



Gilbert and Sullivan's



PRINCESS IDA

Or Castle Adamant

Book and Lyrics by W.S. Gilbert

Music by Arthur Sullivan

Director's Note: Princess Ida and the Ghost of Shakespeare

Our Shakespearian production of Princess Ida is perhaps a disservice to W.S. Gilbert, who was quoted as saying, "I don't think Shakespeare rollicking." Perhaps that's why Shakespeare turns up only occasionally in his work. In 14 Savoy operas, Gilbert quotes or alludes to Shakespeare only 11 times.

However, nine of those 11 come in Princess Ida. Whether quoting Henry IV's "villainous saltpetre," Macbeth's "amen stuck in her throat" or Hamlet's "in my mind's eye, I mean," or introducing a Machiavellian, hunchbacked king or a young beauty who's never seen a man (reminiscent of, respectively, Richard III and The Tempest), Gilbert wears his Shakespearian knowledge on his sleeve.

Our five-act version of Princess Ida is unorthodox, admittedly, but the opera's structure has always been problematic. Originally billed as a two-act opera with a prologue, and subsequently as a three-act opera, the conventional form of Princess Ida offers a 25-minute Act I, an 80-minute Act II and a 25-minute Act III—which, among other problems, offers no satisfactory place for an intermission.

Each of the conventional acts begins, as usual at the Savoy, with extensive instrumental passages (32 measures, 25 measures and 15 measures). However, the two points at which we divide the conventional Act II also feature extended instrumental passages (24 measures and 14 measures) consistent with act breaks, and divide the show neatly into five acts of 25, 20, 30, 30 and 25 minutes. Did Gilbert & Sullivan intend it to be done this way? Perhaps not, though Gilbert's 1870 play The Princess, the source of the opera, is in five scenes. Either way, this very Shakespearian opera divides neatly into a conventional five-act Shakespearian structure ... whether or not they planned it that way.

As to that prologue, only 12 of 242 words are different from the Shakespearian original, from Henry V. Can you spot them all?

--Gayden Wren

Steinway, New York 2023

The Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island
Presents

PRINCESS IDA
or, Castle Adamant

Director

Gayden Wren

Stage Manager

Elliot Schenck

Choreographer

Gayden Wren

Costumier

Joe Kassner

Set Designer

Denny Wager

Props Coordinator

Lorrie DePellegrini

Music Director

Leonard Lehrman

Stage Crew

Kay Hibbert & Noah Robinson

Rebecca Rutkovsky

Fight Choreographer

Chris Jurak

Set Consultants

Martin Fuller, Janette Kennedy

Cast of Characters

King Hildebrand.....	Ben Salers
King Gama.....	Chris Jurak
Prince Hilarion.....	Joseph Anthony Smith
Arac.....	Henry Horstmann
Guron.....	John Benvenuto
Scynthus.....	Marc Eliot Stein
Florian.....	Jordan Breslow
Cyril.....	Richard Risi
Princess Ida.....	Kara Vertucci
Lady Blanche.....	Terry Hochler
Lady Psyche.....	Patricia Gallagher
Melissa.....	Alyssa Mener
Sacharissa.....	Tamara Shyngle
Chloe.....	Claudia Arroyo
Ada.....	Hanna Roth
Prologue.....	Gayden Wren

Chorus

Cecilia Antonelle, Ashley Appell, Claudia Arroyo, David Aubrey,
Robert Del Monte, Judy Doyle, Meghan McCormack, Kelly McGrath,
Delaney R. Page, Roseann Rodriguez, Hanna Roth, Ron Roth,
Michael Russo, Tamara Shyngle, Gayden Wren

Understudies

King Gama.....Barry Mastellone
Princess Ida.....Rebecca Rutkovsky
Lady Blanche.....Delaney R. Page
Lady Psyche.....Delaney R. Page
Melissa.....Cecilia Antonelle
Arac.....Gayden Wren

The Year: Sometime in the early 15th century

Act I: A pavilion at Castle Hildebrand and Prince Hilarion's chambers

Act II: A courtyard at Castle Adamant, in a remote part of Hungary,
days later

Act III: An outlying courtyard at Castle Adamant,
immediately following

Act IV: A riverside terrace on the grounds of Castle Adamant,
immediately following

Act V: At the gates of Castle Adamant, the next day

Before the Opera...

