



Trial *by* Jury



Trial by Jury is credited as the first major success for W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's partnership. This short courtroom farce was presented as curtain-raiser (i.e. pre-show entertainment) for a 1875 production of Jacques Offenbach's *La Perichole* in London. The music and witty text proved to be so infectious that it went on to be performed countless times over the past 150 years, by professional and community groups alike. At times, the 19th-century British humor in *Trial by Jury* can seem very specific to time and place; in the original version, the Judge gained his seat by, among other things, marrying "a rich attorney's elderly ugly daughter," and there are references in the libretto to locations in England. Rather than stay completely faithful to the original 19th-century version, we have "reimagined" this drama as taking place in a magistrate court here in South Carolina.

Abraham Hardy (Usher) is a Native of Portland, Oregon. He earned a Masters of Music in vocal performance from Rice University and his Bachelors of Music from the University of South Carolina. Abraham has appeared in numerous operatic roles, with highlights including Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*, Simone in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Don Basilio in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Currently he serves as the bass section Leader at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

Michael T. Brown (Edwin) has performed in a variety of venues on both sides of the Atlantic, up to and including a cave in Sweden. On stage he is known for being great at jumping on or over furniture, and his performance of Monostatos in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* was called "obnoxious" by a Washington Post reviewer. He recently received his Doctor of Musical Arts in voice performance from USC, and, when he is not wrangling his three children, he spends time conducting church choirs and teaching voice lessons.

A midlands native, **Andrew Skaggs (Foreman of the Jury)** has meddled in melodies for most of his life. While he has tried many instruments and genres, he has pursued this particular venture due to his tremendous calling to civic duty. A juror many times over he has never had the opportunity to be foreman and therefore considers it both a privilege to serve and an honor to perform with such amazing artists.

Evelyn Clary (Judge) has performed in films, musicals, operas and plays since she was a teen, which was not long ago at all. Her varied resume includes shows at USC, Columbia College, Columbia Children's Theatre, Dillon Opera House, Art Bar and her mom's garage. When she is not editing libretti and

rehearsing, she is working at Eric Loeb's Allstate Agency or helping her husband clean up after their 3 cats, 2 dogs and 1 preschooler.

Soprano **Maria Beery (Angelina)** holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Temple University and a master's in opera theater from the University of South Carolina. She is an active singer in the community and the country, most recently performing as the Mother in a production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Opera Wilmington. Her voice has been called "beautiful...expressive and musical," and her performances have been praised as "desperate and passionate."

Praised for her rich, silvery voice, soprano **Alicia Renney (Counsel for the Plaintiff)** captivates audiences with her truthful storytelling. As a sought after performer, she has appeared in many different operas and concerts, including Bernstein's *MASS* (Opera at USC), and Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* (Savannah Voice Festival). Alicia is very excited to attend the Vienna Summer Music Festival in June where she will debut the role of Heidi in *The Shower* by Scott Bradley Joiner, perform the Alms Sister in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and cover Rosalinda in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*.

DUTCH FORK CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Friday, February 22, 2019



Dutch Fork Choral Society Does Opera

DFCS has invited the Columbia Operatic Laboratory to join them as the featured guest performers in tonight's presentation of Gilbert and Sullivan's farcical opera TRIAL BY JURY. (See page 2)

Columbia Operatic Laboratory (COLab) is a collective of singers and actors from the Columbia area dedicated to bringing opera to new audiences through accessible, engaging performances in non-traditional venues. In addition to Trial by Jury, the group has performed an original opera-comedy outreach show, 4 Singers Walk in to a Bar, at various bars in Columbia. Follow us on Facebook or visit their website at ColumbiaOperaticLaboratory.com.

Gratuities & Acknowledgments

Chapin United Methodist Church
South Carolina Arts Commission
Thrivent Financial has added DFCS as an approved charity to receive Choice Dollars!

Chirpers Return!

The Chapin Chirpers have returned to perform at the 2019 DFCS annual FUNdraiser.

The Chirpers are under the direction of Ms Joan Marco and their repertoire for tonight's concert includes the following works by Gilbert and Sullivan: Sing!!, Tit Willow, I Am the Very Model and Bye, Bye Blackbird.

THE DUTCH FORK CHORAL SOCIETY
Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 pm

Chapin United Methodist Church
415 Lexington Avenue, Chapin, SC 29036

FREE ADMISSION

*Collecting non-perishable food items
for Wee Care*

*People Will Say We're In Love (Verse 2)

Don't praise my charm too much.
Don't look so vain with me.
Don't stand in the rain with me.
Peo-ple will say we're in love.

Don't take my arm too much.
Don't keep your hand in mine.
Your hand feels so grand in mine.
Peo-ple will say we're in love.

Don't dance all night with me.
Till the stars fade from a-bove.
They'll see it's al-right with me.
Peo-ple will say we're in love.

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