

Madison Savoyards Ltd Presents  
Gilbert & Sullivan

*Ruddigore*  
or The Witch's Curse

Wisconsin Union Theater  
July 21, 22, 28, 29 at 8:00 P M  
July 23 at 2:30 P M



The Madison Savoyards, Ltd. presents

# RUDDIGORE

OR THE WITCH'S CURSE

by

W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

## THE SAVOYARDS

The London Savoy Theatre and the international Savoy Hotel chain were built on the tremendous proceeds from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas by their business manager, impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte. The theater was built expressly to produce the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and, true to the directors' wishes to have the finest technical theater available, it was the first electrically lit theater in the world. The works are therefore often called the 'Savoy Operas' and a devotee of these operas is called a 'Savoyard'.

*Stage Director*  
Ronald Mitchell

*Music Director*  
David Crosby

*Set Designer*  
Frank Schneeberger  
*Costume Designer*  
Susan Gustof  
*Lighting Designer*  
Gary Clevin  
*Technical Director*  
Jay Young  
*Executive Producers*  
Tim Lodge  
Anne Mulgrew Scott

*This production is supported in part by a grant from  
The University League*



## THE STORY

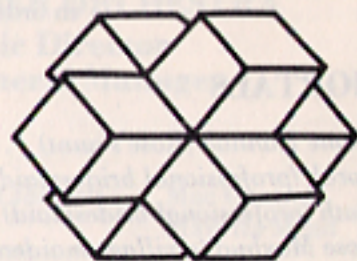
An early Baronet of Ruddigore had a witch burned at the stake, and she cursed him and all his line, dooming them to commit at least one crime a day, under penalty of dying in unspeakable agony. Dame Hannah narrates this legend to the Chorus of Professional Bridesmaids, gathered around the cottage of Rose Maybud, an attractive young damsel who has not yet found a husband. Robin Oakapple, a young farmer, is in love with Rose but is too bashful to declare his passion. We learn through Adam, an old retainer, that Robin is really Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, the true Baronet of Ruddigore, who has fled from the Curse, leaving it, with the title and estates, to his younger brother, Despard. His foster-brother, Richard Dauntless, who has just returned from the sea, also knows Robin's true identity. Learning of the deadlock in Robin's love affair, Richard volunteers to see the lady and clear up the situation. On meeting Rose, however, he too falls in love with her and, as his guiding principle is to obey "the dictates of his heart", avows his love to her and is accepted. But when Rose learns of Robin's love for her, she promptly transfers her affections to him, remarking that while Richard is a penniless sailor, Robin is a prosperous farmer.

Mad Margaret enters and we learn that she had been in love with the present bad baronet, Despard. In a song, Despard reveals the depths of his infamy but notes that he makes a point of atoning for every bad action by following it with a good one. Richard, still obeying "the dictates of his heart", reveals to him that his brother, Sir Ruthven, is alive and is in this very village, masquerading as Robin Oakapple. Robin now enters with his promised bride and the Chorus of Professional Bridesmaids to celebrate the nuptials. But the wedding is rudely interrupted by the revelation that Robin is really the Bad Baronet. Rose promptly offers herself to Sir Despard who declares that he, being no longer the Bad Baronet but a virtuous person, will be true to Mad Margaret. So Rose, not at all unabashed, once more falls back on Richard as Act I ends.

Act II takes place in the gloomy Picture Gallery of Ruddigore Castle where the portraits of his ancestors look grimly down upon a sadly changed Robin. Richard and Rose dance in with their train of Bridesmaids to ask Robin's consent to their marriage. After some trouble, they obtain it and depart. Robin then makes an impassioned appeal to his ancestors to relieve him of the necessity of doing a daily crime. Stepping down from their frames, and led by his uncle Roderic, they accuse him of evading the terms of the Curse, and order him to do something really wicked—carry off a maiden that very day. When he refuses, they give him a sample of the "agonies" they have the power to inflict and he is compelled to yield.

