



THE GAS BILL

AUG/SEP '08

President's Message

Dear member,

I hope that you are well and having an enjoyable summer. This year promises to be a busy and important one for the Society, with two shows being performed in the King's Theatre next March and the conclusion of the current restructuring programme, not to mention numerous other events and concerts. This first communication of the session should give you an idea of what we have planned and allow you to take note of a few key dates.

Ritchie Turnbull (President)

Rehearsals

For those of you joining or rejoining us for the productions of "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "Patience", chorus rehearsals will start on Monday 8th September at 7:15 p.m. at Murrayfield Parish Church hall. I hope that, like me, you are looking forward to working on these two shows simultaneously which, I'm sure, will be challenging but great fun! Please show respect for fellow members by being as prompt as possible for rehearsals, especially as we have two productions to learn this year.

Scores

Please obtain a score for each opera prior to the start of rehearsals. Scores can be purchased from Rae MacIntosh (Queensferry Street) or any other good music shop for around £10. We will be using the Chappell vocal score. It is not essential to have this version but will be easier for page number references etc.. We do not intend to have vocal scores for sale at rehearsals this year.

Other News

As I mentioned, Council has been busy throughout the summer continuing the process of transforming the Society from an unincorporated charity to a company limited by guarantee. We're currently working with our solicitors to ensure that this happens smoothly. We plan to hold an E.G.M. in October to obtain the membership's approval to formally complete the process. Prior to that, we intend to hold a question and answer session on Thursday 25th September to allow members to address any concerns they may have about the process and also to take part in an informal discussion about the future of the Society. In the meantime, please feel free to approach any member of council, with any queries or suggestions you may have regarding any aspect of the Society.

Goodbye/Hello

Our first event of the year is the Goodbye/Hello on Monday 1st September at 7:30 p.m. at Murrayfield Parish Church hall. Please join us to say a final goodbye to "The Gondoliers" and a big hello to "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "Patience".

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due and payable now. Membership fees are as follows:

- £16.00 for ordinary membership
- £26.00 for family membership
- £38.00 for ordinary performance fee
- £18.00 for student performance fee

Please send payments by cheque to our Membership Secretary, Rachel Allan (flat 6, 23 Orwell Place, Edinburgh, EH11 2AD.). As per the Constitution, any members who have not paid their subscription by 1st December will forfeit their membership.

Grand Circle Schedule of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
1st September 2008	Goodbye/Hello	Murrayfield Parish Church Hall
25th September 2008	Informal Q & A Session	The Undercroft, St A's & St. G's
23rd October 2008 (t.b.c.)	E.G.M.	The Undercroft, St A's & St. G's
19th November 2008	Concert	St Andrew's and St George's
10th December 2008	Christmas Party	Murrayfield Golf Club
28th January 2009	Burns Night	Murrayfield Parish Church Hall
23rd February 2009	Open Rehearsal (t.b.c.)	Murrayfield Parish Church Hall
17th – 21st March 2009	H.M.S. Pinafore/Patience	The King's Theatre
15th April 2009	Performance (t.b.c.)	t.b.c.

Tickets

This year, as we are now without an assistant treasurer, we will be encouraging people to book directly through the theatre. However, ticket order forms will still be available to members to enable them to book through the Society. These orders will be processed by Alan Borthwick. As Alan will be extremely busy at rehearsals, Alicia Glasgow has volunteered to collect ticket orders and payments and hand out tickets. Running two productions is an ideal opportunity to try to encourage more people to sample the delights of G & S. Therefore, ticket prices have not been increased this year and we are offering a significant discount to those who attend both shows. Ticket prices are as follows:

Stalls: £15 Grand Circle: £16 Upper Circle: £12 Box: £60

Children half-price, Groups (10 or more) 10% discount, Buy a ticket for each show and receive £10 off

I'm sure you will agree that these prices are very reasonable – especially for those people supporting both shows – and Council hopes that this will enable us to sell even more tickets than last year.

Casts

H.M.S. Pinafore

The Rt Hon. Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B.	Sandy Horsburgh (Scott Thomson)
Captain Corcoran	Edward Curry
Ralph Rackstraw	Neil French
Dick Deadeye	Ian Lawson
Bill Bobstay	Andrew Crawford
Bob Becket	Charles Laing
Josephine	Fiona Main (Courtney Glenny)
Cousin Hebe	Caroline Kerr (Liz Woolven)
Little Buttercup	Claire Wolseley (Caroline Kerr)

Patience

Colonel Calverley	Simon Boothroyd
Major Murgatroyd	Scott Thomson
Lieut. The Duke of Dunstable	Chris Cotter
Reginald Bunthorne	Ian Lawson
Archibald Grosvenor	Alan Borthwick
The Lady Angela	Amanda Stewart (Liz Landsman)
The Lady Saphir	Caroline Evans (Sally Crighton)
The Lady Ella	Courtney Glenny
The Lady Jane	Susanne Horsburgh (Rae Lamond)
Patience	Deborah Wake (Lindsey Robinson)