



Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents

GILBERT &  
SULLIVAN'S  
**GEOMEN**  
OF THE  
**GUARD**

June 10, 11, 17 & 18  
at 8:00 p.m.

June 12 & 19  
at 2:00 p.m.



F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater  
603 Edmonston Rd  
Rockville MD

Made possible in part by funding from  
the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County and Sandy Spring National Bank



## Get Involved

The VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY, based in Rockville, is primarily devoted to authentic productions of the comic operas of Gilbert & Sullivan and other operettas of that era, and encourages the promotion of these evergreen works of the Musical Theater. The company is a community-based group and derives its operating finances from ticket sales, member dues, and individual donations. VLOC is always pleased to welcome new members to the organization. If you would like to become a member of VLOC as a performer, technical staff, or donor, or if you would just like to be kept informed of our activities, please sign up for our mailing list during Intermission or after the show, or call us at 301-879-0220.

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### Coming Next!

VLOC is pleased to present

### G&S By Request

Your favorite G&S songs and scenes  
September 2005

### The Gypsy Baron

by Johann Strauss  
February 2006

### Princess Ida

June 2006

For audition information please call 301-879-0220

To reserve tickets please call 240-314-8690

## The Yeomen of the Guard

### Director

Debbie Niezgoda

### Music Director & Conductor

Joseph Sorge

### Assistant Director

Michael Galizia

### Artistic Director

Rosalie Santilhana

### Cast

Colonel Fairfax, under sentence of death ..... Philip Bender  
Lt. Cholmendeley, of the Tower of London ..... William Weiss  
Sergeant Meryll, of the Yeomen Warders ..... Matt Williams  
Leonard Meryll, Sgt. Meryll's son ..... Jonathan Schultz  
First Yeoman ..... Tom Pondolfinio  
Second Yeoman ..... Tom Goode  
Wilfred Shadbolt, head jailor ..... Blair Eig  
Jack Point, a strolling player ..... Michael Galizia (6/11 & 6/18)  
John Boulanger (6/10, 6/12, 6/17, & 6/19)  
Dame Carruthers, Tower Housekeeper ... Lauren McDonald  
Kate, her niece ..... Shaina Vatz  
Phoebe Meryll, Sgt. Meryll's daughter ..... Alicia Oliver  
Elsie Maynard, a strolling player ..... Denise Young  
Headsmen ..... B. Keith Ryder

### Chorus

Maggie Andersen, Michelle Andersen, Jaime Atteniese,  
Grace Brigham, Stephanie Brigham, Ed Byrde,  
Michelle Dillingham, Rick Dupuy, Fran Fleming,  
Tom Fuchs, Jennifer Gavin, Richard Gorbett,  
Annie Gribben, William Gribben, Lucy Hellerman,  
Tara Hockensmith, Marianna Martindale, Jenny Minich,  
Gina Nowacki, Deborah Peetz, Cara Salvatore,  
Nancy Shneiderman, Julie Stevens,  
Howard Weinstein, Clyde Wright

### Setting:

The Tower of London



# Production Staff

**Producer**  
**Denise Young**

Director .....Debbie Niezgoda  
Music Director & Conductor ..... Joseph Sorge  
Artistic Director ..... Rosalie Santilhano  
Assistant Director ..... Michael Galizia  
Assistant Music Director ..... Jennifer Craley Bland  
Stage Manager ..... Kristin Shumaker  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Guillaume Tourniaire  
Lighting Designer .....Ayun Fedorcha  
Set Designer ..... Kristen Lem  
Costume Designer .....Denise Young  
Costume Construction..... Rick Dupuy, Gaye Freese  
Jennifer Gavin, Tara Hockensmith  
Lauren MacDonald, Alicia Oliver, Denise Young  
Master Carpenter..... William Kolodrubetz  
Set Construction & Painting .....Jaime Atteniese  
Jonathan Brooks, Ed Byrdy  
Tony Dwyer, Lisa Freese, Pete Krueger  
Kristen Lem, David McGaughey, Tom Pondolfino  
Technical Director (Rockville Civic Center).....Kim Haug  
Running Crew..... Tony Dwyer, William Kolodrubetz  
Rehearsal Pianist..... Jennifer Craley Bland  
Deborah Jacobson, Gay Hill  
Make-Up & Hair Designer.....Renee Silverstone  
Make-Up & Hair Assistant .....Stan Sustersic  
Program ..... Leta Hall  
Publicity .....Sandy Rovner  
Properties .....Tara Hockensmith  
House Management..... Merle Haber  
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Printing ..... Quick Printing, Inc., Wheaton, Maryland

