

THE VICTOR HERBERT CELEBRATION



Solving America's Master of Melody and Romance

# LIGHT OPERA OF NEW YORK

*Presents*

*Live for Today!*

**A Gala Concert of  
Victor Herbert's Sparkling Music**

**— At The Players —  
October 23, 2009**

Produced by John Odell Behonek & Carol Davis

Staged by Carol Davis

Music Director: Stephen Francis Vasta

Featuring

Richard Holmes, John Koch,  
Joanne Lessner, Rich Miller,  
Leslie Middlebrook Moore,  
Deborah Shull, Angela Smith,  
Kristin Vogel & David Wannan

And

Hosted by cabaret legend

— KT Sullivan —





## Victor Herbert?

It's 2009—a full 125 years after one of America's most amazing musical careers was launched. Bernstein? Copeland? Berlin? No, Victor Herbert! Who, you say? Why on earth should anyone care about someone's life and career 125 years later — in fact 150 years after his birth? Read on!

Premier cellist; classical composer; conductor of Gilmore's 22nd Regiment Band; composer of 43 produced Broadway operettas; conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony, composer of one of the earliest American Operas (*Natoma*); the primary founder of ASCAP; composer of the first original American film score (*Fall of A Nation*); lead champion of the 1909 Copyright law including composers; extraordinary orchestrator; early popular music businessman; conductor of the Victor Herbert Orchestra; first conductor to record for Edison; composer for every Ziegfeld Follies; and the first musician to win a libel suit against a NYC critic.

The better question is, "How could we ever forget?"

Born an Irishman and raised and educated in Germany, Victor Herbert is as much a part of American heritage as apple pie. A master of melody and orchestration (yes, he did all his own—an almost unheard-of skill even today), his business sense laid the foundation of American popular music business. Herbert precedes Romberg, Lehár, Kern and Berlin. Audiences always left a Herbert operetta humming—we guarantee you will leave humming tonight.

So why don't we still perform these marvelous operettas if they were so good? One answer might lie in their relatively weak librettos. Victor Herbert never found his Gilbert. America had to wait until Oscar Hammerstein II burst into fame with *Show Boat* in 1927.

How then, does one bring back Victor Herbert and his gorgeous music? Reserve your seats now for the rest of this year's LOONY season and see how creators Alyce Mott and Dino Angnost have approached that challenge with great success.

— Alyce Mott



## **Live For Today!**

- “In Old New York”** ..... Deborah Thomas Shull, Ensemble  
*The Red Mill*
- “Because You’re You”** ..... Richard Holmes, Angela Smith  
*The Red Mill*
- “Neath the Southern Moon”** ..... Leslie Middlebrook Moore  
*Naughty Marietta*
- “Love Me, Love My Dog”** ..... Joanne Lessner  
*Mlle Modiste*
- “I Love Thee, I Adore Thee”** ..... Kristin Vogel  
*The Serenade*
- “Jeannette and Her Little Wooden Shoes”** ..... Ms. Smith, with  
*Sweethearts* John Koch, Mr. Holmes and David Wannan
- “Kiss Me Again”** ..... KT Sullivan (Jon Weber, accompanist)  
*Mlle Modiste*
- “Woman, Lovely Woman”** ..... Mr. Holmes  
*The Serenade*
- “Indian Summer”** ..... Rich Miller
- “Mascot of the Troop”** ..... Ms. Vogel, Ensemble  
*Mlle Modiste*

### *Intermission*

- “Beatrice Barefacts”** ..... Ms. Middlebrook Moore, Ms. Shull  
*Babes in Toyland*
- “Cupid Will Guide”** ..... Mr. Holmes  
*The Ameer*
- “Mignonette”** ..... Ms. Lessner  
*The Red Mill*
- “Neapolitan Love Song”** ..... Mr. Koch  
*The Princess Pat*
- “I’m Falling in Love with Someone”** ..... Mr. Miller  
*Naughty Marietta*
- “Thine Alone”** ..... Mr. Miller, Ms. Vogel  
*Eileen*
- “When You’re Away”** ..... Ms. Smith  
*The Only Girl*
- “Gypsy Love Song”** ..... Mr. Wannan  
*The Fortune Teller*
- “Live For Today”** ..... Mr. Holmes, Ms. Lessner, Ms. Middlebrook Moore,  
*Naughty Marietta* Mr. Miller, Ensemble

# Who's Who in Live For Today!

**John Odell Behonek**, co-producer of The Victor Herbert Celebration, is a founding director and treasurer of LOONY. A theatre professional from age eight, he somehow managed to combine a love of performing arts with a 30-year career as a research biochemist and science educator. He is past president of the Village Light Opera Group, the G&S Society of NY and the Theatre Association of NY State and currently secretary to the NY G&S Players.