A reformed Despard and Margaret now appear, soberly attired, and describe themselves as District Visitors engaged in charitable activities. They have come to implore Robin to forswear his wicked ways. He declares he will do so, when, upon their departure, Adam enters with the "maiden" he was sent to abduct. She turns out to be none other than the mature Dame Hannah who proves so well able to protect herself that Robin has to call upon his uncle Roderic for help. Roderic steps down from his frame and we learn that he and Hannah were once lovers. Robin is summarily dismissed and the reunited pair indulge in a sentimental duet. Their reunion is interrupted by the excited entrance of Robin—he has the solution to the whole business. Pointing out that, as a refusal to fulfill the terms of the Curse amounts to suicide, and as suicide itself is a crime, it follows that the Curse is inoperative! So Roderic finds that he must still be alive. Rose becomes the bride of a reformed Robin, Richard appropriates the chief bridesmaid, and all ends in general rejoicing.

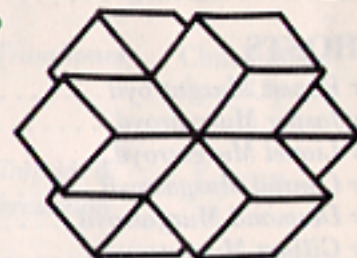
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## THE CAST

in order of appearance

### MORTALS

*Dame Hannah (Rose's aunt)* . . . . . Nancy Stofflet  
*Zorah (professional bridesmaid)* . . . . . Nedra Cobb  
*Ruth (professional bridesmaid)* . . . . . Carol S. Wright  
*Rose Maybud (a village maiden)* . . . . . Margaret Leary Walters  
*Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd*  
*(disguised as Robin Oakapple, a young farmer)* . . . . Gregory Walters  
*Old Adam Goodheart (Robin's Faithful Servant)* . . . . Richard Knowles  
*Richard Dauntless*  
*(Robin's foster brother, a Man-o'-war's man)* . . . . Thomas H. Murphy  
*Mad Margaret* . . . . . Allisanne Apple  
*Sir Despard Murgatroyd of Ruddigore*  
*(a Wicked Baronet)* . . . . . Perry Allaire

### GHOSTS

*Sir Rupert Murgatroyd* . . . . . Tim Lodge  
*Sir Jasper Murgatroyd* . . . . . Tom Cleary  
*Sir Lionel Murgatroyd* . . . . . Dennis Palzkill  
*Sir Conrad Murgatroyd* . . . . . Dwight Poore  
*Sir Desmond Murgatroyd* . . . . . Dennis Moore  
*Sir Gilbert Murgatroyd* . . . . . Gerald L. Loy  
*Sir Mervyn Murgatroyd* . . . . . Steve Zwickel  
*Sir Osbert Murgatroyd* . . . . . Fred Tuck

### BUCKS & BLADES

David Vianello	Rob Calhoon
Mark Weber	Sandie T. Pendleton
Raymond C. Thimke	Frank R. Parker
Bennette Harris	Scott F. Gilbert

### PROFESSIONAL BRIDESMAIDS

Charlotte Mullen  
 Marli Johnson  
 Marilyn Bruns  
 Barbara Abel  
 Carol Hendrick  
 Jeannie Jerde

### VILLAGE MAIDENS

Monica M. May  
 Susan Mohr  
 Jane Bires  
 Sue Hackenmiller  
 Sandy Northrup  
 Janette Umhoefer  
 Linda Goldman

*Scene: Act I, The fishing village of Rederring, in Cornwall*  
*Act II, The picture gallery in Ruddigore Castle*  
*Time: late in the 19th century*

