



VLOOC
VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY

Gilbert & Sullivan's
THE SORCERER

In Concert
August 31 & September 2, 2023



Get Involved!

VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY, (VLOC; pronounced vee-lock) charms audiences across the Greater DC region with productions of traditional light opera. The company specializes in the works of Gilbert & Sullivan, and also performs both lesser known works of the Victorian era and more contemporary fare. Its mission is to make operetta relevant for the community. The company derives its operating finances from ticket sales, individual donations, and institutional grants. However, a good deal of our creative and social enjoyment comes from our fellow company members! If you were entertained in the audience today, why not consider joining us? VLOC is always pleased to welcome new members, with their individual sets of talents, to our vibrant organization. If you would like to support VLOC as a performer, member of our production staff, part of our backstage technical crew, or as a donor—or if you would just like to be kept informed of our activities—please sign up for our mailing list at www.vloc.org; email us at victorianlyricopera@gmail.com; or call us at 301-576-5672.

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Land Use Acknowledgement

Victorian Lyric Opera Company is committed to recognizing the role of indigenous and marginalized peoples who occupied the land where we now perform and who were displaced by colonization. The Piscataway people were among the Indigenous people who called Montgomery County home. Although they did not have any permanent settlement in Rockville, they had a relationship with the land, and we honor their presence.

We also wish to acknowledge that the land on which two of our performance spaces stand, the Fitzgerald Theatre and the Gaithersburg Arts Barn, were once plantations worked by enslaved persons, most of whose names are unknown. These individuals were brought from their native countries or descended from those people and were enslaved by White owners.

The descendants of many of these people still call this place home, and we recognize both their long-overlooked contributions and the many inequalities they still face. It is our sincere wish that VLOC be part of a diverse community of creativity, sharing, and mutual respect, where all are welcome.

Victorian Lyric Opera Company, Board of Directors

Ukrainian National Anthem

As VLOC returned to the stage in February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. As a show of solidarity for the people of the Ukraine, and members of our VLOC family who have ties to the Ukraine, we present the Ukrainian National Anthem prior to each performance. In addition, the lights in the theater lobby windows are the colors of the Ukrainian flag.



Book and Lyrics by
ROBERT L. FREEDMAN

Music and Lyrics by
STEVEN LUTVAK

Based on a novel by **ROY HORNIMAN**

Gaithersburg Arts Barn
October 20 - 29, 2023
Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm
Sundays, 2pm

Directed by Brianna Galligan
Musical Director Paige Rammelkamp
Assistant Director Nick MacFarlane
Assistant Music Director Anton Van De Motter

For tickets and info visit us at www.vloc.org/gentlemans-guide

Production Staff

Producers	Denise Young, Bill Rogers
Director	Erica Ferguson
Music Director	Joseph Sorge
Stage Manager	Douglas Maryott
Rehearsal Pianist	Sue Mason McElroy
Program	Michael Beder, Scott Nunn, Long Nyguen
Supertitles	Douglas Maryott
Marketing & Graphic Design	Scott Nunn
Theatre Supervisor	David Monagas
Set and Costume Storage	Rockville Civic Center

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Bethesda Presbyterian Church,
Maryland State Arts Council, City of Rockville.

*And a big thank-you to the ushers and front of house volunteers and all others
who have helped make this production a success but whose names weren't
available at the time of printing.*

Cast

Sir Marmaduke Poindexter

Alexis

Aline

Lady Sangazure

John Wellington Wells

Doctor Daly

Notary

Mrs. Partlett

Constance

Daniel Fleming

Andy Boggs

Rachel Steelman

Kisara Garalde

Joshua Milton

Joshua Bates

Don Mitchell

Alix Evans

Jillian Wiley

Chorus of Villagers:

Ronald Anzalone, Michael Beder, Stephen Brown, Karen Carp, Miriam Clopper, Bob Dennis, Peggy Dennis, Carlton Doctor, Alice Drew, Les Elkins, Marlyn Ferguson, Aliyah Fischer, Jenellen Fischer, Luke Fischer, Liza Gookin Hodskins, *Toby Ichniowski, Ralph Johnson, Erin Jones, Emily Marquez, Jane Maryott, Carl Maryott, Amanda Messinger, Sherry Mitchell, Long Nguyen, Deborah Peetz, David Robinson, **Bill Rogers, Cheryl Stafford, Katya Stratu, Rusty Suter, Ed Vilade, Jacqueline Williams Rocco, Kent Woods, Denise Young

**Aline Cover*

***Notary Cover*

Orchestra

Violin I

Steve Natrella (CM)