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<http://www.vloc.org>

# Musical Numbers

Overture

Act 1

When maiden loves, she sits and sighs ..... Phoebe  
When jealous torments rack my soul ..... Wilfred  
Tower warders, under orders .... 2<sup>nd</sup> Yeoman, People, Yeomen  
When our gallant Norman foes.. Dame Carruthers & Yeomen  
A laughing boy ..... Sergeant Meryll  
Alas! I waver to and fro ..... Phoebe, Leonard, & Sgt. Meryll  
Is life a boon?..... Fairfax  
Here's a man of jollity ..... People, Elsie, & Jack Point  
I have a song to sing, O!..... Elsie & Point  
How say you, maiden ..... Elsie, Point, & Lieutenant  
I've jibe and joke ..... Point  
'Tis done! I am a bride!..... Elsie  
Were I thy bride ..... Phoebe  
Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true ..... Ensemble

Act II

Night has spread her pall once more..... People, Yeomen  
& Dame Carruthers  
Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon ..... Point  
Hereupon we're both agreed ..... Point & Wilfred  
Free from his fetters grim..... Fairfax  
Strange adventure! ..... Kate, Dame Carruthers  
Fairfax & Sergeant Meryll  
Hark! What was that, sir? .... Elsie, Phoebe, Dame Carruthers  
Fairfax, Wilfred, Point  
Lieutenant, Sgt. Meryll, & Chorus  
A man who would woo a fair maid ... Fairfax, Elsie, & Phoebe  
When a wooer goes a-wooing . Elsie, Phoebe, Fairfax, & Point  
Rapture, rapture! ..... Dame Carruthers & Sgt. Meryll  
Comes the pretty, young bride ..... Ensemble

# The Story of the Opera

Colonel Fairfax is under sentence of death because an unscrupulous relative has preferred a charge of sorcery against him in order to inherit the fortune which comes to him should Fairfax die unmarried. Fortunately, the Colonel has two friends in the Tower: the Lieutenant in charge and Sergeant Meryll of the Guards (as well as Meryll's daughter Phoebe, who loves the Colonel from afar). Meryll's son, Leonard, has been appointed a Yeoman, and his father plans to keep him in hiding, release Fairfax, and introduce him among the Yeomen as Leonard. Meanwhile, Fairfax has explained the reason for his predicament to the Lieutenant, who undertakes to find him a wife in a hurry so that the kinsman may be thwarted.

Jack Point and Elsie Maynard, two strolling players, arrive at the Tower and the Lieutenant induces her to agree to marry Fairfax by the offer of money, badly needed for Elsie's sick mother. Point plans to marry Elsie himself, but, on being assured that the bridegroom will certainly be dead within the hour, agrees to the plan, and is appointed Lieutenant's Jester.

Phoebe steals the cell keys from Wilfred, the head jailor, and Fairfax is dressed as a Yeoman. All is ready for the execution when it is discovered that Fairfax has escaped! Jack Point is in despair and Elsie faints in the arms of Fairfax.

Elsie has been nursed back to health by Dame Carruthers, who reveals that the girl talks in her sleep, revealing her secret marriage to Fairfax (who is still disguised as Leonard). Point concocts a scheme with Wilfred to free Elsie from Fairfax: Wilfred will fire a shot, claiming to have killed the escaping prisoner as he tried to swim the river. This done, the citizens hail Wilfred as a hero.

Point proposes to Elise, but Fairfax steps in and carries her off. Wilfred learns the truth from Phoebe and blackmails her into agreeing to marry him. Dame Carruthers has overheard this and, in turn, captures Sgt. Meryll on the same terms. At Elsie's wedding to "Leonard" the reprieve arrives for Fairfax. Elsie is distraught but Fairfax reveals himself to her and all is set for a happy ending when the disconsolate Point arrives and the curtain falls on his sorrow amid the merriment of the crowd.

