

The Story of *The Gondoliers* *(continued from page 16)*

is a certain amount of cheating, Marco catches Gianetta and Giuseppe catches Tessa.

The Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro, with their daughter, Casilda, and their attendant, Luiz, arrive. The Duke and Duchess tell Casilda that she was married, as a baby, to the infant future King of Barataria, who was abducted soon afterwards and brought to Venice. He has now unknowingly succeeded to the throne.

Immediately the Duke and Duchess have departed, Luiz and Casilda rush into each other's arms and she tells him of her newly discovered marital status. The Grand Inquisitor of Spain arrives with the news that the new ruler of Barataria is in Venice, living as a common gondolier with his supposed brother.

At their departure, the chorus enter, singing the joys of the newly celebrated double marriage. Don Alhambra overhears that Marco and Giuseppe are married and also that they are republicans. He explains that one of them is a king, but suggests royalty is incompatible with their republican ideals. In Gilbert's world, however, ideals can quickly change with altered circumstances, so the gondoliers decide to sail immediately to claim their kingdom jointly and "abolish taxes and make everything cheap, except gondolas." Don Alhambra forbids the girls to accompany them until the identity of the king is discovered. The gondoliers depart by boat leaving the contadine.

Act II is set in the Pavilion of the Palace of Barataria, where Marco and Giuseppe are ensconced, regally attired, in Barataria, busily cleaning the royal regalia and surrounded by their court of gondoliers who are amusing themselves without any social distinctions. Tessa and Gianetta run in, with the contadine. They are enthusiastically welcomed and are celebrating with a dance when they are interrupted by Don Alhambra, horrified at the brazen lack of social distinctions. He reveals that one of the two gondoliers is married to Casilda, much to the horror of Tessa and Gianetta.

Finally all is resolved by Inez, the infant prince's nurse, who reveals the truth in true Gilbert and Sullivan style.

Summary based on ebos.org.uk/shows/gondo/synopsis.html



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The Principals



Bob Beare
(The Duke of Plaza-Toro)

This is Bob's first appearance with GSSA. Recent local roles include Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* (CTX

Excellence in Theatre best actor nomination), Admiral Peary in *Ragtime* at ZACH theatre, Leduc in Arthur Miller's *Incident at Vichy*, and directorial credit for *Blood Brothers* and *Three Viewings* (B. Iden Payne best director nomination). Other regional credits include: *Camelot* (with Robert Goulet – Arthur not Lancel!) and *Phantom* (original cast) at Theatre Under the Stars in Houston, the Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Petruchio/Graham in *Kiss Me Kate*, and composer/lyricist of the romantic musical comedy, *The Three-Cornered Hat*. The role he takes most seriously however is grateful dad to a great kid and artist, 13-year-old Angelina.



Jerry Cordova
(Luiz)

Jerry Cordova is excited to perform in his first production with GSSA.

Some of his favorite roles include: *The Mikado* (Nanki Poo), *H.M.S Pinafore* (Ralph Rackstraw), *Masterclass* (Tony), *Carousel* (Mr. Snow), and *A Little Night Music* (Mr. Earlanson). Jerry is a member of the Austin Opera chorus and recently appeared in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Floyd's *Of Mice & Men*, and Verdi's *Aida*. Jerry has also performed with Opera San Antonio, Long Beach Opera and Los Angeles Opera. He holds a M.M. from the University of Southern California and a B.M. from The University of Texas at San Antonio. When he's not performing on stage, he shares his love of music with his choir students.



Arthur DiBianca
(Don Alhambra del Bolero)

Arthur DiBianca has appeared in many productions with GSSA since 1994. Most recently he

has played Reginald Bunthorne in *Patience* (2012), King Gama in *Princess Ida* (2013), and J.W. Wells in *The Sorcerer* (2015). He is also a clarinetist with the Austin Philharmonic and the St. Edward's University Orchestra.



Holton Johnson
(Marco Palmieri)

Holton is excited to be performing the role of Marco, after having previously played his brother,

Giuseppe. Holton has performed extensively in Boston, as well as in Tucson, San Diego, and Los Angeles, winning numerous awards for his singing and acting. He was last seen as Alexis in last year's production of *The Sorcerer*. Some of his favorite roles performed with GSSA are Prince Hilarion, Ralph Rackstraw, Nanki-Poo, and Colonel Fairfax. He won a B. Iden Payne Award as best actor in a musical for his portrayal of Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Holton is a graduate of the University of Arizona, having studied with Charles Roe and Grayson Hirst. Special thanks to his furry roommate for helping him stay sane.