Bonnie Barrows

David Friedlander

Violin II

Peter Mignerey

Andrew Nixon

Audrey Chang

Anna Jett

Viola

Amanda Laudwein

Cassie Conley

Cello

Michael Stein

Sheryl Friedlander

Tom Zbovitz

Bass

Jeffrey Aaron

Flute

Jackie Miller

Lisa Fahlstrom

Oboe

Mary Haaser

Clarinet

Laura Bornhoeft

James Bensinger

Jacqueline Brellinthin

Bassoon

Teresa Meeks

Horn

Lora Katz

Cheryl Lovinsky

Trumpet

Rick Pasciuto

Curt Anstine

Paul Weiss

Trombone

Steve Ward

Frank Eliot

Percussion

George Huttlin

SYNOPSIS

Act I

It is mid-day and the villagers of Ploverleigh are assembled in front of the Elizabethan Mansion of Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, voicing their joy at the betrothal of Sir Marmaduke's heir Alexis to Aline, the only child of an equally aristocratic neighbour, the Lady Sangazure. There is one present, however, who does not share in the general joy. Constance, the daughter of Mrs. Partlet, is downcast and confesses to her mother that she loves (vainly, it seems) the Vicar, Dr. Daly. On his appearance they withdraw and Dr. Daly sings the notable ballad, "Time was when Love and I were well acquainted," in which he laments the days now gone when, as a pale young curate, he had the adoration of the maidens of his flock. Mrs. Partlet, anxious to help Constance, comes forward and leads the conversation to the subject of marriage, but it is obvious from his replies that he looks at himself as a confirmed bachelor, and Constance is led away sobbing by her mother.

The Vicar now turns to welcome Sir Marmaduke and Alexis in weighty language, and with a touch of allegory that pleases Sir Marmaduke, who is a great admirer of the school of stately compliment, and a stickler for "blue blood." He claims that his own family is directly descended from Helen of Troy, and is all for a marriage of pedigree, regarding love as a comparatively unimportant accessory.

Aline makes her appearance and is greeted by the village girls. She acknowledges their good wishes, and her mother, Lady Sangazure, adds her congratulations. The men now welcome Alexis and the lovers greet each other with ecstasy. Then follows a stately duet ("Welcome joy, adieu to sadness") between Sir Marmaduke and Lady Sangazure, who were lovers in their young days. The stately gavotte measure is punctuated by their dreams of what might have been.

A notary has now arrived, all is prepared for signing the marriage contract. This done, Alexis and Aline are left together. Alexis does not agree with the views of his father, and, believing that men and women should be coupled in matrimony without distinction of rank, has done some propaganda on the subject. So far, however, his ideas have only been welcomed by the humbler classes. His own happiness seeming assured, he reveals his scheme for making the whole village happy. He has engaged John Wellington Wells, a Sorcerer, to administer secretly a love-philtre to all the others, which will first send them to sleep, and on their awaking cause them to fall madly in love with the first person of the opposite sex they may see who has also drunk the potion. It has no effect on those already married.

Mr. Wells is introduced in the well-known patter song, and then details are discussed. It is decided that the philtre shall be placed in a large teapot which will be used for the "banquet" to follow. Mr. Wells then proceeds to his horrific Incantation, and after the Fiends have disappeared, the villagers return, make merry, and each drinks of the

enchanted tea. The act closes as, after struggling vainly against the charm, all present save Alexis, Aline and the Sorcerer fall insensible.

Act II

It is midnight, and the villagers are still lying where they have fallen. Mr. Wells, with a great sense of fitness, has had the more exalted members taken home and put to bed "respectably." As the villagers wake, each falls in love with the first person of the opposite sex visible, Constance and the Notary making one couple.

Alexis is so pleased with his success that he urges Aline to join him in drinking the philtre, in order that nothing may be left to chance. She refuses, and they quarrel. The remaining characters begin to arrive: first Dr. Daly, the worthy Vicar, who is puzzled because, in a village hitherto rather slow in the matter of marriage, he has suddenly had a request for hasty weddings from everyone -- even Sir Marmaduke. Alexis is none too pleased when he finds that the philtre has led the Baronet to fix on Mrs. Partlet, the Pew Opener. Still, he must live up to his opinions, and there is a congratulatory quintet from those concerned.

Mr. Wells, having caused the mischief, falls victim to his own spell, for Lady Sangazure, entering, sees him and at once adores him. He, on the other hand, not having drunk the philtre, does not reciprocate, and in an amusing duet endeavors to dissuade her. Without success, however, she threatens to bury her woe in her family vault.

Aline, having pondered the matter, has decided to fall in with her lover's wish, and drinks the philtre. Immediately afterwards, she catches sight of Dr. Daly and of course falls in love with him. He is delighted at his good fortune, but Alexis, coming in full of remorse, is astounded to find his embraces repulsed. Explanations ensue, and the Vicar obligingly offers to quit the country and bury his sorrow "in the congenial gloom of a Colonial Bishopric."

This is not enough, for Aline is still under the influence of the philtre, and no longer loves Alexis. They appeal to Mr. Wells, who reveals that there is one way only in which the spell can be revoked. Either he or Alexis must sacrifice himself to Ahrimanes. Argument ensues, and the issue is put to popular vote; John Wellington Wells loses and disappears into the earth to the sound of a gong.