# Glossary

(Courtesy of the Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company)

(in order of occurrence)

## Act I:

**Yeomen of the Guard (Tower Warders)** - Gilbert is guilty of some inaccuracies when he used these terms interchangeably. The *Yeomen of the Guard* were established by Henry VII in 1485 to serve as the Sovereign's personal bodyguard. The *Yeomen Warders* were set up in 1548 as guards (and now also serve as tour guides) of the tower. Popularly known as "Beefeaters," they are selected from non-commissioned officers and warrant officers on the basis of merit.

**The Little Ease** - a Tower dungeon cell, a cube about 4 feet per side, where one could not stand or lie in comfort.

**Beauchamp Tower** - (pronounced "bee-cham") - often used as a lodging for prisoners of rank.

**Old Blunderbore** - the giant in the story "Jack and the Giant Killer" who grinds men's bones to make his bread.

**Is life a boon? ... I have a boon to beg** - a favor.

**a hundred crowns** - about £25 - more than a laborer might earn in a year.

**give us quip and quiddity** - witty remark and trifling point.

**buy an electuary for her** - a medicinal preparation made with sugar and honey.

**He who'd make his fellow creatures wise should always gild the philosophic pill** - same sentiment as "a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down."

**The consequences fell no mortal can foretell** - dire, evil.

**a thousand marks** - about £666 (more than 6 years' salary for the well-paid Lieutenant!).



## **Act II:**

consider each person's **auricular** - sense of hearing

**solemn D.D.** - Doctor of Divinity

**his twig he'll so carefully lime** - refers to a method of catching birds by smearing twigs with a sticky substance

**'tis but mickle sister reaps** - old Scottish word, here meaning "little"

**kissing, clinging cockatrice** - mythical serpent with a deadly glance

**I'll cleave thee to the chine** - backbone; he means he'll split his head, down to the body.

## Members of the Orchestra

### **Violin I**

Steve Natrella\*  
Bonnie Barrows  
Carolyn Larson  
David Friedlander

### **Violin II**

Andrew Nixon  
Thomas Schneider  
Martin Brown  
Peter Mignerey  
Irv Berner

### **Viola**

Amanda Laudwein  
Victor Ontiveros

### **Cello**

Rachel Jayson  
David Dubov  
Andrew Schneider

### **Bass**

Pete Gallanis  
Adriel Bettelheim  
Alice Mignerey

### **Flute**

Louise Hill  
Jackie Miller

### **Oboe**

Lori Guess

### **Clarinet**

James Bensinger  
Laura Langbein  
Laura Bornhoeft

### **Bassoon**

Sean Gumin  
Susan Reynolds

### **Horn**

Loren Krusberg  
James Kocsis  
Lora Katz

### **Trumpet**

Bernie Rappaport  
Curt Anstine

### **Trombone**

Steve Ward  
Frank Eliot  
Alan Potter

### **Percussion**

George Huttlin

\* *Concertmaster*

## Under the Lights and Behind the Scenes

**Maggie Andersen** (Chorus) is a fourth grader. She enjoys singing and science. She loves the beach and reading. Maggie has performed in her school talent show each year since kindergarten, and this is her first VLOC production.

**Michelle Andersen** (Chorus) has performed with American Musical Theatre of San Jose, West Bay Opera, San Francisco Lamplighters, G&S Society of San Jose, and East Side Players in Cincinnati. She plays bass with the JCCSO in Rockville.

**Jaime Atteniese** (Chorus) is making her VLOC debut in *Yeomen* and she's excited to be part of the cast. Jaime moved to the area in May after graduating from Amherst College where she sang, acted, and dance (but never at the same time!).

**Philip Bender** (Colonel Fairfax) makes his second appearance with VLOC in a role for which a nearby town is named - that is if Nanki-Pooville, Hilariontown, and Fitzbattleaxeburg don't become hot new exurbs like Frederic(k), MD. Other roles include Tamino (*The Magic Flute*), Faust, Duke of Mantua (*Rigoletto*), Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*), Gabriel (*Immanuel*), Azaël (*L'Enfant Prodigue*), and Tony (*Master Class*). Phil will appear next with the Northern Light Opera Company in Minnesota this July. Uff dah!

