

Princeton Society of Musical Amateurs With Bucks County Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Cast of *Ruddigore* – January 11, 2026



LEE F. MILHOUS (Music Director and Conductor) Having earned a BA in Church Music from Westminster Choir College, and an MM in Choral Conducting from Temple's Esther Boyer College of Music, Lee serves his 12th year as Music Director of the Society. His teachers included Michael Stairs, Robert Carwithen, and Alan Harler. Lee has conducted liturgical and concert performances of numerous choral and orchestral music including Handel's *Messiah* and *Coronation Anthems*, Bach's *St. John Passion* and *Easter Oratorio*, and *Requiems* by Fauré, Mozart and Duruflé, among many other works. He is Director of Music at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church (Yardley, PA), Organist and Choirmaster at St. Mary's Episcopal/Anglican Church (Burlington, NJ), Choir Director at Temple Beth Hillel/Beth El (Wynnewood, PA), and Organist at The Evergreens Chapel (Moorestown, NJ). He also serves on the piano faculty of Ancillae Assumpta Academy (Wyncote, PA) where he teaches 40+ students weekly. His musical theater credits as either Music Director, Conductor, or Accompanist include over 70 shows in the canon with organizations including Bucks County Playhouse, Bristol Riverside Theatre, Kelsey Theater, The Solebury School, Delaware River Theatre Collective, Princeton Society of Musical Amateurs, The Peddie School, Sayreville War Memorial High School, Bryn Athyn Community Players, and Temple Adath Israel Players. Lee resides in New Britain with his son Elliot, their Maine Coon cat Phin, and a rescue turtle named Bill.



ELIZABETH AXLER (Rose Maybud) is excited to reprise Rose for PSMA! A lyric soprano, she has received acclaim for her roles as Jane Doe (*Ride the Cyclone*), Lady Billows (*Albert Herring*), Kate (*Pirates of Penzance*), and Valenciennne (*The Merry Widow*). Elizabeth holds a B.M. in Music Education from Susquehanna University and teaches music in the Central Bucks School District.



JANE BETRO (*Dame Hannah*) has been performing with Bucks County Gilbert and Sullivan Society since 2020. Her favorite role was Katisha in the 2022 production of *The Mikado*. She is a regular singer in the Autumn Dessert Cabarets and has enjoyed being a *Messiah* soloist several times. Ms. Betro also sings with The Opera Project in Hunterdon County, NJ. She is always grateful to her husband, Frank, for his unwavering support.



BOB BINKLEY (*Old Adam Goodheart*) In four decades Bob has enjoyed dozens of lead roles and chorus appearances in all the G&S shows. He started Bucks G&S sixteen years ago and played his favorite role of Wilfred Shadbolt in our 2018 *Yeomen of the Guard*, followed by directorial duties for 2019's *Pirates of Penzance*, 2021's *The Sorcerer* and 2023's *Mikado*. He lives in New Britain with his patient wife, Winnie. "We are blessed with an amazing array of talent, energy and dedication. Thanks to everyone!"



COLIN DAHMS (*Despard Murgatroyd*) This is Colin's second appearance with Bucks County Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and he's having a wonderful time as usual, thanks to all the lovely people involved in this production. The last time he was seen here was as Don Alhambra Del Bolero in *The Gondoliers* in 2022. He has also recently been seen as the Major in *Patience* in 2023 and as the eponymous *Mikado* in 2017 with Rose Valley Chorus and Orchestra. Colin enjoys playing ukulele and *Grand Theft Auto* in his spare time.



TIMOTHY FAULKNER (*Richard Dauntless*) is happy to join Bucks G&S again since his previous appearances as Lord Tolloller in *Iolanthe*, Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*, Marco in *The Gondoliers*, Alexis in *The Sorcerer*, and Samuel in *Pirates of Penzance*. He previously portrayed Richard Dauntless with the Savoy Company Philadelphia in 2022. Tim has performed chorus roles in multiple productions with Opera Delaware, Opera Baltimore, and Boheme Opera NJ as well as character roles with Delaware Valley Opera Company, Center Stage Opera, Amici Opera, Alter Ego Chamber Opera and Lyric Opera NJ.



DEREK HESS (*Robin/Sir Ruthven*) is delighted to return to the stage with Bucks County Gilbert & Sullivan Society for their production of *Ruddigore* to reprise one of his favorite roles. Derek has been involved with many Gilbert & Sullivan productions since 2008 and has since portrayed various roles including Samuel and Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Strephon* in *Iolanthe*, *Dr. Daly* and *J. W. Wells* in *The Sorcerer*, *Florian* in *Princess Ida*, *Ralph Rackstraw* in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Archibald Grosvenor* in *Patience*, *Jack Pointe* and *Colonel Fairfax* in *Yeomen of the Guard*, *Robin Oakapple* in *Ruddigore*, *Edwin the Defendant* in *Trial By Jury*, and most recently seen as the Duke of Plaza-Toro in BCGSS's production of *The Gondoliers*.



BOB KINNEY (*Ghost 1*) *Ruddigore* was Bob's first G&S experience nearly 32 years ago(!), and he is delighted to join the chorus for this production! Bob is the current President of BCGSS and a semi-retired attorney, and is a veteran of 11 of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas, including BCGSS' first production of *Trial by Jury* in 2009. He has had soloist roles in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *The Sorcerer*, *Gondoliers*, and *Yeomen of the Guard*. Bob also directed the BCGSS 2019 production of *Yeomen*, as well as the 3-man farce, *Cox & Box*, in 2018. While normally a baritone, Bob often performs as a "pretenor" in various shows, including this one!



JULIE MAY (*Mad Margaret*) has been connected with the Bucks G&S group since its inception both as an actor ... performing in the first *Trial by Jury*, and later as Mrs. Partlett in *Sorcerer* and the Duchess in *Gondoliers* . . . and a director for *Pirates*, *Patience*, *Princess Ida*, and assistant director for *Mikado*. She has performed in all 14 Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, and director winning performance awards at the International G&S festival in Buxton and Harrogate, England. And she's directed 25 productions of most of the G&S canon with G&S companies both in the Delaware Valley and England. *Ruddigore* is a favorite, if not her FAVORITE G&S show. Many thanks to our hard working team – it definitely takes a village...and Rederring is just that!



KIRA SCHARF (*Zorah*) After her Bucks County Gilbert & Sullivan Society debut last year as the title role in *Iolanthe*, Kira is delighted to get back on stage with this welcoming and supportive community. Offstage you'll find her singing away as section leader for the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, NJ where she recently offered *Jesu, deine Gnadenblicke* from Bach's *Ascension Oratorio*. On Saturday nights you can catch her as a cantor for Queenship of Mary Roman Catholic Church, Plainsboro, NJ. She is a graduate of TCNJ, Ewing, and performs regularly with the Opera Project, NJ. ****Spoiler alert**** she is married to Richard Dauntless, and resides in Ewing, NJ, along with their two cats (who love all their practicing!)



ROBIN SCHOTT, JR. (*Sir Roderic Murgatroyd*) made his Bucks G&S debut last year in *Iolanthe* (Chorus of Peers). He had so much fun that he packed his things and moved into the end painting in Ruddigore Castle's Portrait Gallery. During the hours when he is not guarding his frame, causing ghostly mischief, or practicing his villainous laugh, Robin works as the Music Director at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Glenside. He wishes to thank his parents, Robin Sr. and Mary for their support and encouragement, as well as for the MANY pre-rehearsal dinners and hours of dog-sitting at their house. He hopes everyone enjoys the story of *Ruddigore*!