All quit their temporary partners to rejoin their old lovers, and Sir Marmaduke, claiming Lady Sangazure, invites them all to another feast in his mansion.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Act I

Ring forth ye bells	Chorus
Constance, my daughter...	Mrs. Partlet and Constance
When he is here	Constance
The air is charged with amatory numbers	Dr Daly
Time was when Love and I were well acquainted	Dr Daly
Sir Marmaduke	Sir Marmaduke, Dr Daly, and Alexis
With heart and voice	Chorus of Girls
My kindly friends/Happy young heart	Aline
My child, I join in these congratulations	Lady Sangazure
With heart and with voice	Chorus of Men
Welcome, joy!	Lady Sangazure and Sir Marmaduke
All is prepared	Aline, Alexis, Notary, and Chorus
Love feeds on many kinds of food	Alexis
My name is John Wellington Wells	Mr. Wells
Sprites of earth and air	Aline, Alexis, Mr. Wells, and Chorus
Finale, Act I	Ensemble

~INTERMISSION~

Act II

Tis twelve, I think	Aline, Alexis, Mr. Wells, and Chorus
Dear friends, take pity on my lot	Constance, Notary, Aline, Alexis, and Chorus
Thou hast the pow'r thy vaunted love	Alexis
I rejoice	Aline, Mrs. Partlet, Alexis, Dr Daly, and Sir Marmaduke
Oh, I have wrought much evil with my spells	Lady Sangazure and Mr. Wells
Alexis! Doubt me not, my loved one	Aline
Oh, my voice is sad and low	Dr Daly
Oh, joyous boon! oh, mad delight	Aline, Alexis, Dr Daly, and Chorus
Farewell, my own	Ralph, Josephine, Sir Joseph, Buttercup and Chorus
Prepare for sad surprises	Alexis
Finale, Act II	Ensemble

FIN

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Ron Anzalone (*chorus*) - has sung in choirs and done 19th century living history for decades. Now retired from a career in historic preservation and archaeology, he most recently appeared as a British sailor in VLOC's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Ron also was part of the company in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Gondoliers*, and Offenbach's *The Brigands*. In 2022 he was John Philip Sousa in VLOC's *El Capitan* (2022), having portrayed the bandmaster since 2009 with the Marine Band and at VLOC concert performances. Thanks and hugs to my family and friends for their steadfast support.

Joshua Bates (*Dr. Daly*) - is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Music undergraduate program in vocal performance, studying under Kevin Short and also received a degree in English. Significant roles he has performed are Frederic in *Pirates of Penzance*, Lumiere and The Beast in the musical version of *Beauty and the Beast*, Page in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and Javert in *Les Miserables*. Over the course of his collegiate studies, Joshua sang bass solos for the Faure *Requiem*, several Bach cantatas and, and this summer was hired to perform the Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs* with the UMD Summer Chorus and orchestra. Additionally this summer, Joshua had the incredible opportunity to travel and sing the role of Masetto in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* right on the stage where it premiered - the Estates Theater of Prague!

Michael Beder (*chorus*) - by day a lawyer who works with journalists, works best on deadline, which is when he's writing this bio, assisted by a pretty stiff jorum of tea. He most recently returned from a tour on the *HMS Pinafore*, and earlier this year appeared as Older Henry/Grinder in VLOC's *Sweethearts / The Zoo* double-bill. Other favorite roles include Sir Despard (*Ruddigore*) with VLOC, and Sen. Fipp (*Urinetown*) with GGSS.

Andy Boggs (*Alexis*) - Andy holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from UMD. Throughout his time at UMD, he sang as the tenor soloist in Purcell's *Welcome to All the Pleasures* with the University Chorale. Other concert highlights include performing as the tenor soloist in BWV 116 in UMD's Bach Cantata Series, and as a soloist in Handel's piece "*Sing Unto God*" with the UMD Chamber Singers. Recently, he portrayed Ralph Rackstraw in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with the Victorian Lyric Opera Company. Other past roles that he's enjoyed are Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family*, Brack Weaver in *Down in the Valley*, and Vincent Jones in *Street Scene*. He thanks his supportive family, friends, and cast/crew!

Stephen Brown (*chorus*) - Stephen has been singing in choirs for many years but took to the stage to 'sing and dance' for the first time (since his youth - when he played the part of 'a devil' in *The Gang Show*) with VLOC's production of *Pirates* in 2020. Stephen sang in the chorus of *From Paris to Vienna* (2021), *Iolanthe* (2022), *The Brigands* (2022) and *The New Moon* (2023). He also enjoys getting to use his degree in engineering assisting in the building of the sets. (He had abandoned it for many years to work as a professor of accounting.)

Karen Carp (*chorus*) - is thrilled to be singing with VLOC again. Previously, Karen was seen in *El Capitan* and other concert shows with VLOC, as well as shows with RMT and TBA. She also has sung with several community choruses. Much love to Jerry, who always supports me, and sometimes performs with me.

Miriam Clopper (*chorus*) - a rising ninth grader, is excited to participate in her first VLOC production. Miriam has never before sang an operetta, but has performed in youth choral groups and has always enjoyed singing! She is very grateful for this opportunity that was extended to her by Erica Ferguson, the director of this performance, who is also Miriam's voice teacher.