Defeated in a ruinous war, King Gama of Hungary is forced to allow the marriage of his infant daughter and heir, the Princess Ida, to the infant Hilarion, crown prince to Gama's hated rival, King Hildebrand. He pledges himself that, on the princess's 21st birthday, he will bring her to Castle Hildebrand and turn her over to Hildebrand and his son. Their child will be the rightful ruler of both kingdoms. Twenty years later the day arrives ... but with no sign of Gama or his now-grown daughter.

Musical Numbers

1. "Search throughout the panorama" (Florian and Chorus)
2. "Now hearken to my strict command" (Hildebrand and Chorus)
3. "Today we meet" (Hilarion)
4. "From the distant panorama" (Chorus)
5. "We are warriors three" (Arac, Guron, Scynthius and Chorus)
6. "If you give me your attention" (Gama)

7. *"P'raps if you Address the Lady"; "Expressive glances"; "For a month to dwell in a dungeon cell"*

(Gama, Hildebrand, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian and Chorus)

8. *"Towards the Empyrean Heights"*

(Lady Psyche, Melissa, Sacharissa and Chorus of Girls)

9. *"Mighty maiden with a mission" (Chorus of Girls)*

10. *"Oh, goddess wise" (Princess)*

10a. *"And thus to Empyrean Height" (Princess and Chorus)*

11. *"Come, mighty Must" (Lady Blanche)*

12. *"Gently, gently" (Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)*

13. *"I am a maiden" (Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)*

14. *"The world is but a broken toy"*

(Princess, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)

15. *"A lady fair, of lineage high"*

(Psyche with Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)

16. *"The woman of the wisest wit"*

(Psyche, Melissa, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)

17. *"Now wouldn't you like to rule the roast"*

(Melissa and Blanche)

Intermission

18. *"Merrily ring the luncheon bell"*

(Blanche, Cyril and Chorus of Girls)

19. *"Would you know the kind of maid?" (Cyril)*

20. *"Oh, joy! our chief is saved"; "Whom thou hast chained must wear his chain"; "Walls and fences scaling"; "Some years ago, no doubt you know"; "We may remark, though nothing can dismay us"; "To yield at once to such a foe with shame were rife"*

(Princess, Hildebrand, Melissa, Psyche, Blanche, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian, Arac, Guron, Scynthius and Chorus)

21. *"Death to the invader" (Melissa and Chorus of Girls)*

22. *"I built upon a rock" (Princess)*

23. *"Whene'er I spoke sarcastic joke"*

(King Gama with Chorus of Girls)

24. *"When anger spreads his wing" (Chorus of Girls and Soldiers)*

25. *"This helmet, I suppose"*

(Arac with Guron, Scynthius and Chorus)

26. *"This is our duty plain" (Chorus)*

27. *"With joy abiding" [Reprise of "Expressive glances"] (Ensemble)*

Orchestra

Violin I

Barney Stevens
(Concertmaster)
Svetla Kalcheva
Shuo Zhang

Violin II

Hui Wang (Principal)
Sarah Bersamin
Allen Weakland

Viola

Daniel Hyman

Cello

Peter Howard

Double Bass

Charles Buonasera (6/25, 7/1)
Robert Catinella (6/17, 6/24)

Flute

Mark Carr
Kathy Miller (+ Piccolo)

Oboe

Angelica Markevich

Clarinet

Alex Yu
Craig Lindsay

Bassoon

Delano Bell

Horn

Noah Fotis
James Hampson
Adam Wilbur (7/1)