The Principals



Derek Smootz
(Giuseppe Palmieri)

Derek is delighted to be performing in his 11th GSSA summer production (previous roles include Florian in *Princess Ida* and Strephon in *Iolanthe*). He recently won Broadway World Austin's Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Inspector Hanratty in the Wimberley Players' production of *Catch Me If You Can*. When not in a show, Derek surrounds himself with synthesizers and produces Downtempo/Chillout music such as "Longing for Orpheus." He and director Michelle Haché recently collaborated on an album as "Zephyrium," which features Electronic Pop arrangements of arias from the operatic canon. He extends his love and thanks to wife Rebecca and son Malcolm for letting him take the time to do this show.



Jake Jacobsen
(Antonio)

Jake Jacobsen, baritone, is in his third production with GSSA, having performed in *The Yeomen of the Guard* in 2010 and *The Mikado* in 2011. Jake has a Master's degree in Opera Performance at the University of Texas. Previously, he completed his Bachelor's in Vocal Performance at Boston University under the tutelage of Professor James Demler. He made his operatic role debut in 2010 as Don Alfonso in the Butler Opera Center's production of *Così fan tutte*. He has appeared in the chorus for Austin Opera's productions of *La Bohème* and *La Traviata*, as well as the chorus for UT's production of William Bolcom's opera *A View From the Bridge*.



Danny Castillo
(Francesco)

Tenor Danny Castillo returns for his second GSSA production after appearing in last summer's production of *The Sorcerer*. He appeared in Austin Opera's recent productions of Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Verdi's *Aida*. He will participate in Spotlight on Opera's young artist program this summer and will appear in Austin Opera's *The Manchurian Candidate* this September. Previous roles include Danny Zuko in *Grease* (Laredo Community College) and Enjolras in *Les Misérables* (Harbor Playhouse), for which he received a Sammy Award nomination. He is a musician at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, a private voice teacher, and an HEB Partner. Education: M.M. (The University of Texas at Austin); B.M. (Texas A&M University-Kingsville). Teachers: David Small, Dr. Melinda Brou.



The Principals



Jay Young
(Giorgio)

Originally from Kansas City, Jay has lived in Austin the past 24 years and is happy to call it home. This is his fourteenth production with the GSSA. Some of his other performance credits include singing for the chorus in several Austin Opera productions; performing in several Trouble Puppet Theatre productions, most recently as Uriel in *Wars of Heaven: Smackdown*; and having roles in three recent independent film projects. He holds a Bachelor's in Music Education from Texas State and a Master's in Information Studies from the University of Texas. As always, he is proud to be part of this company, and hopes you enjoy the show!



Clint Cox
(Annibale)

Clint is thrilled to be making his debut with GSSA. Most recently he performed as Sir Sagramore in *Camelot* and as The Creature in *Young Frankenstein* at the Georgetown Palace Theatre. Other favorite roles include Richard Sumner in *The Desk Set* and Andrew in *Corpus Christi* (Austin Critics Table award nominee for best ensemble cast). Clint lives in Round Rock and would like to thank his beautiful wife Tori for her love and support.



Patricia Combs
(The Duchess of Plaza-Toro)

Patricia Combs, mezzo-soprano, is thrilled to be cast in her tenth production with the GSSA. Previous roles include Constance in *The Sorcerer*, Lady Blanche in *Princess Ida*, Lady Angela in *Patience*, Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado*, Phoebe in *The Yeomen of the Guard* (2010 B. Iden Payne nomination), Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Dame Hannah in *Ruddigore*. Her first G&S role was as Ruth in the UT-El Paso production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Patricia is an active member of the Austin Opera Chorus, with double-shotguns and colours nailed unto the mast.



The Principals



Corinna Browning
(Casilda)

Born and raised on a ranch near Channing, Texas, Corinna spent her young life essentially feral and dreamt of growing up to be a skunk—the closest she could get was a B.A. in Theatre and an M.M. in Vocal Performance. New to Austin, Corinna works as a performer, set designer, and scenic painter. Recent credits include Metanoe in *Persephone*, Aunt Anna in *TEXAS!*, Susannah in Floyd's *Susannah*, Monica in *The Medium* and Inez McCormack in *Seven*. Corinna will appear in *Postville* with Last Act later this summer and with Present Company this fall as Fabian in *Twelfth Night*. Love to Nathan for his constant comfort and encouragement.



Priscilla Salisbury
(Gianetta)

Soprano Priscilla Salisbury is emerging as a sought-after soloist in the Texas area. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from The University of Houston. She was a member of the Houston Grand Opera chorus for three consecutive seasons and finished her final season performing in Weinberg's *The Passenger* at the Lincoln Center Festival in New York City. She will be receiving her Master's Degree in Opera Performance from The University of Texas at Austin. She has performed the role of Zerbinetta in The Butler Opera Center's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Barbarina in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Dew Fairy in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, and Sister Constance in Poulenc's *Dialogue of the Carmelites*.