Bob Dennis (*chorus*) - A retired economist with the Congressional Budget Office, sings with Polyhymnia, a serious a cappella group! He enjoys being able to “park and bark” just for fun with VLOC’s concert operas.

Peggy Dennis (*chorus*) - is a former Foreign Service Officer, chronic civic activist and sometime Scottish Country Dancer. She's enjoyed performing with VLOC in *H.M.S Pinafore*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Sorcerer*, and *Trial by Jury*; with PTC in *The Mikado*, *The Music Man* and *My Fair Lady*; with SSS in *A Christmas Carole*; and with the Univ. of Maryland Summer Chorus. This is her sixth, and she's glad to be singing once again with VLOC’s concert opera.

Carlton Doctor (*chorus*) - new to Montgomery County, is delighted to join VLOC in this delightful comic operetta, “The Sorcerer.” He has sung with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Lyric Opera, Janus Opera Productions and New England Spiritual Ensemble. In addition to singing, he has produced and directed *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance* by G&S; *Babes In Arms* by R. Rodgers and *Honk!* by George Stiles. Gardening is one of his avid passions.

Alice Drew (*chorus*) - This is Alice's 10th production with VLOC. In addition to singing in VLOC choruses, she has also sung, worked backstage as a stagehand, and run spotlights for other VLOC, RMT, BP, and Hexagon productions. She is a retired government scientist and sings with the Riderwood GraceNotes. She lives in Silver Spring with her husband Ed Vilade (a VLOC tenor), and an elderly cat.

Alix Evans (*Mrs. Partlet*) - mezzo-soprano, spends much of her time interpreting early music, exploring approaches to harp accompaniment of troubadour song and Germanic epics. She is thrilled to be able to step out into the “modern era” of Gilbert and Sullivan with VLOC! Alix also enjoys working with living composers, and is a featured soloist in Tristan Latchford’s “A Celebration of Women in the Bible” (Harmonichan Productions). She performs with the Baltimore-based quintet “Metal on Pavement,” and is the music

director of Second Wind Chorus in Capitol Hill. She holds an MM in historical performance and vocal pedagogy from the Peabody Institute.

Les Elkins (*chorus*) - has frequently been with VLOC as a chorus member, board member, and pit orchestra player (Ah, but lately? Well...) He currently plays trumpet/cornet and sings with some half a dozen early jazz/traditional/New Orleans type bands and related styles, and is a board member for the Potomac River Jazz Club.

Erica Ferguson (*director*) - VLOC regulars will recognize Erica from her turns on stage in the title roles of *Iolanthe* (2021) and *Princess Ida* (2019). But, what you may not know is she's also an accomplished choreographer and stage director. Some of Ms. Ferguson's directing credits include *Carmen* (2022) and *Trouble in Tahiti/Gallantry* (2023) with LLO, and Signor Deluso and *Down in the Valley* (2020) with UMD OperaTerps. She has also assistant directed and choreographed for companies such as WNO Institute, Maryland Opera, and YVTC. You can learn more about Erica's work at www.ericamarieferguson.com.

Marlyn Setren Ferguson (*chorus*) - is very excited to be in her second opera, and honored to be working with her daughter Erica, the Director for this show. Marlyn has performed with (MTC), DTC, and Adventure Theatre. Marlyn was the Publicist for MTC for a number of years. A lifelong arts lover, she is thrilled to have this incredible opportunity!

Aliyah Fischer (she/her) (*chorus*) - is glad to be back with VLOC along with her family (mom Jenellen and brother Luke). She was most recently seen in the *H. M. S. Pinafore* chorus, The *New Moon* chorus, in *El Capitan* as a Spanish Lady, as a fairy in *Iolanthe*, and as a neophyte in *Princess Ida*. Aliyah was a member of the Montgomery County Honors Chorus for two years, sings in "Red Velvet," the select chorus at her high school, and keeps busy dancing ballet and lyrical dance with the Rock Creek Dance Academy. Offstage Aliyah is a dedicated fine artist in both traditional and digital mediums.

Jenellen Fischer (she/her) (*chorus*) - is delighted to be performing alongside her daughter Aliyah and son Luke in this concert. You may have caught Rev. Fischer in one of her VLOC performances as Princess Marghanza in *El Capitan*, Queen of the Fairies in *Iolanthe*, Lady Blanche in *Princess Ida* or the Duchess of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers*, or in the role of a "chorus person" in *H.M.S. Pinafore* or *The New Moon*. Offstage, Rev. Fischer is an Interfaith Minister and relationship coach with The Pincus Center for Inclusive Treatment where she helps people from all walks of life connect with each other in meaningful ways.