Trumpet

Michael Marg
Andrew Hochler

Trombone

Matthew Nienow
Taylor Peterson

Percussion

Andrew Brennan

Rehearsal Pianists

Leonard Lehrman
Thomas Z. Shepard
Isabella Ereditá Johnson

Cast Bios

Cecilia Antonelle (Chorus/Melissa Understudy) - Cecilia is thrilled to be a part of the GaSLOCLI production of Princess Ida. She recently graduated from Millikin University with a Bachelors of Music emphasizing in Vocal Performance and some of her past roles include Edith from Pirates of Penzance, Mrs. Nolan in the Medium, and most recently, Despina in Cosi Fan Tutti. Cecilia would like to thank her family for their incredible support and the members of this company for welcoming her with open arms!

Ashley Appell (Chorus) - I am thirty-six years old, and I have a rare disease called Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome which encompasses albinism, legal blindness, a bleeding condition, colitis, and Pulmonary Fibrosis all in one gene. I graduated Cum Laude from Long Island University, C.W. Post in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood Education, with a concentration in Sociology. I work in the HPS Network as an Administrative Assistant, and Advocate. I have a deep love for singing and I have fun singing to our doctors to thank them for research; parody songs like “Girls just wanna have LUNGS!” I have been a church congregational singer, sang at various weddings, funerals, and services, and have also sung at a couple of events in Washington DC. I have been a member of multiple choruses; Huntington Choral Society, Rock Voices, University Choruses such as the Madrigal Singers, the Women’s Chorus of LIU, and now very thankful to be part of this production of Princess Ida, with the Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera company of Long Island. Singing became an interest, not only because I love it but because it is a great breathing exercise. Being part of this show, has been a joy because I love the group and the spirit music awakens in the depth of my soul.

Claudia Arroyo (Chloe) - Claudia has been performing with the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island since her debut in 2019 in The Gondoliers. She has performed with the Red Stocking Revue Group since 2017 and with the Long Island Cabaret Theatre since 2018, appearing most recently in its 2022 - 2023 show “Come Sail Away”. Claudia loves to sing and is delighted to be a part of the G&SLOCI’s production of Princess Ida.

David Aubrey (Chorus) - David is making his Gilbert and Sullivan debut with this production. Previous opera credits include Isaac Harris in Leonard Lehrman’s Triangle Fire, Hannah, Sacco and Vanzetti and Dargomizhsky’s Rusalka. He has sung with the Great Neck Choral Society, the Metropolitan Philharmonic Chorus, the Amend Choir, the Harvard Chorus, the Queens College Choral Society and the Temple Isaiah Choir. When not singing, he has written several plays, gives lectures on film history and enjoys gardening, travel and short walks on long piers. David is dedicating this performance to Overactors Anonymous and their ongoing struggle to cure hams.

John Benvenuto (Guron) - Actor, singer, reels man and likes to have fun. Most notably to play Prince Charming in Cinderella, the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz and played 3 Little Pigs in Shrek. Also played Charlie Brown

in The Wonderful World of Snoopy and You're a Good Man
Charlie Brown.

Jordan Breslow (Florian) - Jordan has been with GaSLOCoLI since 2011 and has been featured in both principal roles in The Mikado (Pish-Tush), Patience (Major Murgatroyd), The Gondoliers (Antonio), and A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol (Bob Cratchit) as well as various ensemble appearances in The Sorcerer, Ruddigore, Thespis, HMS Pinafore, and The Pirates of Penzance. He had previously performed with the Suburban Players of Wantagh in Anything Goes, Annie Get Your Gun, and Girl Crazy and as the title character in a Camp Kinder Ring production of The Wiz. Jordan was a member of the Binghamton Crosbys, the only all-male a cappella singing ensemble at Binghamton University and continues as their alumni coordinator. He has served multiple terms on the GaSLOCoLI Executive Board as business manager, publicity chairperson, and is their current treasurer.