## THE ORCHESTRA

### THE WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

David Crosby, Music Director

Michael Goldberg, General Manager

<i>Violin I</i>	Harriet Dearden Welther Wendy Buehl Robin Petzold	<i>Clarinets</i>	Mac Cantrell Maurita Mead
<i>Violin II</i>	Glenn Asch Glenn W. Germain Laurie Hoff	<i>Bassoon</i>	Jon Gaarder
<i>Viola</i>	Liz Green Karen Peters Martin Plotkin	<i>Horns</i>	David Calhoon Connie Sordino
<i>Violoncello</i>	Ruth Moorehouse-Johnson	<i>Trumpets</i>	Richard Birkemeier Mark Sieger
<i>Double Bass</i>	Michele Zwierski	<i>Trombones</i>	Chuck Mead Gary Lipsutz
<i>Flutes</i>	Peggy Vagts Jean Rystrom-Nelson	<i>Timpani &amp; Percussion</i>	Jay Gilbert
<i>Oboe</i>	Susan Kent Peters		

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra is comprised of thirty-five versatile artists whose purpose is to provide professional concerts of musical excellence in a variety of settings and environments throughout the State of Wisconsin. In addition to their summer concert season, now in its eighteenth year, the Orchestra is heard regularly with the Madison Savoyards, the Festival Choir, the Arion Musical Club of Milwaukee, and the Beaver Dam Oratorio Society, as well as with the Madison Boy Choir, at the Memorial Union Beltane Banquets, and on WHA Radio and Television.

Throughout July, the Orchestra has been filling the air with afternoons and evenings of beautiful music. Picnic baskets, blankets, children, families, and friends are all familiar and welcome sights at WCO summer concerts, which are free and open to the public.

### UPCOMING WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERTS:

July 23-Edgewood College-7:30 p.m.-music by Bach and Handel  
 July 30-Edgewood College-7:30 p.m.-music by Arriaga, Beethoven, Mozart, Corrette  
 November 26-in Milwaukee-Messiah-with the Arion Musical Club  
 December 3-in Beaver Dam-Messiah-with the Beaver Dam Oratorio Society



## PROFILES

### The Directors

**RONALD E. MITCHELL** (stage director)-Welsh born, English educated, and American adopted. He holds degrees in English from London University. Mitchell's credits include the Welsh National Theatre, study of musical theatre in Germany on a Fulbright grant, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and 25 years as director of the University Theatre at the UW-Madison. He takes particular interest in directing opera, Shakespeare, and the British restoration and 18th century theatre.

The Madison Savoyards' production of **Ruddigore** will be his 55th on the Wisconsin Union Theater stage.

**DAVID CROSBY** (music director and conductor) returns for the fourth consecutive season with the Madison Savoyards. His background in the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas is extensive, having served as principal singer, Chorus Master, and Music Director of the Oberlin Gilbert & Sullivan Players both on the Oberlin, Ohio, campus and at Highfield Theater in Falmouth, Cape Cod, Mass. This group performed the repertory of Savoy works, from **Trial by Jury** to **The Grand Duke**.

Crosby is also Music Director of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, The Festival Choir, The Madison Savoyards, and Madison Campus Ministry (Pres House). He is an award-winning composer and musical producer for national public television (PBS) and public radio (NPR's **Earplay**), as well as commercials and films.

Most recently, he has conducted two opera simulcasts of the Wisconsin Educational Radio and Television Networks: **Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus** and **Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore**.

## THE CAST

**Gregory Walters** (Robin Oakapple) has performed in numerous Gilbert and Sullivan productions. He was Pooh-Bah in **The Mikado**, Captain Corcoran in **H.M.S. Pinafore**, the Sergeant in **The Pirates of Penzance**, and as Sergeant Meryll in **Yeomen of the Guard**. With the University Opera Greg has played **The Count** in **The Secret Marriage**, **Sciarrone** in **Tosca**, and **Antonio** in **The Marriage of Figaro**. He also understudied the role of the four villains in **Tales of Hoffman** and will understudy the role of Mephistofeles with Madison Civic Opera in February. Greg received a B.A. from the UW-Madison in Communications Arts and, for the past five years, has been employed full time with WNBC Christian radio in Madison.