Luke Fischer (he/him) (*chorus*) - is thrilled to be back with VLOC alongside his sister Aliyah and mother Jenellen in the chorus. He was most recently in VLOC in *H. M. S. Pinafore* as a sailor, as Barbavano in *The Brigands* and in the chorus of *El Capitan*. Luke

is a seasoned voice actor for various online production agencies including “ChillingTalesforDarkNights.com.” Luke is an online media personality and host of several long running popular podcasts with over 5 million accumulated views. Offstage Luke is a freelance video editor and writer.

Daniel Fleming (*Sir Marmaduke Poindexter*) - Tenor, completed his Bachelor’s of Music from Shenandoah Conservatory and his Master’s of Music from Northwestern University. He is very excited to be performing with VLOC for the first time! He recently performed as Don Florito in *Luisa Fernanda* and as a Solo Animal in *Ravel’s L’enfant et les sortilèges* at the Florentina Opera. Daniel has performed several other roles including: Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Pat in *Dog Days*, and the Mayor in *Albert Herring*. Daniel is also a teacher at the International School of Music.

Kisara Garalde (*Lady Sangazure*) - is an East Coast performer and voice actress with a background in theater and music, both vocal and instrumental. Selected Voice Acting credits include: Various NPCs in *Mystery Babylon* (Video Game); Imperio’d Auror in the audio drama *The Great Wizarding War* (Broad Strokes Productions), Clever in the *I Hope So* webcomic audio series (Detective Calico). Selected Acting credits include: Lady Beconfield/Spider in *Jekyll & Hyde* with Ovarions Theater, Cincinella in *Les Brigands* (VLOC), Daniella in *In the Heights* (Annapolis Summer Garden Theater), Moon in *The Real Inspector Hound*, Daniel in *Almost, Maine* (HCC Arts Collective).

Liza Gookin Hodskins (*chorus*) - was last seen in *The New Moon*, but started in G&S shows with Georgetown Law School, singing and dancing in 7 operettas, plus anniversary shows and outreach performances. Other favorites: Washington Savoyards, the British Embassy Players, the Academy Playhouse (Orleans, MA), and Barnstable Comedy Club. Liza has soloed in many European cities (with her hat out), and was a featured soloist with [Washington] Metro[Rail] Performs and the Zedelgem Singers (Belgium). She is also probably VLOC’s first former dolphin and sea lion trainer. Liza is always looking for karaoke and piano bars, and anywhere to swing dance.

Toby Ichniowski (*chorus*) - recently received their Bachelor of Music in classical voice from Towson University. Their pursuit of opera has led them to play such roles as Fanny in *La Cambiale di Matrimonio* and Flute and First Fairy in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. They were also the recipient of the Voice Talent Award in their senior year at Towson, and were chosen to sing the National Anthem and Towson Alma Mater at Towson’s Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony.

Ralph Johnson (*chorus*) - has performed in more than 110 musical stage productions, including 42 with VLOC and more with the Washington Savoyards. He sings with two barbershop quartets, and with the Bull Run Troubadours and Harmony Heritage Singers (male a cappella choruses). A DoD retiree with a math PhD, Ralph and his wife-to-be,

Ellen, met as dancing partners in a Ruddigore production of the Durham, NC, Savoyards. Ralph and Ellen enjoy cruises and travel, including visits to their children's families in Kentucky and in Virginia. Ralph plays tennis and pickle-ball, and volunteers providing medical transport to seniors.

Erin Jones (*chorus*) - is so excited to be returning to VLOC for another Gilbert and Sullivan adventure. She has previously appeared in *HMS Pinafore*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Tartuffe*, the *Music Man*, *Godspell*, and the *Miracle Worker*, and currently sings at Fourth Presbyterian Church as well. She holds a M.A. in English from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English and also studied choral composition with Dr. James Whitbourn during a summer course at Oxford University. Erin is a freelance writer and founder of Galvanize and Grow Copywriting. For more information visit www.ErinJonesWriter.com.

Carlton Maryott (*chorus*) - joined VLOC in 2006 and has appeared in over 40 musical productions with the company. His favorite performances from the past include *The Gypsy Baron* (2006), *The Grand Duke* (2010) *Die Fledermaus* (2012), *The Pirates of Penzance* (2014 and 2020) and *The Gondoliers* (2019). He is happily retired, and in addition to VLOC, he enjoys traveling, gardening, and playing with his beautiful grandchildren. Many thanks to you, the audience, for coming and supporting the performers and VLOC.

Doug Maryott (*stage manager*) - has worked backstage with several theatre companies in the area, including InSeries, QTC, PMTC, & ISC. Most recently, he stage managed *Brunch With the Boys*, a new one-act opera which premiered at DC Fringe this year. Recent shows with VLOC include *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The New Moon*, & *El Capitan*.

Jane Maryott (*chorus*) - is a longstanding member of VLOC, and is thrilled to be back on stage again! Previous roles with the company include Inez (*The Gondoliers*), Miss Spiff (*Foggerty's Fairy*), Mrs. McFarlane (*Engaged*), and the Grand Duchess (*The Charlatan*). Happily retired from property management, she enjoys singing in Bethesda Presbyterian Church choir, reading, walking, playing with her grandchildren and finally getting to travel again.