Robert Del Monte (Chorus) - Robert joined the Light Opera Company back when it was still the Gilbert & Sullivan Workshop of Long Island, back in 1970, and has been here ever since. In 2020 he was honored by the Nassau County Legislature for his 50 straight years with the Company. His favorite roles with the company include the Foreman in "Trial by Jury," the Noble in "The Mikado," Sir Conrad Murgatroyd in "Ruddigore" and Giorgio in "The Gondoliers"; he also played The New York Mirror 2 in "Very Truly Yours, Gilbert & Sullivan" (both on stage in 2003 and in the online movie version in 2021) and created the role of the Ghost of Samuel in "A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol," A longtime resident of Oceanside, he is also a passionate devotee of ballet, Broadway and opera.

Judy Doyle (Chorus) - My background in theatre has been varied local theatre productions over the years with Glen Players in Glen Cove, Port Washington Play Troupe, Port Singers, Landmark on Main Street 40s Radio Shows, CancerCare Red Stocking Review singers for 20 years, most recently LI Cabaret, formal singing and theatre training: C.W. Post chorus, American Academy of Dramatic Arts graduate and private vocal training. Also teach multi-media art classes and explore all visual and performance arts as often as I can!

Patricia Gallagher (Lady Psyche) - I started with Gaslocoli back in 1994 as Josephine in HMS Pinafore. The only Gilbert and Sullivan I had done previously was as a chorus member in Pirates even longer ago with

Gayden Wren. I am delighted to play the mature and rather cynical Lady Psyche in Princess Ida! It's amazing to do this show for the first time with old and new friends; it is fast becoming a favorite! Other roles with the company include Gianetta and Cassilda, Rose Maybud, Mabel, Katisha!, Elsa and Phoebe and Saphir and Angelina and Lisa as well as featured chorus roles. Many thanks to Gayden for his unwavering commitment to the company and to the canon. Best wishes to all of the cast and crew of Ida! Besides Gilbert and Sullivan I like to sing opera and classical, Broadway, some jazz and occasionally even some pop karaoke.

Terry Hochler (Lady Blanche) - Terry was lucky enough to be brought up in G&S-loving household, although - truth be told - her family only owned recordings of a handful of the operas – one of them being “Princess Ida”, for which she has a particular soft spot. Terry has played numerous mezzo roles in the full company shows since joining GASLOCOLI right out of college, and has sung the mezzo part in many of the company's revue shows as well. She is having fun portraying the extremely unlikeable Lady Blanche in this production – and hopes others will agree it's quite a stretch for her! Terry would like to thank her husband for all his support.

Henry Horstmann (Arac) - Henry is very excited to be back with GASLOCOLI for his third production with the company. His previous credits with the company include: Giuseppe, The Gondoliers, 2019 & Ensemble/Pish-Tush Cover, The Mikado, 2022. His past credits also include: Marquis de la Force, Dialogues of the Carmelites, Bronx Opera, 2023; Lord Dramaleigh, Utopia Limited, Utopia Opera, 2023; Figaro, Il barbiere di Siviglia, Winter Harbor Music Festival, 2022. Upcoming: Conte Almaviva, Le nozze di Figaro, Winter Harbor Music Festival, 2023. Henry is so appreciative to be performing consistently again and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Chris Jurak (King Gama) - Bass-baritone Chris Jurak's professional operatic career spanned the years 1978-83, when he sang in the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus, appearing in numerous productions including Carmen, Tosca, La Boheme, Cavallaria Rusticana, La Giaconda, La Forza del Destino, Werther, Die Frau Ohne Schatten, Hansel and Gretel and L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges. From 1985-87 he attended the Preparatory Division of the Manhattan School of Music, studying classical voice with Ilse Sasse and Lynn Vardeman. After a “brief” hiatus, he sang from 2013 to 2016 with the Waldorf Choral