**Thomas H. Murphy** (Richard Dauntless) is a 1977 Middleton High School graduate. He finished his freshman year at the UW-Madison in Pre-Business this May. Thomas sang in Concert Choir and is a student of David Hottman. He also played on the University golf team this past spring. He performed the role of Curley in **Oklahoma** in 1977 at Middleton High School.

**Margaret Leary Walters** (Rose Maybud) has appeared with the Madison Savoyards in **Iolanthe** as **Phyllis**, **The Pirates of Penzance** as **Mabel**, and as **Angelina** in **Trial by Jury**. She received her Masters in voice from the UW-Madison in 1977. While studying at the University, Margaret worked with the Opera in two Verdi operas: **The Masked Ball** as **Oscar** and in **Falstaff** as **Nanetta**.

**Daniel T. Berry** (Sir Roderic Murgatroyd) is a bass now residing in Milwaukee and holds a Bachelor and Master of Music Degree in voice from the University of Michigan, where he studied voice with former Metropolitan Opera baritone Ralph Herbert and conducting with Maynard Klein and Josef Blatl. He has served on the faculties of Ferris State College, the UW-Eau Claire, and most recently at Alverno College in Milwaukee, where he headed the voice and choral departments. Daniel has sung extensively in the Milwaukee area, including stage performances with the Milwaukee Opera, Skyline Comic Opera, and Juneautown Opera. He has appeared with the Detroit Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, Waukesha Symphony, Fox Valley Symphony, and Bach Chamber Choir and Orchestra.

**Nancy Stofflet** (Dame Hannah) graduated from the UW-Madison in 1976. She is presently teaching elementary learning disabilities in Green Bay. While at the University she was a member of the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and Pro Musica. She was a member of the UW Opera Workshop. She has been in the following UW Opera productions: **Regina**, **Falstaff**, and **Tales of Hoffman**. Nancy also participated in **Opera Chunks**. She has studied voice with Ilona Kombrink for the past three years and is continuing to study this summer. She has also done solo work in the Fox Valley.

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**Richard Knowles** (*Old Adam Goodheart*) is a professor of English at the UW-Madison. He has sung with *Opera Seen*; with the *Madison Savoyards*, he has sung the roles of the *Mikado* in **The Mikado**, Major General Stanley in **The Pirates of Penzance**, and Sir Joseph Porter in **H.M.S. Pinafore**.

**Allisanne Apple** (*Mad Margaret*) graduated in May from the UW-Madison with a bachelors degree in voice. She plans to continue study towards a masters degree with her present teacher, Bettina Bjorksten. She has also been the alto soloist in performances of Handel's **Israel In Egypt**, **Messiah**, and Vivaldi's **Gloria** for such groups as the *Milton College Choral Union* and the *Milwaukee Arions*. She will be playing the role of the sorceress in Purcell's **Dido in August** for the *Baroque Music Festival in Eagle River*.

**Nedra Cobb** (*Zorah*) is a graduate student in applied voice at the UW-Madison and is a student of Lois Fisher. Nedra is from Oak Creek, Wisconsin. She graduated from Carthage College in Kenosha with a B.A. in music education and a diploma in vocal performance. She has been involved in *Concert Choir* and *Opera Chunks*.

**Perry Allaire** (*Sir Despard Murgatroyd*) is a native of Green Bay and is a graduate of the UW-Madison School of Music. He has often appeared with that university's *Opera Workshop*. He directed a production of Humperdinck's **Hansel and Gretel** for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1924 at the UW in which he also sang the *Father* and re-appeared as *Father Besenbinder* in the *Madison Children's Theater* production of the same show. His work with *Madison Savoyards* has included last summer's production **H.M.S. Pinafore** in which he sang the *Boatswain* and the recent *University League Benefit* production of **Trial by Jury** in which he sang the *Judge* and trained the chorus.

