



The Savoy Company
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For Immediate Release

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**The Savoy Company Brings “The Pirates of Penzance” to the Stage for
its 2009 Season**

Performances are set for the Academy of Music and Longwood Gardens

(Philadelphia, PA) “Pirates” will invade the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, as The Savoy Company presents Gilbert & Sullivan’s “*The Pirates of Penzance*” as its 2009 production on May 29th and 30th at 8 p.m. The “pirates” will set sail for performances at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, on June 12th and 13th at 8:30 p.m. (rain dates are June 14th and 15th).

This fully staged production features the musical and artistic talents of The Savoy Company, the oldest amateur theater company in the world dedicated to Gilbert & Sullivan operas, which has been a Philadelphia tradition for 109 seasons. The company draws its diverse members, representing all walks of life, from throughout the Delaware Valley. A full, professional orchestra, including musicians from a variety of Philadelphia-area music ensembles, accompanies The Savoy Company’s performances.

One of the most popular Gilbert & Sullivan operas, “The Pirates of Penzance” centers around an apprentice pirate, Frederic, as he reaches his 21st birthday, and must decide his fate. He meets, and falls in love with Mabel, the ward of the Major General, who cannot be pledged to a pirate. The story unfolds amid much musical merriment and mayhem involving pirates, merry maids and officers of the law.

This year’s production is under the artistic direction of Roberta Morrell, of London’s D’Oyly Carte Opera Company, which is best known as the first company to stage and perform Gilbert & Sullivan’s light operas. Miss Morrell is herself a renowned singer, actress and theater instructor. Musical direction is under the baton of Maestro Dan

Rothermel, who is in his 29th season with The Savoy Company, and is a fixture in the Greater Philadelphia classical and operatic music scenes.

Famed cartoonist and illustrator, and Philadelphia native, Arnold Roth, whose work has been regularly featured in The New Yorker, TIME, Sports Illustrated and The New York Times, has drawn the sets, and provided the illustrations for the production's poster and program.

Tickets for the Academy of Music performances are priced from \$10 up to \$55, depending on seat location, and \$25 for performances at Longwood Gardens (price includes admission to Longwood Gardens for the entire day, including re-admission for that evening's performance). Seat selection is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Performances typically sell out, so it is best to reserve tickets early for this limited run.

Tickets can be purchased by The Savoy Company website at www.savoy.org.