Society as both chorister and soloist. Since 2016, Chris has performed a variety of roles with the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island (GaSLOCoLI), including Lord Tolloler (Iolanthe), The Pirate King (The Pirates of Penzance), Colonel Calverly (Patience), Don Alhambra (The Gondoliers), The Mikado (The Mikado: A Long Island Fantasy), Ghost of Marley (A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol), and The Baritone (The World According to Gilbert & Sullivan). He also has performed the roles of The Pirate King, Don Alhambra, Captain Corcoran (HMS Pinafore) and Pish Tush (The Mikado) in concert versions for the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Society. In 2022, Chris made his debut singing with Opera Night Long Island, and also appeared as both Fiorello and The Officer in the Winter Harbor Music Festival's production of Il Barbiere Di Siviglia. This season, Chris will be seen as King Gama in GASLOCLI's production of Princess Ida, and will return to WHMF as Bartolo in Le Nozze di Figaro. Chris works professionally as a Physical Therapist, specializing in the treatment of performing artists using a holistic approach combining Osteopathic manual and integrated movement therapies. In his spare time he teaches Tai Chi & Qi Gong, and enjoys updating the lyrics to G&S songs.

Dr. Leonard J. Lehrman (Music Director) - a former Metropolitan Opera Assistant Chorus Master, first President of the Long Island Composers Alliance, Founder & Laureate Conductor of the Jüdischer Musiktheaterverein Berlin, Co-Founder of Court Street Music in Valley Stream, and Founder/Director of the Metropolitan Philharmonic Chorus, has performed in TRIAL BY JURY and conducted numerous operas, operettas, musicals, and G&S excerpts in the U.S. and Europe, but this will be his first time conducting PRINCESS IDA with full chorus and orchestra. Roslyn High School salutatorian of 1967, he received his M.F.A. and D.M.A. from Cornell, following an A.B. from Harvard, with additional work with Elie Siegmeister, Nadia Boulanger, Boris Goldovsky, Leonard Bernstein, and at Indiana University in Opera Conducting. His works (263, to date, including 12 operas, 7 musicals, 19 adaptations, 81 translations, 51 choral works, and over 300 songs) have been heard on 6 continents, 18 CDs, 4000+ videos with 1,000,000+ YouTube views. His completion of Marc Blitzstein's opera SACCO AND VANZETTI was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in Dec. 2022.
llehrman.artists-in-residence.com

Barry Mastellone (King Gama Understudy) - Barry is one of our long-time members, first appearing in a Company production in 1987. He has

played many leading roles and joined many a chorus over that span: The Ghost of Marley [A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol], John Wellington Wells [The Sorcerer], both Archibald Grosvenor and Major Murgatroyd [Patience], Samuel [Pirates of Penzance], the Notary [The Grand Duke], Florian [Princess Ida], Lord Scaphio [Utopia Limited], The Duke of Plaza Toro and Annibale [The Gondoliers], Robin Oakapple [Ruddigore], and, for one brief afternoon as a stand-in, the Mikado, wherein he read the lines that had been printed on the certificate of death. While he is happy to be appearing with several other long standing players, he is excited to see all of the newest members of the company.

Meghan McCormack (Chorus) - I am a middle child, five foot two inches tall and I'm a Leo. I'm excited about doing the show but also a little nervous since this is the very first time doing any kind of theatre at all. When I'm not on stage I enjoy going out to dinner with my friends, spending time with family and singing my heart out at Karaoke with my coworkers.

Kelly McGrath (Chorus) - Gilbert and Sullivan debut! Originally a professional Stage Manager, I'm excited for the chance to work ON stage. Thank you to the cast, for their warm welcome, and to Kara- for dragging me into this. Much love to my father- who's always just rolled with it. And to my mother, who, had she been with us, would have ceaselessly complained about opera, and then would have attended all my shows any way. Verso L'alto!