**Carol Davis** is one of the founders of LOONY and its Managing Director. Carol has been president of the boards of both the Blue Hill Troupe (with whom she also sings) and the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players; she is the current president of the G&S Society of New York. Carol has produced and/or staged all of the LOONY performances to date and is looking forward to directing *Mlle Modiste* in March. She thanks her father for nurturing her life-long love of operetta.

**Richard Holmes** has sung 162 complete roles and looks forward to adding more with LOONY! Principal artist: Glimmerglass, Virginia, El Paso, San Antonio, Lake George, Columbus and New York Grand Operas; guest artist, Metropolitan Opera. Roles range from Rossini's Figaro and Dandini to leads in contemporary operas by Britten, Argento, Barab, Harbison and Beeson; the world premiere recording of his "Sorry, Wrong Number" has just won Richard praise in *Fanfare* magazine. Soloist, Festivals of Aix-en-Provence and Avignon, and in Stockholm, St. Petersburg, London, Prague, Paris, Amsterdam...and Sioux City! 28-season veteran of NYGASP, he sings Despard (*Ruddigore*) with them in January, then the Rossini *Stabat Mater* with Fairfield County Chorale and a debut with Dayton Opera. Recordings: Naxos, Vox, Albany, Lyrichord Records. Thanks to you for supporting LOONY.

**John Koch** has sung with Michigan, Arkansas, Lake George, Pittsburgh, Shreveport and Anchorage opera companies. Seven Christmas seasons: King Kaspar in Menotti's *Amahl...* at Avery Fisher. Last seen at Lincoln Center opposite Dame Lynn Redgrave in Herbert's *Sweet-hearts*. Tenor soloist, BAM revival of Philip

Glass' *Einstein on the Beach*, and toured with Mr. Glass. Recorded *Einstein...* for Nonesuch and was featured in the PBS documentary *The Making of Einstein on the Beach*. He can also be heard on the Allegro recording *Summerdays*. Mr. Koch maintains a private voice studio in New York.

**Joanne Lessner's** credits encompass Broadway (*Cyrano*) and Off (*Company*), opera (New York City's *Vox*), Gilbert & Sullivan (10 leading roles with the Blue Hill Troupe) and concerts (Harrisburg and Albany Symphonies). Not to mention several prior LOONY events! She is also the librettist for several musicals, most recently *Garbo and Me* at the York Theater Company.

**Rich Miller** has studied with Metropolitan Opera tenor John Alexander, Earl Wrightson and Robert White. Featured artist: Albany Symphony Orchestra, Amato Opera, Lake George Opera Festival, Park Playhouse, Octavo Singers, Peak Opera, Riverside Orchestra, International G&S Festival in Buxton, where he was named "Best Male Voice" for Fitzbattleaxe (*Utopia*). Soloist, Carnegie Hall (New York Pops), Mann Music Center in Philadelphia, Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall, Municipal Orchestra of Tula, Russia. He has played virtually all of the tenor G&S roles with the Blue Hill Troupe. Member, Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, Glimmerglass Opera, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Mezzo-Soprano **Leslie Middlebrook** is delighted to be returning once again to LOONY. She has appeared in opera, operetta, oratorio and concert in Italy, Germany, Austria and Bulgaria; and from Carnegie Hall to San Francisco. Recent engagements include roles as diverse as all the mezzo roles in The Ring Cycle, Amneris in *Aida* and Mrs. Sedley in *Peter Grimes* to Katisha in *The Mikado* and the Duchess in the world premiere of Gorbea's *The Time Machine* – with companies such as Virginia Opera, Wagner Festival Orchestra, One World Symphony and Opera of the Hamptons. Next...world premiere of L. Cobo's songs, November 1st.

**Alyce Mott** is a produced playwright, Stage director, arts administrator, and co-founder of

the *Victor Herbert Renaissance Project* with conductor Dino Anagnost. She has authored eight new Herbert librettos, each resulting in productions with The Little Orchestra Society at Lincoln Center (NYC), involving such stars as Patrice Munsel, Estelle Parsons and Lynn Redgrave. Ms. Mott has maintained [www.vherbert.com](http://www.vherbert.com) since 1999, and last year launched Shop VHSsource, an international on-line digital publisher of original Victor Herbert performances materials.

**Deborah Thomas Shull** is a member of the Players Club, EAG, AEA, AGMA, and BHT. Some highlights from her career include singing backup in actor Dominic Chianese's band, performing the role of Susannah in *The Marriage of Figaro* in two cross-country tours; and being a vocal soloist with both the Louisville Orchestra and Louisville Ballet Company. Deborah can be seen in the Blue Hill Troupe's production of *Brigadoon*, opening October 30.

