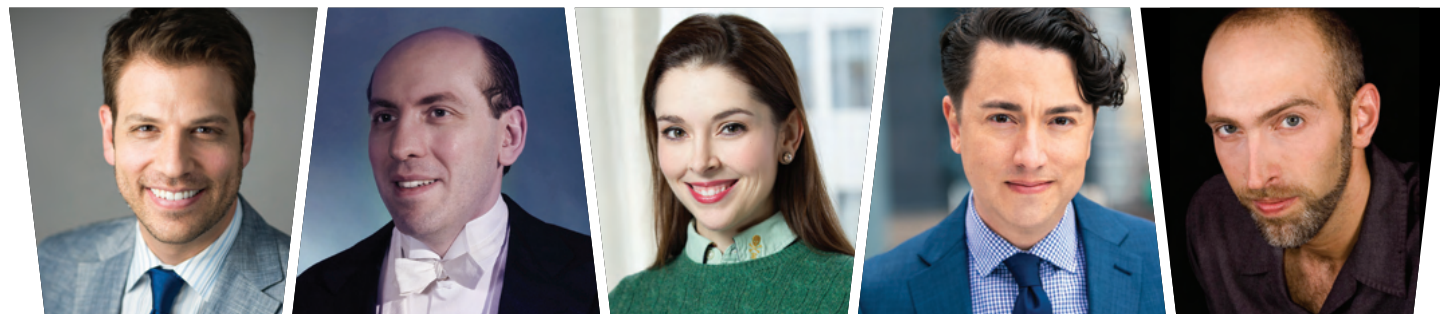
INNOVATE

- Forge new ways to connect with our global audience through streaming, virtual programming, and creative promotion of the NYGASP mission
- Expand NYGASP's portfolio of live programming, including special productions and concerts
- Elevate programs through technological advancements including a dedicated microphone system and sound improvements

INSPIRE

- Deliver family entertainment with multigenerational appeal for new audiences
- Ensure the production of the full G&S repertoire, in addition to "the big three" (*H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Mikado*)
- Cultivate the roster of artists who form the NYGASP repertory company, valuing diversity, teamwork, and mastery

NEXT GENERATION OF NYGASP LEADERSHIP



DAVID WANNAN
Executive Director

JOSEPH RUBIN
Director of Administration & Associate Music Director

SARAH CALDWELL SMITH
Development Associate

JAMES MILLS
Associate Artistic Director

DAVID AUXIER
Co-Director & Choreographer

EDUCATE

- Enhance our outreach offerings - school residencies, masterclasses and educational programming including youth productions
- Engage a dedicated Education Director to lead programming and proactively partner with New York City area schools
- Offer adult education programming including repertoire classes, voice lessons, and G&S history for our community of fans and patrons



Soprano, Rebecca L. Hagrove and Executive Director, David Wannan lead an audition workshop with Florida State University



Albert Bergeret with Living Legacy of Gilbert & Sullivan Awardee, Sheldon Hamrick

FAIR DAYS WILL SHINE FUND

Secure the future of NYGASP with our Fair Days Will Shine Fund! To stay strong amidst the challenges facing non-profit theatre companies nationwide, we aim to double our current operating reserves to equal one year of budgeted expenses. Whether skies are beautifully blue or cloudy, NYGASP can take heart, knowing that all is prepared.



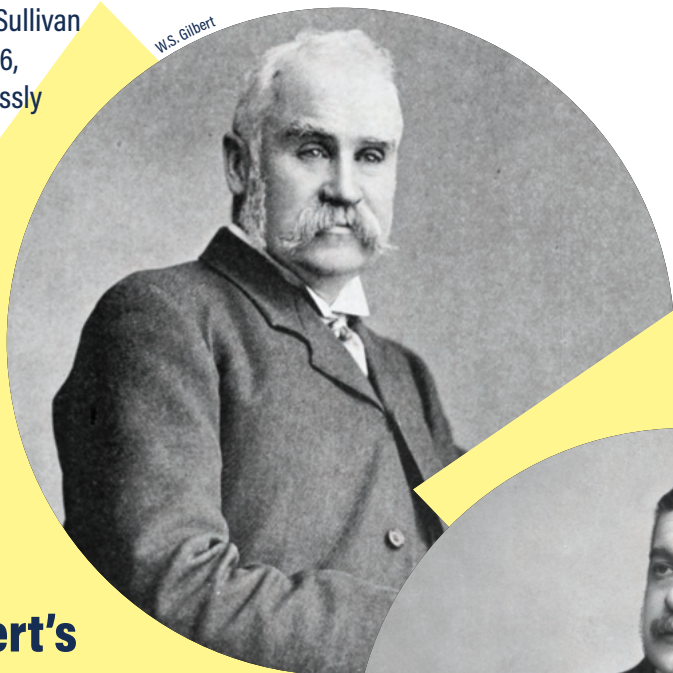
- Supporting Special Productions and Full G&S Repertoire, \$200,000
- Enhancing Technology, Producing and Streaming Innovative Content, \$150,000
- Creating Education Director Position and Programming for Youth, \$150,000
- Fair Days Will Shine Fund, \$500,000

Librettist, W.S. Gilbert and composer, Arthur Sullivan wrote fourteen comic operas from 1871 to 1896, known for their quick wit, satire, and relentlessly hummable tunes.

Gilbert and Sullivan's work endures because it challenges us to question social norms, view the world through a different lens, and to laugh at ourselves. Gilbert's broad strokes captured timeless human foibles, as relevant today as in the 1800s.

Their work laid the foundation for modern musical theatre,

influencing George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, and even composers of today, including *Hamilton's* Lin-Manuel Miranda.



"WE ALL COME FROM GILBERT" - Johnny Mercer

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PLAY A STARRING ROLE IN HELPING US MOVE FORWARD FROM 50:

- Make a meaningful gift or pledge payable over several years
- Ask your employer to match your gift
- Make a legacy gift by including NYGASP in your estate plans
- Hold a fundraising event on our behalf
- And, of course, please spread the word about us, to friends, family, colleagues, and via social media

Your one-time investment in our 50th anniversary campaign, over and above annual giving, will pay dividends now and in years to come.

Together, we can ensure that NYGASP has the leadership necessary to shepherd the power of this repertoire to inspire, engage, and ignite change – and joy – for the next fifty years!

For more information, contact Sarah Caldwell Smith at sarah@nygasp.org or 917-657-0008.



Caitlin Borek, Laura Sudduth and Sabrina Lopez in *The Pirates of Penzance* Photo by Norton Center for the Arts

New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players is a professional repertory company giving vitality to the living legacy of Gilbert & Sullivan through performance and education.

TODAY WE...

- Draw on five decades of living and breathing this repertoire, with insightful character development, nuanced scene work, and a commitment above all to "tell the story"
- Continuously infuse new life into shows with topical references, fresh casting, and eye-catching costumes – not simply replicating D'Oyly Carte productions
- Prioritize high entertainment value, presenting productions with full casts and orchestras, colorful choreography, immersive sets, professional lighting and sound, and NYC's top talent



The Yeomen of the Guard, Photo by Courtney Weill

"OPULENT... COLORFUL AND INVENTIVE...

beautifully crafted... the stage direction offered the balance of economy and extravagance that makes Gilbert & Sullivan work... lovely choreographic touches... polished but retaining spontaneity... The choruses of pirates, daughters and policemen sang and acted delightfully, and the orchestra, conducted by Mr. Bergeret, supported the cast with robust playing guaranteed to warm the most demanding Savoyard's heart."

The New York Times

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Iolanthe, Photo by William Reynolds