Alyssa Mener (Melissa) - Alyssa is delighted to play "Melissa" in Gilbert and Sullivan's Princess Ida. Alyssa is a recent graduate of Molloy University and has played the partial roles of "Zerlina" in Don Giovanni and "Blanche de la Force" in Dialogues of the Carmelites with Molloy's Opera Ensemble. Alyssa is thrilled to experience her first full principal role with Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island. She looks forward to continuing and growing her opera career with the company. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Delaney R. Page (Chorus/Lady Blanche & Lady Psyche Understudy) - Delaney is very happy to join the cast of Princess Ida in the roles of Lady Blanche and Lady Psyche as well as the chorus. (Hopefully not at the same time). She is also the current Secretary and Webmaster for the company. She has been performing with The GaSLOCoLI since 2015's production of H.M.S Pinafore and has performed with the company as Kate in Pirates of Penzance, Celia in Iolanthe, Peep-Bo (while also



Kara Vertucci stars as the rebellious Princess Ida in the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island's 2023 production of *Princess Ida*.

Married to each other as infants, Prince Hilarion (Joseph Anthony Smith) and Princess Ida (Kara Vertucci) find themselves on opposite sides in a scene from the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island's 2023 production of *Princess Ida*.





Prince Hilarion (Joseph Anthony Smith, center) has a plan, one which the courtiers Florian (Jordan Breslow, left) and Cyril (Richard Risi) are only too happy to endorse in a scene from the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island's 2023 production of *Princess Ida*.



The rival kings Hildebrand (Ben Salers, left) and Gama (Chris Jurak) are, as always, at odds in a scene from the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island's 2023 production of *Princess Ida*.

Photos by NanMagna. Copyright 2023 The Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island.

understudying Katisha), and is part of the Very Truly Yours, Gilbert and Sullivan cast. She also very much enjoys performing in cabaret and open-mic. Her favorite role outside of GaSLOCoLI that she has performed was as The Mother in Amahl and The Night Visitors and her favorite overall performance was on a floating stage on a river in Guilin, China, which, later that day, sank.

Richard Risi (Cyril) - is elated to be performing his latest G&Slocoli production. As a classically trained graduate of Hofstra University with his bachelors in vocal performance, he made his debut with the company as Francesco in The Gondoliers, as Young Marley in A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol, and previously as Nanki-Poo in The Mikado. Some other notable roles include Clerk Worthington in Sacco & Vanzetti, Don Curzio in Le Nozze di Figaro, Frick in La Vie Parisienne, Filch in The Beggar's Opera and Autumn in The Fairy Queen with the Hofstra Opera Theater. Beyond opera, Richard is also a composer, actor, and piano tuner. More information can be found at RichardRisiMusic.com. He is tremendously grateful to his director Gayden Wren and music director Leonard Lehrman, G&Slocoli, as well as the entire cast of Princess Ida.

Roseann Rodriguez (Chorus) - I am excited to make my debut with the Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island in their production of PRINCESS IDA. I am currently a member of the Long Island Choral Society, performing with the group since 2022, including in our most recent concert BRAHMS AND BROADWAY. I also belong to the Long Island Cabaret Theatre Group, most recently performing as a singer and dancer in the 2022 show COME SAIL AWAY. On Sundays, I sing with the Trinity Choir at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville. I am a Chicago-area native, and have been a Long Island resident since 2002.

Hannah Roth (Ada) - Hanna is thrilled to be making her third appearance with this company. An 11 year old singer and actor, Hanna has performed at Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Adelphi University, and has performed the National Anthem at Citi Field in NY. She is a New York State All County soloist and a Member of York's Metropolitan Youth Orchestra Choir. Hanna's cover version of This is Me from The Greatest Showman has almost 25,000 views on YouTube. Her stage credits include Belinda Cratchit in A Christmas Carol, Smee in Peter Pan, Maui in Moana, Jr., Bobby in A Chorus Line, Ensemble in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Alice in Shattered Alice (an original adaptation of Alice in Wonderland by Andrew Geha). Hanna

also regularly performs in theater and musical productions at Friends Academy where she is in the sixth grade. In addition, she attends StageDoor Manor Camp each summer honing her craft. Hanna lives in Oyster Bay with her parents Claudia & Ron, her brother Zachary, and her two dogs Bailey & Mixon. www.imaginehanna.com

Ron Roth (Chorus) - Ron is thrilled to be making his stage debut in this performance. Ron is a lifelong lover of music and theater.