Sue Mason McElroy (*rehearsal pianist*) - Sue started playing piano at a young age and since then has enjoyed being an accompanist, a soloist and teacher. She has been the accompanist for Hexagon and many other local theater groups such as TBL and the AP. She has played for Big Bands and Churches in the Washington metropolitan area and is delighted to be working with VLOC.

Amanda Messinger (*chorus*) - is glad to be back on the VLOC stage after sailing on the *Pinafore* as Cousin Hebe and on the *New Moon* as a bride and seamstress. Other favorite roles are Dame Hannah in *Ruddigore* and Mrs. Millenium in *Urinetown*, both with

Georgetown G&S. Come see her next weekend in their Trial by Jury! This time of year she can also be found in the milkweed patch with monarch butterflies in all their glorious stages of life, cheering them on to Mexico with her Montessori students.

Joshua Milton (*John Wellington Wells*) - When he is not working on financial plans, Josh Milton is a singer, songwriter and parodist. He has been in over 20 VLOC shows since *HMS Pinafore* in 2010, and he was in the ensemble of the last VLOC Sorcerer twelve years ago. Roles include: Carboy in *The Zoo*, Guron in *Princess Ida*, Annibale in *Gondoliers*, Nicodemus Knock-Knee in *Haddon Hall*, and Old Adam in *Ruddigore*. Love to Suzanne, Sam and Anabel.

Don Mitchell (*Notary*) - Every show is an adventure and a learning experience. Thanks for coming out to watch the fun!

Sherry Mitchell (*chorus*) - is appearing in her 2nd Sorcerer production with VLOC. Previous performances include *The Brigands*, *Iolanthe*, *The Merry Widow*, *The Elixir of Love*, and *Princess Ida*, among others. In addition, she played the title role in the *Drowsy Chaperone*, Madam de la Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Emily Whitman in *Follies*, all with MAD at Goddard. By day, she works for the Montgomery County Government.

Deborah Peetz (*chorus*) - always enjoys singing with these folks and this orchestra and welcomes you to VLOC. She also sings with the women's group, Philomela, the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir in Alexandria, and attends BALTIQWERTS whenever possible. In addition to VLOC, Deb has been on stage with RMT, LTA, Aldersgate, and Eldon Street Players (now NextStop Players). In July 2023, she had the pleasure of singing Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* with the We Sing Chorus at the Wintergreen Music Festival. Thanks to William (spouse) and Monty (cat) for keeping life centered.

David Robinson (*chorus*) - is delighted to be doing yet another show with VLOC. Recently he was in the critically acclaimed *Princess Ida* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Other favorite roles include Arvide in *Guys and Dolls* with 2nd Star and Daddy Cane in *Bright Star* with the Annapolis Summer Garden Theater.

Bill Rogers (*producer, chorus*) - A retired Coast Guard Officer, Bill is very happy to be joining the chorus for this show, but wonders where the set is? In addition to appearing in almost every VLOC show since 2014, and leading the set building crew, Bill serves as the President of VLOC's Board of Directors and is VLOC's primary grants writer. He is also the person who reads all the audience survey results and thanks you for taking a few minutes to fill out the form.

Joseph Sorge (*Music Director*) - first joined VLOC in February 1996, when he went on stage as Count Raoul de St. Brioche in *The Merry Widow*. He is responsible for starting the September concert series, bringing rarely performed works to the Fitzgerald stage, including *Mlle. Modiste*, *The Desert Song*, *Naughty Marietta*, *The Grand Duke*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and John Philip Sousa's operettas *Desirée*, *El Capitan*, *The American Maid*, and *The Charlatan*. He has also broadened the repertoire of VLOC in its fully staged productions outside the standard Gilbert & Sullivan canon by introducing works by Offenbach (*La Belle Hélène*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *La Périchole*, *The Brigands*), Strauss (*Die Fledermaus* and *The Gypsy Baron*), and Donizetti (*The Elixir of Love*). In 2011, Maestro Sorge was awarded Best Conductor for VLOC's production of *The Mikado* at The Gettysburg International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival. In 2012 and 2015, Maestro Sorge took the podium as a guest conductor at the annual Messiah Sing-Along at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. With the completion of September 2013's concert presentation of *Utopia, Limited*, Joe has now conducted all 13 extant Gilbert & Sullivan operettas—many more than once.

Cheryl Stafford (*chorus*) - is a professional performer, choreographer, director, and educator of 45 years. Trained in Ballet, Modern Dance, and Voice at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory, and Historical Dance with noted scholars and dancers, she has performed at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Boston Early Music Festival, Library of Congress, and with VLOC for the past five seasons. She has directed and/or choreographed numerous productions ranging from Medieval to Modern including choreographing VLOC's recent creations of *El Capitan* and *The New Moon*.