**Angela Smith** is delighted to sing with LOONY again. Credits: The Duchess, Little Buttercup, Ruth, Katisha, Dame Carruthers, The Queen of the Fairies and Dancing Sunbeam – all with the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. Other credits include performances with The Vocal Arts Symposium in Colorado Springs, Lake George Opera, The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, South Carolina Opera, Opera Delaware, and Liederkrantz Opera.

**KT Sullivan:** Broadway: *Three Penny Opera* with Sting, *Broadway* directed by George Abbott, the lead in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. National tour, *Annie Get Your Gun*; workshop production of *Easter Parade* with Tommy Tune. Off-Broadway: *Splendor*, *A My Name is Still Alice*. With Mark Nadler, co-wrote and starred in *American Rhapsody: George Gershwin to the World* (Drama Desk/Lucille Lortel nominations; MAC Award, best musical revue). Regional: Old Globe, Hartford Stage, Municipal Opera of St. Louis, Missouri Rep, Goodspeed, Paper Mill, Great Lakes Theater Festival; roles include Frances (*Light Up The Sky*), Carrie (*Carousel*), Meg (*Brigadoon*), Billie Dawn (*Born Yesterday*).

Featured at Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, Lincoln Center, Caramoor, and in Spoleto, Paris, the UK, Australia. Since 1992, headliner at the Algonquin's Oak Room; several years at the Sabarsky Café and Live

on the Park in London. Manhattan Assn. of Cabarets' Outstanding Female Vocalist.

Seven albums for DRG, including *Crazy World* (#1 in the vocals category/*Pulse Magazine*) and *Live From Rainbow and Stars: The Songs of Bart Howard*, (*Backstage's* Bistro Award). Latest CD: the songs of Cole Porter with Mr. Nadler and saxophonist Loren Schoenberg.

Television: *Police Squad*, *Night Court*, *Remington Steele*, *Hardcastle and McCormick*, *Cabaret 13* with Michael Feinstein and *In Performance at the White House* with Mary Martin.

**Stephen Francis Vasta**, veteran conductor, vocal coach and keyboardist, has conducted many operettas, including *Fledermaus*, *Merry Widow* and *Mikado* (Opera Northeast); *Orpheus in the Underworld* as Assistant Professor of Theatre at Ball State University (IN); and recently, *Trial by Jury* for the Naples (FL) Opera. He is equally adept in the realm of musical theatre. Mr. Vasta has been on the faculty of AMDA since 1993 and is a regular contributor to *Opera News* and to the MusicWeb International website.

**Kristin K. Vogel:** Roles include Edith/Mabel (*Pirates of Penzance*), Hanna/Valencienne (*The Merry Widow*), Ida (*Princess Ida*), Cecile De Volanges (*Dangerous Liaisons*), First Lady/Pamina (*The Magic Flute*), Musetta/Mimi (*La Boheme*), and Micaela/Frasquita (*Carmen*). Young Artist, Natchez Festival of Music 2009; Apprentice Artist, Des Moines Opera 2008; Dicapo Resident Artist, 2006-2008; [www.kristinkvogel.com](http://www.kristinkvogel.com) or [www.wademanagement.com](http://www.wademanagement.com).

**David Wannan**, Managing Director, New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. Favorites with NYGASP include Pirate King (*Pirates*), Strephon (*Iolanthe*), Sultan (*Rose of Persia*), Wilfred (*Yeomen*), Arac (*Ida*), and The Mikado (*Mikado*). Tours: *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast u/s), *Camelot* with the late Robert Goulet (Lancelot u/s); four seasons with Ohio Light Opera including *Brigadoon* (Tommy); *Carousel* (Jigger); and *Red Mill* (Willem). Nominated Best Featured Actor by *Philadelphia Inquirer* for *Camelot* with Media Theater. Opening Cast of "I've Got a Little Twist," an intimate G&S revue. David thanks LOONY for this great opportunity!  
[www.nygasp.org](http://www.nygasp.org)

# Light Opera Of New York

# The LOONY Guild

Light Opera of New York, now its fourth year, is a professional, not-for profit company devoted to the performance of staged operettas and operetta concerts. We produce classical operetta from a 21st century perspective. LOONY has performed a fully-staged *Fledermaus* for a private party, Victor Herbert's little known *The Magic Knight*, our own English translation of Offenbach's *Monsieur Choufleuri*, a staged production of William Gilbert's *Eyes and No Eyes* (including a song written for us by Thomas Z. Shepard!) and a lot of concerts that draw songs and scenes from disparate operettas into a unified, sometimes wacky, theme. Most recently, LOONY presented a gender-reversed version of a G&S standard, *Mis(s) Trial by Jury*, complete with slightly over-the-top "auditions," to great acclaim.

We find the combination of humor and gorgeous music practically irresistible.