**John Boulanger's** (Jack Point) recent roles include Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Ping in *Turandot*, Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, and Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. He has performed with WNO, FOC, TOOC, and WS. He is happy to be working with this talented, enthusiastic group of artists in his first VLOC production.



**Stephanie Brigham** (Chorus) has performed with VLOC since 1987. She met her late husband Gordon here, and is happy that their elder two daughter is performing with her to help carry on the tradition. Stephanie will be doubling the size of her family next month, *a la* The Brady Bunch.

**Grace Brigham** (Chorus) is a first grader at Capitol Hill Day School and is lucky enough to have her mom for her teacher. Her first experience on the VLOC stage was in *Orpheus* in 1998, three months before she was born. Grace loves playing the violin.

**Ed Byrdy** (Chorus) began performing G&S operettas over 25 years ago but has enjoyed them much longer. He has helped build scenery for most of them. Since Ed no longer practices hospital pharmacy he keeps active giving tours at the National Medical Museum.

**Michelle Dillingham** (Chorus) is very excited to be in her first VLOC production. In addition to doing laundry, she enjoys knitting, sewing and cooking the books. Love to her husband, Jeremy, and to her parents. Hi, Mom!

**Rick DuPuy** (Yeoman), in the autumn of his life (= 24), here at rest in ample clover (= childhood home), rejoices in telling over his impetuous May and June (= don't ask about his year teaching middle-schoolers Latin unless you REALLY want to hear about it).

**Blair Eig** (Wilfred) has appeared in 9 productions with VLOC, including performances as Ali Ben Ali in *Desert Song*, Spokesman in *Magic Flute*, Sergeant of Police in *Pirates*, and the title role in *Mikado*. He has logged over 20 productions with WS, including appearing as the Usher in this season's *Trial by Jury*. Last summer, Blair was seen in the dual role of Bartolo and Antonio in FOC's inaugural production of *Marriage of Figaro*. When not singing, Dr. Blair is Chief Medical Officer at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring.

**Ayun Fedorcha** (Lighting Designer) is delighted to return to VLOC, where she has previously lit *Pinafore*, *Pirates*, *The Zoo & Trial by Jury*, *Patience*, *Mikado*, *Ruddigore*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Merry Widow*. She freelances in the metro DC area, and is a member of the United Scenic Artists union - local 829.

**Fran Fleming** (Chorus) was a charter member WS and an early member of VLOC who has sung in the chorus of most of the G&S operas multiple times. She is grateful to be able to play her favorite real-life role - grandmother - in this opera.

**Michael Galizia** (Jack Pointe/Assistant Director) has been in ten previous productions with VLOC, six with WS, and is a founding member of FOC. He debuted this season with AO and OBC. In August Michael will be performing at the Edinburgh Festival. Then, he will be taking a soul searching journey to find himself in and amongst the souls in the Home Depot Garden Department. He plans to study the complex behavior patterns of various plants and apply his findings to a new branch of study called "Me and My perenial buddies." He also plans to cross breed various flower strains with the Siamese fighting fish to make them more aggressive and entertaining.

**Jennifer Gavin** (chorus) has sung with VLOC since the 1999 production of *Pinafore*. She has also appeared in *Mikado*, *Ruddigore*, *Trial*, *Zoo*, and *Magic Flute*, and has served as producer for WS.

**Tom Goode** (Second Yeomen) is proud to be singing a lead role after appearing in many VLOC choruses, including most of the G&S operas, as well as *Magic Flute*, *Die Fledermaus* and *Orpheus* (in which he played second banana to a sheep). In his youth, he was an officer of the Oxford University G&S Society, and he is the author of an unpublished G&S-related novel.

**Richard Gorbutt** (Chorus) is pleased to be performing again with VLOC. Now that he has been allowed to stay in this country, he is also pleased that Mushy Peas are slowly being introduced and that he is beginning, equally slowly, to like Root Beer. Thanks to Rachael for her support.