Rachel Steelman (*Aline*) - soprano, earned their Master of Music from the Peabody Institute this past May, 2023. Recently they performed as Fredericka in the world premiere of *Zwischenspiel* and as Officer 2 in the world premiere of *Shadow Stretches*, two new operas with the Peabody Institute. They performed as Eurydice in Ricky Ian Gordon's *Orpheus and Eurydice*, as Sprite in *Cendrillon*, and as Tallulah and Phoebe in scenes from *Hotel Casablanca* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, respectively. Rachel has also performed as a jazz soloist with the SMC Jazz Band and the Chesapeake Jazz Band, as well as co-founding the jazz combo No Time Five.

Ekaterina Stratuta (*chorus*) - Katya was born in Tiraspol, Moldova. She attended the Transnistrian Government University and later Kyiv International University in Kyiv, Ukraine where she earned a B.A. in Theater and Cinema. Her prior leading roles included William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, J.B. Moliere's *The Impostures of Scapin*, and *Silver Island*. While in Ukraine, Katya also played roles in A.P. Chekhov *1000 and 1 Nights* and A. Green's *Scarle Sails* musical. Her on stage performances included singing, dancing, fencing, and juggling. Katya is fluent in English and Russian. She is also a commercial flight instructor.

Rusty Suter (*chorus*) - has happily been singing with the very talented people who grace this stage as members of VLOC since 1988. She appreciates the efforts and dedication from all the people behind the scenes who make our productions possible and don't always get the recognition they deserve. Lastly, she wishes to dedicate this show to her daughter Nancy, who is battling pancreatic cancer and who shows her mom everyday her strength, courage, and grace as she continues to fight. I love you Nan!

Ed Vilade (*chorus*) - has appeared in dozens of musicals, comedies, dramas and operettas over a theatrical "career" of 60 years. Among his favorite roles are Nicely Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls* and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has performed most recently in VLOC's *El Capitan*, *The New Moon*, and *HMS Pinafore* and has lent his tenor to many VLOC productions and a number with other local troupes. He is a retired writer of books, magazine and newspaper articles, and speeches. He lives in Silver Spring with his very supportive wife, Alice Drew. His daughter, Tess, lives in Japan.

Jillian Wiley (*Constance*) - is a DMV based soprano, received her B.A from Shepherd University, and her M.M from The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. She made her company debut with Victorian Lyric Opera as Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* this past June and is excited to return so soon as Constance! Previous roles include Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Girl 2 in the US premiere of *ANON*, Gretel in *Hansel und Gretel*, Musetta in *La Boheme*, Nurse Lola in *The Gallantry*, and Cunegonde in *Candide*. Later this fall, Jillian will appear as Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* with OVT. She is currently a private voice, piano, and early childhood music instructor for The International School of Music in Potomac. She hopes everyone enjoys watching this very fun show as much as this wonderful cast has enjoyed creating it! Toi toi toi everyone!

Jacqueline Williams Rocco (*chorus*) - is delighted to participate in her first production with VLOC. She has been singing in choirs for years, notably with the United Girls Choir from Connecticut in her youth and Bay Path University's Page Singers during college. During law school she joined Law Revue, the only performing arts group on campus, to be her outlet during her academic studies. Jacqueline is excited to start performing again since her return to the DMV area to start her own law practice.

Kent Woods (*chorus*) - has performed in many VLOC productions since he joined the company in 1988. A retired federal attorney, Kent enjoys singing in the chorus, but he has also portrayed Kromov in the *Merry Widow*, Don Gomez in *La Perichole*, the Solicitor in *The Red Mill*, the Lord Chamberlain in *Utopia, Limited*, Sing-Song Simeon in *Haddon Hall*, Guron in *Princess Ida*, and Samuel in the *Pirates of Penzance*.

Denise Young (*producer, chorus*) - has worn many hats (producer, costumer, singer) in VLOC shows over the last 27 years. She has costumed most of the shows in that same timeframe. Her favorite appearances with VLOC include *Iolanthe* (Fairy Queen), *The*

Merry Widow (Hannah Glawari), *The Elixir of Love* (Adina), *The Gypsy Baron* (Saffi), *The Magic Flute* (Queen of the Night), and *Die Fledermaus* (Rosalinda), in addition to most of the sopranos and a couple of the mezzos in the Gilbert & Sullivan canon. With Forgotten Opera she appeared in the world premiere of *Do Not Disturb* (Sandra Rosenberg), *Tartuffe* (Dorine), *The Telephone* (Lucy), *Don Giovanni* (Elvira), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Susanna).