LOONY is available to perform for your event. We have a range of programs, from a quartet of singers to a full-length, themed concert or a fully staged operetta. If you're interested in one of these programs, email [info@lightoperaofnewyork.org](mailto:info@lightoperaofnewyork.org).

— Carol Davis

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LOONY intends to continue offering the finest in light opera at affordable prices. Please join our Guild to help us offset our costs and keep our prices affordable, and to provide access for audiences that cannot afford even our low prices. You will receive advanced notification of all productions and events, our heart-felt gratitude, as well as the extra benefits below. Contributions are fully tax-deductible. (LOONY is a 501(c)(3) organization).

Please consider adding a Guild contribution when ordering your tickets.

MEMBER . . . . . \$30  
 Annual membership for one, includes an invitation to a special thank you concert and reception.

FAMILY . . . . . \$50  
 Annual membership for two at the same address, including an invitation for both to a special thank you concert and reception.

PATRON . . . . . \$100  
 All of the above plus a free CD of tunes as recorded by members of the company.

SPONSOR . . . . . \$250  
 All of the above plus a framed, full color photograph signed by members of the company.

DONOR . . . . . \$500  
 All of the above plus two free tickets to a regularly scheduled concert or production.

BENEFACTOR . . . . . \$1,000  
 All of the above plus a gourmet dinner for two at a private home with members of the company.

## Join Us For a Memorable Victor Herbert Season

Victor Herbert wrote 43 operettas; LOONY will perform just three of them this season. (So many shows, so little time!) And yet the amount of great music you will hear in these works is mind-bending.



Alyce Mott once told me that Herbert “invented the second act” — that is, his second acts are as filled with new songs as are his first acts; not just with reprises — as was (and still seems to be) the practice.

So *Naughty Marietta*, on January 21st, will bring you such “hits” as “Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life,” “I’m Falling in Love with Someone,” “Italian Street Song,” “Live for Today,” “Neath the Southern Moon,” Tramp, Tramp, Tramp,” among others. The story tells of a mischievous high-spirited young woman who travels from Europe to New Orleans to escape an unwanted fiancé. There she is caught in a romantic triangle with a notorious pirate and the officer in pursuit of him.

Then *Mlle Modiste*, on March 18th, will feature “Hats Make the Woman,” “I Want What I Want When I Want It,” “If I Were On the Stage,” “Kiss Me Again,” “Love Me, Love My Dog,” “Mascot of the Troop,” and “The Time, the Place and the Girl.” The

“Mademoiselle” is Fifi, a Parisian hat-shop girl who dreams of becoming an opera singer.

Finally *The Red Mill*, on May 20th, will offer “Beautiful Isle of Our Dreams,” “Because You’re You,” “Every Day is Ladies’ Day with Me,” “Streets of New York,” “You Can Never Tell About a Woman” and more. The story follows two New York con-men stranded in Holland who become enmeshed in local intrigue.

Have I convinced you yet? Well here is some more news to ponder. All three semi-staged productions will be accompanied by a string ensemble under the direction of Steve Vasta. Two will be staged and directed by Gary Slavin, and one by Carol Davis.

All productions will be presented here at The Players, a club devoted to theater, founded by Edwin Booth and Mark Twain, among others, in 1888, just two years after Herbert had arrived in New York from Europe.

The ticket price for each production is \$40, and a package of all three can be had for \$110.

Hope we will see you at all of these performances.

— Norm Keller

See next page to order tickets.

# LIGHT OPERA OF NEW YORK

Presents

**An entire season of Victor Herbert  
To celebrate the 150 Anniversary of his birth**



## Naughty Marietta

*Love and Intrigue in Old New Orleans*  
Thursday, January 21, 2010—7:30 PM  
Directed by Gary Slavin

## Mlle Modeste

*A Salesgirl's Dreams Come True*  
Thursday, March 18, 2010—7:30 PM  
Directed by Carol Davis



## The Red Mill

*Two Americans Are Stranded in Holland*  
Thursday, May, 20, 2010—7:30 PM  
Directed by Gary Slavin

All performances at The Players  
16 Gramercy Park South (20th Street)

Individual Tickets \$40—All three productions—\$110

Please send your order (below) with check and stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Light Opera of New York, c/o Anthony Cockcroft,  
222 East 71st Street Apt 2B, New York, NY 10021

Questions: 212 249-9470 or [www.LightOperaOfNewYork.org](http://www.LightOperaOfNewYork.org)

**Order Tickets Here**

Performance	Price	x Quant.	=	Total \$
Naughty Marietta	\$ 40	_____	=	\$ _____
Mlle Modeste	\$ 40	_____	=	\$ _____
The Red Mill	\$ 40	_____	=	\$ _____
All Three	\$110	_____	=	\$ _____

Total for tickets . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider an additional tax-deductible contribution to our Guild of . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$30, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000

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