

THE PARODY OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN (170)

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:00, in Room 19 (6 Classes 2/15 to 3/22)

Tuition \$35

Walk-in \$10 Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.

William Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan both had long, distinguished careers, but the fourteen operettas they wrote together at the end of the nineteenth century set the standard for twentieth century musical theater and are still being performed today. The course will start with a short biography of the principals, along with Richard D'Oyly Carte and George Grossmith, who were instrumental in the original productions. We will also briefly discuss the Savoy Theater, which was built to house the operettas. The bulk of the course will be devoted to the plays themselves, starting with a plot synopsis of each. These will be followed by videos of selected scenes from each, concentrating on Gilbert's incisive wit. At the end, we will see some of the twentieth and twenty-first century parodies of their work.

Bill Patterson, PhD, is a lifelong devotee of Gilbert and Sullivan. Bill earned his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois. He is a retired electrical engineer, who spent his career doing system engineering in telecommunications and computers. He spent the first twenty years of his career in the US Air Force and went on to be a civilian contractor, working primarily for the Department of Defense.