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## DIRECTORS' NOTES

**Ruddigore**, the tenth of the fourteen Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas, was first performed on January 22, 1887 at the Savoy Theatre, London. Its original title, **Ruddygore**, offended British propriety, and one of its songs offended the French ambassador, so the opera had a poor start and took time to recover.

While Gilbert burlesqued romantic melodrama in a story reminiscent of Heinrich Marschner's opera **Der Vampyr** (Leipzig, 1828) Sullivan, who had studied at Leipzig, made fun of operatic conventions in general and sinister music in particular.

Ruthven, Marschner's vampire, is doomed to marry three times and murder each of his brides. Ruthven, in **Ruddigore**, has to commit a crime a day, for which he is disastrously unsuited. The consequences of the curse provide typical Gilbert and Sullivan hilarity.

Although the period suggested in the opera is early 19th century, we are costuming the production in the Gilbert and Sullivan period. This provides a wider span for the ancestor portraits and is somewhat more attractive.

Musically, **Ruddigore** resembles the Savoy Operas which immediately precede and follow its creation, **The Mikado** and **The Yeomen of the Guard**, respectively. The double chorus in Act One ("Welcome, Gentry"), for example, bears a strong resemblance both to the Lord High Executioner's entrance in **Mikado** and to the "Tower Warders" double chorus in Act One of **Yeomen**. It is, however, the Act One Finale of **Ruddigore** that contains some of Sullivan's loveliest dramatic and musical treatments, ideas which recur in **Yeomen**, generally acknowledged as Sullivan's most beautiful score.

After the opening performance, the original ending of the opera was dropped and the Act Two Finale was replaced by a reprise of "Oh, Happy the Lilly." Sullivan, however, had composed the overture based on musical material from the original finale. Therefore, a new overture was created for the D'Oyly Carte Company by conductor Geoffrey Toye; it is this newer overture which is performed with the current Savoyards' production.

— Ronald E. Mitchell  
David Crosby



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Larry Bandfield

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Vivian Tomlinson Susan Gustof Sheila Scott (assistant)

*Rehearsal Pianist*  
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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Patron of Arts:

Welcome to our sixteenth annual production--*Ruddigore*. We hope you thoroughly enjoy this performance, and appreciate the talents and efforts of the many Madisonians who made it possible.

Over recent years the Madison Savoyards have made great strides forward in artistic quality and audience development. In the past year, for example, we were privileged to appear on WHA-TV in a state-wide simulcast of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, to present the same production in Beloit as well as here in Madison, and to perform in an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan for the University League Scholarship Benefit Fund.

The Madison Savoyards, unlike many local arts organizations, and opera groups in particular, receive very little subsidy from any source. Therefore we depend almost entirely on ticket sales for growth, and, in fact, even for continuance at our present production level. This year, the Executive Board felt strongly that we should not raise our ticket prices, and we have not done so. Unfortunately, however, the cost of all necessary goods and services has risen. As a result, and without wishing to appear melodramatic, while we naturally view the summer production as the focus and culmination of the year's efforts, we must also reckon with the distinct possibility that it might represent a culmination of a more unfortunate nature.

Only you, our audience, can guarantee our continuance: by encouraging your friends and neighbors to attend our performances, and by your donations. Our contributor designations are listed below; all contributors are acknowledged in our programs, unless otherwise specified, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Your generous contribution is of vital importance to us. We can serve to the fullest the community that knows our needs and supports our purposes. Thank you.

Timothy P. Lodge  
President

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The part of Sir Roderic Murgatroyd will be played by Daniel Berry

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Master Carpenter - Pete Schram

Key Grip - Joe McWilliams

Master Electrician - Fred Foster

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Make-up Crew - Judy Pickering, Anne Scott

Assistant Stage Manager - Pat Linehan

Photographer - Craig Marcus

Our thanks to Michele Mathias, Bonnie Koestner, Richard Harvey,  
all the cast members who helped with the set, and all the unlisted  
friends who make Savoyards possible.

Chorus addition - Lynda Kempken