**THE DIRECTORS**



Debbie Niezgoda



Joseph Sorge

**THE MERRY MAN & HIS MAID**



John Boulanger



Michael Galizia



Denise Young

**COL. FAIRFAX**



Phillip Bender



Blair Eig

**WILFRED SHADBOLT**

**THE MERRYLs**



Alicia Oliver



Matt Williams



Jonathan Schultz

**DAME CARRUTHERS & KATE**



Lauren McDonald



Shauna Virginia Vatz

**LT. CHOLMONDELY**



Willie Weiss

**THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD**



Tom Pondolfino



Tom Goode



Ed Byrby



Billy Gribben

No photo available

Clyde Wright



Richard Gorbull



Rick Dupuy

**TOWER STAFF**



Julie Stevens



Cara Salvatore



Debbie Peetz



Jaime Atteniese

**WENCHES**



Nancy Shneiderman



Michelle Dillingham



Howard Weinstein



Tara Hockensmith



Jenny Minich

**CHOLMONDELY FAMILY**



Gina Nowacki



Annie Gribben



Lucy Hellerman

No photo available

Maggie Andersen



Michelle Andersen

**MERCHANTS & TOWNSFOLK**



Fran Fleming



Stephanie Brigham



Grace Brigham



Marianna Martindale



Jennifer Gavin



Tom Fuchs



**Annie Gribbin** (Chorus) is tickled to be performing in *Yeomen* with her favorite company. She loves the show so much that she sings it around the house whenever possible, as her three proud but slightly irritated brothers can attest. Her previous appearances with VLOC include *Magic Flute* and *Pinafore*.

**William Gribbin** (Chorus) is pleased to be performing in his seventh production with VLOC. A precocious youth, William plans to run away with the Barnum & Bailey company for a career, or at the very least follow his Dad into politics. Regardless, he hopes that his colleagues will remember him when he comes back from college in four years.

**Lucy Helleman** (Chorus) is excited to be on stage again. Previously she has performed in *Rumpelstiltskin* (Missoula Children's Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (PGLT), and most recently *Pinafore* with VLOC. Her hobbies include dancing, writing, and doing crafts.

**Tara Hockensmith** (Serving Wench/Properties) last performed in VLOC's February 2005 *Mikado* as a pig-tailed troublemaker. She thoroughly enjoys well-developed chorus roles that showcase her demure innocence, unassuming wit, and blood-curdling mezzo-soprano voice.

**Susannah Klank** (Choreographer) is new to VLOC and happy to be a part of *Yeomen*. Recently, Susannah choreographed PGLT's *The Secret Garden*. She was a member of *Off Broadway On Campus* at the University of Rochester where she choreographed "Lullaby of Broadway" and "It's Today" for a musical revue and studied dance and choreography. She would like to thank her family, and the Kolstad/Meiselman family for all their support.

**William Kolodrubetz** (Master Carpenter), with discom-bobulated syzygy, a decomplexification accomplishes a mellifluous ziggurat of egregious proportions within the darkest fathoms of the set. Forsooth the bowdlerized quest of empyrean heights the popinjay seeks the nadir yet the antipode of the artistry. Lumber not, yea would, the plebian seeketh the magnificence of the sawdust and the

egregious cacophony of massive flow of electrons via a stator and rotor. Yeah to ye, oh coadjutor Deborah, Ed, Pete, and Kristen.

**Kristen Lem** (Set Designer) designed the sets for *Some of the People* and *C'est La Vie* at Amherst College and is delighted to have this unexpected opportunity. Many thanks to VLOC (and Mike for putting up with early bedtimes and haircuts).

**Lauren McDonald** (Dame Carruthers) is thrilled to be making her debut with VLOC. She recently graduated *summa cum laude* from the Hartt School of Music with a degree in vocal performance. At Hartt, Lauren performed many opera scenes roles including the Mother in *Amahl*, Tisbe in *La Cenerentola*, Leila in *Iolanthe*, and Pitti-Sing in *Mikado*. She has coached with Miriam Charney of MSM and Daniel Pinkham of NEC, and studies privately with Frederic Moses.