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The Principals



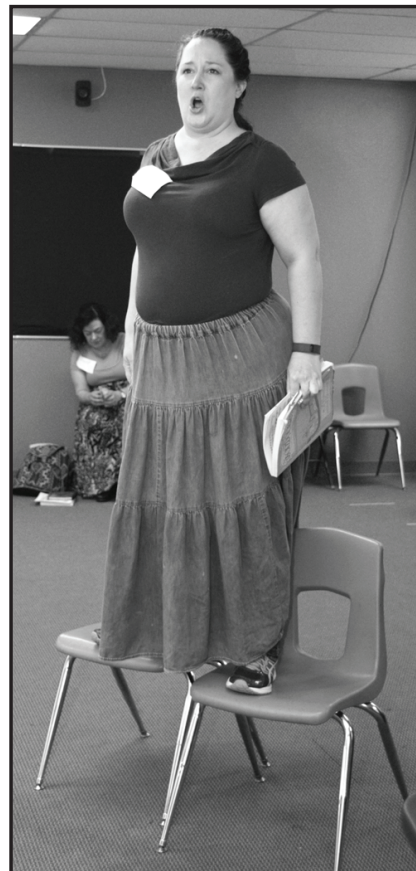
Angela Irving
(Tessa)

Angela is delighted to perform in her eighth GSSA production! By day, she teaches voice lessons at various Austin-area high schools, where she generates fresh batches of G&S enthusiasts. By evening/weekend, Angela sings with the Austin Opera, One Ounce Opera, as soloist at the Christian Science Church downtown, and various other engagements. Notable roles include Laetitia in *The Zoo* (2015), Melissa in *Princess Ida* (2013), Peep-Bo in *The Mikado* (2011), Isabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2008), Sister Claire in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (Austin Opera), and Millie in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Wimberley Players' Theatre). Angela hopes you will become as enthusiastic about G&S as she and so many other cast and GSSA members are!



Jennifer Garza
(Fiametta)

Jennifer Renee Garza, soprano, is a graduate student at Texas State University in San Marcos, working toward a Master of Music Degree in Performance. She is also a voice teacher in Leander ISD and Clavier-Werke. She has performed with the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Opera Workshop as Lauretta in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Gasparina in Haydn's *La Canterina*, and Gianetta in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. With Texas State Opera, she premiered the role of La Virgin de Guadalupe in Henry Mollicone's *Children of the Sun* and performed the role of Sister Mathilde in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She has appeared in the chorus with Sparkling City Light Opera and Opera Piccola of San Antonio. Jennifer is a student of Cheryl Parrish.



The Principals



D. Reimer
(Vittoria)

D. is excited and looking forward to her debut with GSSA. She has been seen in the roles of La Ciesca from *Gianni Schicchi* and Inez from *The Gondoliers*, to name a few. She also performed for several years as a professional chorister with the San Antonio Opera. As a singer, D. has been finalist and semi-finalist of some of the most competitive competitions for singers, and she remains active as a performer in the operatic (most notably in the style of *verismo*), recital hall, and jazz settings. D. also serves as a trumpeter and songwriter in a variety of styles in the jazz and contemporary genres. She also enjoys teaching piano and voice in the her private studio.



Sarah Manna
(Giulia)

Sarah Manna is delighted to make her debut with the GSSA. Sarah is originally from Maryland and has a Bachelor's of Music degree, specializing in musical theatre, from Catholic University in Washington, DC. Sarah moved to Austin two years ago and loves Texas. Past Austin area credits include Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes* at Georgetown Palace Theatre, Shy in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at Georgetown Palace Theatre, and Hedy LaRue in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at The Archangel Community Theatre. Sarah thanks God, her family, and the talented cast and crew for making this performance experience such a special one!



Janette Jones
(Inez)

Jan is a native Austinite who learned to love Gilbert & Sullivan while performing with the Light Opera of Manhattan. Since returning home, she has performed in over 20 productions with GSSA. Among her favorite roles are Mad Margaret in *Ruddigore*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance*, The Duchess in *The Gondoliers*, and Lady Jane in *Patience*. Last summer she was Mrs. Partlet in *The Sorcerer*. Janette was inducted as a charter member of the GSSA Hall of Fame in 2006.



The Chorus



Bruno Barbosa

Bruno Barbosa is a recent graduate from The University of Texas at Austin, with dual degrees in English and Vocal Performance. This is his third show with GSSA.