Michael Russo (Chorus) - Michael is new to our company, as he joined the GaSLOCoLI in January 2022, which is where and when he got his start in musical theater. Michael has been singing in choruses and church choirs almost his entire life, starting in first grade with the Mary G. Clarkson Elementary School Chorus in BayShore from 1970 until 1974, and then with the Gardiner Manor School Chorus in 1975 and 1976. Michael was in the varsity choirs of Udall Middle School and West Islip High School in West Islip from 1977 until 1982. From there, Michael joined the Explorers Post 802 in North Babylon where he sang with their Jazz Chorus from 1982 until 1988. Afterward, Michael joined his voice with the senior choirs of Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church in West Islip from 1979 until 1984, and St. James R.C. Church in Seaford from 1991 until 1994.

Rebecca Rutkovsky (Princess Ida Understudy/Stage Crew) - Rebecca is a Long Island based singer. Favorite roles include Alcina (Alcina), Fiordiligi (Così fan tutte), Euridice (Orfeo ed Euridice), First Lady (Die Zauberflöte), The Mother (Hansel and Gretel), Barbarina (Le nozze di Figaro), Edith (Pirates of Penzance), Cinderella (Into the Woods) and Rosalia (West Side Story). Rebecca recently worked with composer Steven Belfer and writer Stephen Michaelman to create the role of Sarah for the world premiere workshop of their new musical, Panama. Rebecca has performed with Amadeus Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, the Allegro Singers, Brooklyn Telemann Chamber Society and Plaza Theatrical Productions. As a recitalist, she has performed various song, operetta, and opera repertoire in concert with the Songe d'été en musique festival in Quebec, Canada, Opera Night Long Island, Oyster Bay Music Festival and at Merkin Hall. A passionate teacher, Rebecca maintains an active voice studio on Long Island.

Ben Salers (King Hildebrand) - A Mississippi transplant and current GASLOCOLI board member, Ben was thrilled to be part of the decision making of choosing "Princess Ida" for our 2023 season. It has been

quite the uphill battle coming out of what he describes as a “Covid castastrophe” that plagued the previous production, which was three years in the making! However, with other board members and faithful alumni, “Princess Ida” is being delivered to the audience is all the glory it can muster and Ben feels confident that you will appreciate the results- a lush operatic score performed by talented locals! Sit back and ENJOY!!

Thomas Z. Shepard (Senior Board Advisor/Accompanist) - Thomas is a legendary producer of Broadway cast albums and classical recordings, in which capacity he has won 12 Grammy Awards and a special Drama Desk Award for lifetime achievement. He is also a composer, with extensive credits that include a completion of Arthur Sullivan’s score for the “lost” opera Thespis, presented by the company in 2014.

Tamara Shyngle (Sacharissa) - has been involved with the Light Opera Company since 2003. She has enjoyed performing since she was young but has found additional interest in working behind the scenes as well, including serving as stage manager for The Mikado and A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol. She has been seen in the ensembles of various shows, musical revues and plays through the years. Her G&S credits include ensembles in Thespis, Trial by Jury, The Sorcerer, H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, Patience, Iolanthe, The Mikado, Ruddigore, The Yeomen of the Guard and The Gondoliers. She’s also been seen in Trial by Jury as the Lady with the Green Bag (for lack of a name), Cousin Hebe in H.M.S. Pinafore, Isabel in The Pirates of Penzance, Fleta in Iolanthe, Aunt Eadie and Gossip #3 in A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol and Pitti-Sing in The Mikado: A Long Island Fantasy. Tamara was also a part of the Harlem ensemble in Star Playhouse’s 2010 production of Ragtime. Offstage, she is a longtime member of the company’s executive board, including two stints as president, and works as a graphic designer.

