



## Newsletter – April 2006

### **Sullivan Concert: 25<sup>th</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April:**



These two concerts went excellently both from the artistic and financial point of view, despite being more than usually expensive to rehearse. Thanks go to John Hargreaves, Laura Nash & Martin Cleave. We also need to thank Ivan for sound and recording, and David Elvin who came (without being asked) and enhanced the lighting for us. David is a new Patron of the company.

Our friends at Pratts Bottom “bought” the concert and sold the usual full house. We sold 119 tickets for the Hayes Village Hall performance and this without compulsory ticket sales!! This is the best we have sold for a concert since the very first concert performance of Opera Nova back in 1990. What was the reason for this? G&S now so rarely performed they came in droves, the rarity value, the good press coverage, who knows? We anticipate a profit of around £400 (Graham thinks more) which will be a good boost to our funds ready for the Magic Flute. I sent the information to the Sir Arthur Sullivan Society some 2 months ago and they said they would put it in their March Newsletter. In the event the March newsletter never happened and the ex Chairman found out by chance the day before the concert and came all the way from Saffron Waldron to see the performance. We exchanged details and I told him we were looking for further venues.

If any-one knows of a charity/group who might like to “buy” our concert, and keep the profit, please let us know. Barbara Moon is already working on some charities and it may be that we will resurrect the concert at a later date.

### **Quiz Night – July 29<sup>th</sup> – Wickham Theatre Centre**

Your hosts this time will be Adrian and Carole Pope. Bring Family and Friends, and as usual there will be the challenge cup won - once again!!! by Jane Johnson and team. Please book your places with Adrian and Carole 020 8464 2298  
[carolepope@talktalk.net](mailto:carolepope@talktalk.net) .

If you can arrange your own teams of 6 it would be helpful, otherwise we can group people together. (I have been told bribes are accepted to sit on Jane’s table). No food is being provided this time, but do feel free to bring nibbles for your own table. Tickets will be priced £5 and all profits will go towards: The Magic Flute.

If you have any prizes for the raffle please let us know.

## Next concert – Double Take concert – Autumn 2006

Adrian has the idea of a “double take” concert. Robyn is interested depending on dates. This is still in the early planning stage but the idea is as follows:

Take operas which have also been performed as a Musical and do matching pieces from each, i.e:

La Boheme	Rent
Madam Butterfly	Miss Saigon
Romeo & Juliet	West Side Story
Carmen	Carmen Jones
Don Quixote	Man of La Mancha

Adrian is hoping this will take place in October November (with November 4<sup>th</sup> as a possibility) and rehearsals will start at the beginning of September, on Fridays at the WTC.

Adrian is the organiser for this and would like to hear from you if you have any further ideas, whether you want to take part, and if you are interested in any particular solo part. 020 8464 2298 or [carolepope@talktalk.net](mailto:carolepope@talktalk.net)



### Easter 2007 Next Opera The Magic Flute

We are currently negotiating a new venue, details to follow, but we are hoping for a week in the Easter holidays next year, so please put this in your diary. As the venue is a school we are restricted to school holidays.

We have approached Robyn as MD and Paul Govier as Director. Both are interested depending on final date. Julia has already looked into licences and we are planning on to do the Dent translation which we did last time.

### Treasure Hunt:

Does any-one want to host this, they need not be the person who sets the trail. Does any-one want to set the trail? It would be nice to have this in an area we have not “hunted” before, and if possible where there is a bit of countryside. Late summer or early autumn. Please let Adrian know.



## **Committee Business:**

As you know I have stepped down to a less involved role within the company and it has been much less stressful, although some still can't get out of the habit of expecting me to know the answer to everything, but I have (genuinely) been able to say "I don't know, ask.....".

Julia Dean who took on the role of Business Manager, has announced she will not be able to stand again at the AGM which is due within the next 3 months.

The role involves sussing out and obtaining licences such as Public Entertainment Licences, Performing Rights Licences, Phonographic Licences and Copyright/Performance licences. Also seeking out and booking performance and rehearsal venues (currently rehearsal venues are done by Anita). It should also involve booking pianists for rehearsals if the MD is unable to do, although in practice Julie Hyland normally does this. As you can see we have tried to reduced the size of this role as we have split much of the work up. Guidance will be given.

If you think you might be able to undertake this role (or even part of it), please could you let John Guttridge know on:

020 8325 3490

[operanova@jguttridge.biz](mailto:operanova@jguttridge.biz)

## **Membership:**



We recently auditioned and accepted the following two new members: Ian McBride (tenor), Jean Platel (soprano). Adrian is the new Membership Secretary so new membership enquiries should be directed to him and he will also arrange an audition date when it is convenient during whatever rehearsals we have running at the time. Singers who have proven their ability to at least 3 committee members do not need to audition but still need to apply and be accepted.

## **Lapsed members/fees:**

There are a number of members who have not paid their fees for some time and according to the rules have lapsed their membership. We do accept guests for concerts, but if you want to take part in the opera you need to be a paid up member to automatically take part. If you think you might be one of these people and still want to keep up your membership (at only £10 per year), do get in touch with John Guttridge as above.

Remember if you want to audition for the opera it is closed auditions for members in the first instance, and you need to be up to date with your membership to be eligible for the closed auditions. The annual subs year runs from April – April. Those not having paid by October are deemed to have lapsed their membership. New members joining after October do not need to pay until the April of the following financial year. (Hope this makes sense).