**Jenny Minich** (Chorus) is excited to be in her first VLOC production. Before *Yeomen*, she appeared in performances with WS and GG&SS. She wishes to thank her directors for always casting her as a wench, but more importantly for casting her at all. She thanks her family and E&A.

**Debbie Niezgoda** (Director) has directed productions of *Desert Song*, *The Magic Flute*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Pirates* for VLOC. Locally, she has directed *Marriage of Figaro* (FOC); *Iolanthe* (WS); *A Little Night Music*, *Hansel und Gretel*, *The Impresario*, *The Stoned Guest*, *La Serva Padrona* (TOOC); *The Barber of Seville*, *L'oca del Cairo*, *Chanticleer*, *The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* (OTNV); *Ruddigore* (GG&SS); and *Brundibar* (WNO Camp for Kids). Upcoming engagements include *Don Giovanni* (FOC) and *The Gypsy Baron* (VLOC). In memory of Gordon.

**Gina Nowacki** (Lady Lettice Cholmondely) is a VLOC regular who last appeared in the 2004 production of *Desert Song*. She is happy to be treading the boards with such a wonderfully talented and creative group. She only wishes that Rusty and Malinda were on stage with her.



**Alicia Oliver** (Phoebe) returns to the VLOC stage after directing this season's *Mikado*. Past VLOC roles: Josephine, *HMS Pinafore*; Pamina, *Magic Flute*; Pitti-Sing, *Mikado*. Coming this summer to a theater near you: Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni* (FOC); Daughter, *Perfectly Good Airplanes* (NVTA One-Act Festival). By day, Ali is a company manager and teaching artist for InterAct Story Theatre. In her spare time, Ali likes to grab ten minutes sleep.

**Deborah Peetz** (Chorus) is pleased as punch to be part of this production of *Yeomen* - her *first Yeomen*, to be exact. In addition to VLOC, she has also performed with ESP, LTA, OTNV, OI, NOVA Chorus, and TMC, with whom she just spent two weeks in Spain and Portugal. *Buenas noches, mis amigos!*

**Tom Pondolfino** (First Yeomen) may be in the autumn of his life, but he is not getting too much rest in ample clover due to his new son, Thomas Aaron, who was born February 24th. Tom made his stage debut in last year's VLOC production of *Pinafore*.

**Jonathan Schultz** (Leonard Meryll) last appeared with VLOC as Ralph Rackstraw in *Pinafore*, and is pleased to reprise his very first role of "the real Leonard dolt" in this production. Other roles include Lenski in *Eugene Onegin* (BC), Borsa in *Rigoletto* (BC, OBC) and Gastone in *La Traviata* (BSMF). He has performed with the COS and is a member of The Aria Club of Greater Washington. Jonathan also has an extensive Cantorial background and once played an enchanted frog.

**Nancy Shneiderman** (Chorus) has performed four G&S with VLOC, Princess Puffer in *Edwin Drood*, Mme. Quimper-Karadac in *La Vie Parisienne*, and the bride's mom in *Tony n' Tina's Wedding*. She sings with Washington Women's Chorus and Men & Women of Gospel.

**Kristin Shumaker** (Stage Manager) is happy to be working her first show with VLOC. She has managed more shows in the last few years than she clearly remembers and hopes to add to their number. She will be going to graduate school this fall for that very purpose.

**Joseph Sorge** (Music Director & Conductor) was last seen on the VLOC stage in *Magic Flute*. Prior to that he appeared as Carboy in *The Zoo*, Dr. Blind in *Die Fledermaus*, Cyril in *Princess Ida*, Leonard Meryll in *Yeomen*, and in the chorus of *Orpheus*, *Pirates*, and *Merry Widow*. He has been the music director for VLOC's productions of *Mikado*, *Sorcerer*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *Pirates*, *Iolanthe*, *Pinafore* and *Desert Song*.

**Julie Stevens** (Cook) is looking forward to serving drinks and providing goodies in *Yeomen*, one of her favorite G&S shows (hey, didn't I just do this!?). Thanks, Deb (both of you); thanks, Jim, for letting me have fun; and, as always, thanks, Leta.