www.tdsgraphicdesignstudio.com

Joseph Anthony Smith (Prince Hilarion) - is elated to be back with GASLOCOLI after last being seen in Thespis with this group! Nat’l Tour: Miracle On 34th Street (Fred Gailey); Regional: Brigadoon (Tommy Albright), West Side Story (Tony), Into The Woods (Baker); Concert: Radio City Music Hall (Josh Groban Harmony Tour), Lincoln Center (National Chorale), NJ Performing Arts Center (Sarah Brightman A Christmas Symphony); Recordings: Thy Will Be Done An Easter Oratorio by Angela Rice, Mozart’s Requiem, Orff’s Carmina Burana, Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus. Big thanks to the team, cast, and crew behind

Princess Ida for this special experience! Special thanks to my beautiful husband and four boys for giving me the space to do what I love and knowing that only means I can love each one of you even more.

More on Joseph: @iamjosephanthonysmith

Marc Eliot Stein (Scynthius) - Marc is a writer, web developer and peace activist in Brooklyn. He followed the footsteps of his father Eli Stein when he joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island to sing in the chorus of “Mikado” in 2022, and is delighted to be playing Scynthius in “Princess Ida” this year. He also appeared with the Village Light Opera Group in “Iolanthe”. Marc runs an occasional opera podcast called “Lost Music: Exploring Literary Opera” as well as “World Beyond War: A New Podcast”.

Kara Vertucci (Princess Ida) - Kara is classically trained in voice at the University of North Texas, is thrilled to be performing once again on the Gaslocoli stage with such a talented cast and production team. She is so grateful to God and to Gayden and Leonard for the opportunity to play such a wonderful and challenging role. Favorite opera and musical theater roles include Gianetta in The Gondoliers, Patience in Patience, Phyllis in Iolanthe, Josephine in H.M.S. Pinafore, Dorabella in Mozart’s Cossi Fan Tutte, Erste Knabe in Mozart’s The Magic Flute, Prima Cercatrice in Puccini’s Suor Angelica, Sharon Graham in Master Class, Tuptim in The King and I, Mrs. Nordstrom in A Little Night Music, Maria Rainer in The Sound of Music, Antonia in Man of La Mancha, Rapunzel in Into the Woods, and Hodel in Fiddler on the Roof.

Gayden Wren (Director/Chorus) - is a writer, director, playwright and country singer/songwriter based in Steinway, Queens. He has been a member of the company since 1976, and his G&S-related works include a book, A Most Ingenious Paradox: The Art of Gilbert & Sullivan (Oxford University Press, 2001) and two plays, A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol (1994) and Very Truly Yours, Gilbert & Sullivan (1995). For information on his life outside Gilbert & Sullivan, visit www.TennesseeWalt.com.



About the Company

Founded in 1954, the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to the works of Gilbert & Sullivan. For 69 years it has made its shows available as fund-raisers or entertainment for schools, charities, parks, temples, libraries and fraternal organizations in Nassau and Suffolk counties, Queens, Brooklyn and beyond.

For further information, visit www.gaslocoli.org
Or, to book a company performance,
e-mail gaslocoli.wren@gmail.com

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★★★★

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Please join us for our 2024 season production of

Iolanthe

Or, the peer and the peri

Iolanthe; or, The Peer and the Peri is a comic opera with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W.S. Gilbert. It is one of the Savoy operas and is the seventh collaboration of the fourteen between Gilbert and Sullivan.

Iolanthe was first produced in London at the Savoy Theater, on 25 November 1882, three days after Patience closed, and ran for 398 performances. It was the first of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas to premiere at the Savoy Theater. The story concerns a band of immortal fairies who find themselves at odds with the House of Peers. The opera satirizes many aspects of British government and law.



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