Theater Abbreviations

BCOC Bel Cantanti Opera Company	QTC Quotidian Theatre Company
BP British Players	ROC Riverbend Opera Company
BOC Boston Opera Collaborative	RCP Reston Community Players
FOC Forgotten Opera Company	RLT Rockville Little Theatre
DS Dominion Stage	RMT Rockville Musical Theater
GAC Greenbelt Arts Center	SSS Silver Spring Stage
GG&SS Georgetown Gilbert & Sullivan Society	TFTC Taking Flight Theater Company
LCT Loudoun Centre Theatre	TWS Washington Savoyards
LTA Little Theatre of Alexandria	VLOC Victorian Lyric Opera Company
MP Montgomery Playhouse	
PGCS Prince George's Choral Society	
PTC Potomac Theatre Company	
PTP Port Tobacco Players	

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(January 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023)

Joseph F. Sorge Jr. Endowment

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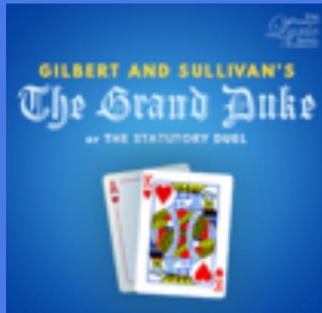
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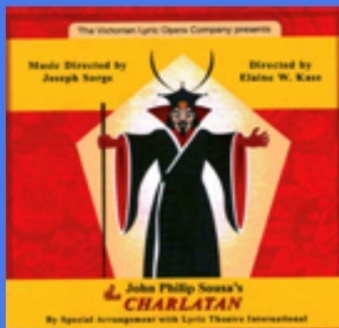
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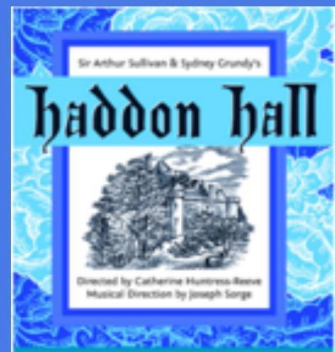
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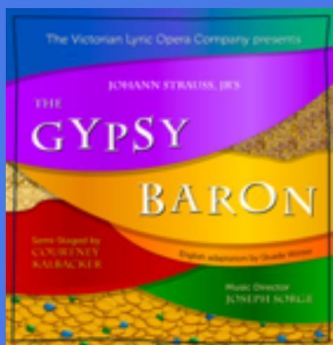
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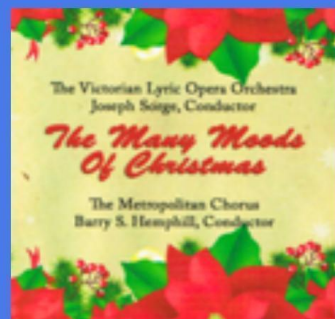
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Ruby Griffith Awards for the Victorian Lyric Opera Company

2020: All Around Production Excellence – *Princess Ida*

2019: 3rd Runner-Up, Outstanding Achievement in a Musical – *The Gondoliers*

2015: Winner, Outstanding Achievement in a Musical—*The Pirates of Penzance*

2014: 1st Runner-Up, Outstanding Achievement in a Musical—*The Yeomen of the Guard*

2012: 2nd Runner-Up, Outstanding Achievement in a Musical—*Die Fledermaus*

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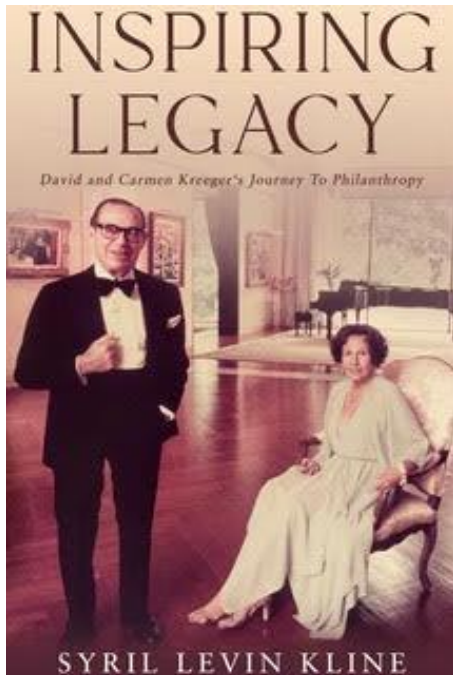
2005: 2nd Runner-Up, Outstanding Achievement in a Musical—*The Gypsy Baron*

1998: 1st Runner-Up, Outstanding Achievement in a Musical—*Orpheus in the Underworld*

1986: 3rd Runner-Up, All Round Excellence—*The Pirates of Penzance*

1982: 2nd Runner-Up, All Round Excellence—*Patience*

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Author website: SyrilLevinKline.com

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John Hyde Perine

AUGUST 23, 1942 – MAY 4, 2023



John Hyde Perine, a long-time VLOC member, passed away in May. He was kind, hilarious, gentle, and humble. John's musical talent reached far and wide in Maryland. He sang with the Victorian Lyric Opera (VLOC) and he performed countless times at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville, MD as well as with the Washington Savoyards. He particularly enjoyed the silliness of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. He knew every word of every role in every show. Truly a remarkable and memorable performer. and he performed in H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, (John sang the patter song "I am a modern Major-General" to perfection) and Iolanthe to name a few. In one production of Iolanthe as the Lord Chancellor, John wore a Chancellor's robe with gold stripes on the sleeves. Chief Justice Rehnquist saw the performance and had 4 gold stripes added to his robes. His last performance with VLOC was as Grand Duke Rudolph in Gilbert & Sullivan's The Grand Duke.



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