Elizabeth Etter

Elizabeth is proud to be performing in her first GSSA production, in the chorus of the *Contadine*. She most recently was dually cast as Mrs. Potts and the Wardrobe in *Beauty and the Beast* at the Georgetown Palace Theatre. She was seen as Jewel in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, also at The Palace. Last summer she performed with Lake Travis Music Theatre as Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Elizabeth has also performed at Zilker Theatre Productions in the ensemble of *The Sound of Music*. She sings in the choir and leads the children's choir ministry at Bethany United Methodist Church. She is the mother of two beautiful college-age daughters, Catherine and Tori, and the wife of Neil.



Andy Fleming (Chorus Master)

Andy is happy to be back for his 13th year with GSSA. He has previously appeared as Æsculapius Carboy in *The Zoo*, Earl Tolloller in *Iolanthe*, and the Counsel in *Trial by Jury*. He has also recently performed as Reverend Parris in *The Crucible*, and Don Basilio/Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Spotlight on Opera. Andy completed his Master's degree in Vocal Performance at The University of Texas Butler School of Music last year.



Paul Halstead

Paul's list of credits is long ... but most are yellowed with age! After over 20 years on the sidelines, Paul woke up and came back to the arts. *The Gondoliers* is Paul's second appearance in the GSSA chorus, having first swabbed the decks on the *H.M.S. Pinafore* in 2014. Paul has been a member of the Austin Opera Chorus for three years and has also sung with the Capital City Men's Chorus since 2012. Before that he sang with the Alamo City Men's Chorus for four years. A financial services executive, Paul would much rather be looking at footlights than spreadsheets and is very grateful his husband Tony encourages his consuming hobby.



The Chorus



Ezra Hankin

Ezra Hankin is a senior Musical Theatre major at the McCallum Fine Arts Academy. Recent credits include: Mr. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*, Dan in *Next to Normal*, Euan Morton in *Sondheim on Sondheim* and Harold Bride in *Titanic the Musical* (for which he received a nomination for Best Actor in a Supporting Role from the *Greater Austin High School Musical Theatre Awards*). He would like to thank his cast mates for their hard work and dedication to this project, the audience for their contributions and support, and his family for their encouragement.



Jayda Maret

Jayda Maret is pleased to be performing in her first Gilbert and Sullivan show. Favorite past performances include Wendy in *Peter Pan* and Jemima in *Cats*, both at Georgetown Palace Theater. Jayda is an incoming Junior at Cedar Ridge High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts and she studies voice with Michelle Haché.



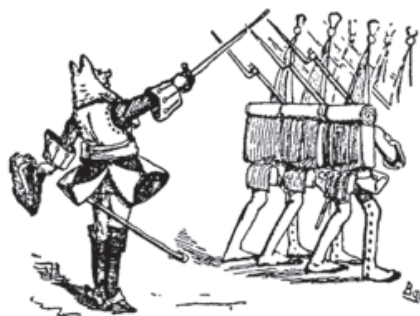
Erica Salinas

Erica Salinas, originally from Laredo, TX, moved to Austin in 2013. She is excited to be making her GSSA debut as a member of the soprano chorus. Previous roles include Fräulein Kost in *Cabaret* (Laredo Institute for Theatrical Education), Countess Rosina Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Texas A&M International University), Casilda in *The Gondoliers* (Laredo Community College), and Maria in *West Side Story* (Laredo Musical Theatre International). In 2012, Erica received a Bachelor of Music degree from Texas A&M International University, and is currently a faculty member at New School of Music in Austin, TX. Primary voice teachers include Cindy Sadler, Suzanne Ramo, and Dana Crabtree.



Sarah Steele

Sarah is a native Austinite in her second year with GSSA. She's honored and excited to be appearing in this hilarious show with so many talented musicians! Sarah grew up as a violinist, but a wrist injury helped her discover that she actually prefers singing opera. During the rest of the year she can be found singing with the St. John's UMC chancel choir and the Austin Sängerrunde Damenchor. Starting in the fall she will be studying German and Russian at UT.



The Chorus



Jamieson Taylor

After many years away from performing—and a truly indecent amount of time away from Gilbert & Sullivan—Jamieson Taylor is rapturously happy to be in her third straight production with the GSSA. She has sung with the Austin Opera chorus for several years, most recently in their production of *Aida*, and she has also appeared in several performances for Spotlight on Opera's Summer program in 2015. Jamie works as a voice teacher and singer in several Austin schools and churches.



Tristan Tierney

Tristan is a junior theatre/musical theatre major at McCallum Fine Arts Academy. He has appeared in several shows, including *Shrek*, *Titanic*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Next to Normal*, and in McCallum's UIL One Act Play, *The Yellow Boat*. Tristan was also selected to compete in the National Theatre Festival with Mosaic Theatre at Disney World in February, 2015. This is his first show with GSSA. He hopes you enjoy the show!



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