**Guillaume Tourniaire** (Assistant Stage Manager) studied theatre at Boston College and then moved to San Diego, where he stage managed and directed. He performed in the last two WS productions, and has applied for the COS summer workshop for stage directors.

**Shaina Virginia Vatz** (Kate), a soprano from Maryland, recently returned to Baltimore after a five-year stay in North Carolina. While in Carolina, she performed roles including Atalanta (*Xerxes*), Nancy (*Albert Herring*), and Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*). Most recently, Shaina sang the role of Yum-Yum in VLOC's winter production of *Mikado*. She currently studies voice with Carolyn Black-Sotir and teaches voice at Harford Community College.

**Howard Weinstein** (Chorus) is making his third appearance with VLOC and has the role of a townsman who is also an armor craftsman at the "grim old Tower." He thanks VLOC for this opportunity to participate with such outstanding talents.

**William Weiss** (the Lieutenant) recently sang the role of Manders in the Kennedy Center Production of *Regina* with Patti LuPone. Before that, he sang with the WNO in *Andrea Chenier*. With VLOC he has sung the Bosun in *Pinafore* and Barton Gandermack in Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne*. He has also sung Prince Gremin in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* with the Washington Conservatory of Music.

**Matt Williams** (Sergeant Meryll) is thrilled to be appearing on the VLOC stage for the second time. His VLOC debut was a mere four months ago and he is thankful for the opportunity to once again work with such a talented group. Past roles have included: Pish-Tush in *Mikado* (VLOC), Axel in *The Nerd* (VTC), and Smudge in *Forever Plaid* (VTC). Matt dedicates his performance to his grandfather's memory.

**Clyde Wright** (Chorus) is new to the world of theater (I mean, come on, he can't even bring himself to spell it "correctly"), but his lineage sure isn't: his mother dated John Ritter when they were both teenagers. Can you say love child?

**Denise Young** (Elsie Maynard/Producer/Costumer) last appeared with VLOC as Margot Bonvalet in *Desert Song*. Other VLOC roles include Queen of the Night in *Magic Flute*, Mabel in *Pirates*, Giannetta in *Gondoliers*, Angelina in *Trial*, Laetitia in *The Zoo*, The Baroness in *La Vie Parisienne*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, Yum-Yum in *Mikado*, and Lady Psyche in *Princess Ida*. She will sing the role of Elvira in *Don Giovanni* with FOC in July. She has produced and costumed numerous shows for VLOC as well.

## Theater Acronyms

AOC = Annapolis Opera Company, BC = Bel Canti,  
BSMF = Bethesda Summer Music Festival, COS = Crittenden  
Opera Study, ESP = Elden Street Players, FOC = Forgotten Opera  
Company, GG&SS = Georgetown G&S Society, LTA = Little  
Theater of Alexandria, OBC = Opera Bel Canto, OI = Opera  
International, OTNV = Opera Theater of Northern Virginia,  
PGLT = Prince George's Little Theater, TAP = The Arlington  
Players, TMC = The Metropolitan Chorus, TOOC = The Other  
Opera Company, WNO = Washington National Opera,  
WS = The Washington Savoyards

## VLOC Recycles

If you don't wish to keep your program,  
please leave it on the table in the lobby.  
Thank you!

*Don*  
**GIOVANNI!**  
For America  
For the 21st Century

The Forgotten Opera Company has updated Mozart's tale of seduction, betrayal, and redemption to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and transported it from Seville to Washington.

Come and see many VLOC artists in this operatic masterpiece: Alicia Oliver as *Donna Anna*, Denise Young as *Donna Elvira*, Kiersten Drumm as *Zerlina*, John Boulanger as *Don Giovanni*, Michael Galizia as *Leporello*, Blair Eig as *Masetto*

Directed by Deborah Niezgoda  
Conducted by Victoria Gau

### *And Featuring*

Washington National Opera Artists  
Peter Burroughs as *Don Ottavio* and  
Jared Collard as the *Commendatore*

For more information and ticket purchase  
please visit our website:

[www.ForgottenOperaCompany.org](http://www.ForgottenOperaCompany.org)

*the forgotten*  
**the opera company**



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