

# Sudbury Savoyards' Board of Trustees – Candidates 2023

## **Briana Bensenouci**

Briana is a new entry to the Sudbury Savoyards. She was pulled into the group's 2023 production of *The Grand Duke* by a swift wind whispering "we need altos" and "you don't have to audition". She swept her partner up into the same velocious wind, and together they joined their first Gilbert and Sullivan production (only weeks after *seeing* their first Gilbert and Sullivan production. They move fast.)

While she appreciates the Gilbert and Sullivan of it all (and is excited to learn more), she is here, running for the board, because of YOU. You are inspiring, you meaningfully contribute to the legacy of the works you perform, and you are active participants in musical theater history everytime you engage with, discuss, and perform these historic works. She is inspired by the passion, knowledge, patience, kindness, and commitment she witnessed during her experience working on the *Grand Duke*. She would like to give back by: elevating what the group already does well; helping it define its goals for the future; and evolving it to deepen support for the inclusivity essential to the organization's mission and broaden the number and diversity of voices participating in the living conversations about the stories, music, and artists the group has chosen to spotlight.



Now, here's is the boring credential/bio part:

Briana is Program Associate at the Foundation for MetroWest where she is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Foundation's numerous grant programs and supporting the Foundation's professional development and Youth in Philanthropy programs. Prior to joining the Foundation, Briana held fundraising roles at Emerson Hospital and Mass Audubon, working on events, communications, and operations.

Briana has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Business, and Film, and a Masters of Business Administration for Nonprofit Management from Brandeis University. In her MBA program, she specialized in Organizational Development for Mission-Driven Organizations, taking on projects in process improvement, strategic planning, and organizational culture. She is originally from Burlington, Massachusetts and currently lives in Waltham with her fiancé (who you may know as THE Matt Garber) and their precious gentle-mancat Bonnie Prince Charlie.

## Graham Daley

When I joined the Sudbury Savoyards in the fall of 2006, I had no idea what I was in for. I had just graduated from college and moved home, and my mom insisted that I get back into singing. I wandered into an audition for Iolanthe and my life changed forever. The Sudbury Savoyards became a home for me. I had never felt so loved, supported, and included in my life. I was introduced to other groups, friends, and activities. Over the years, my commitment to this group has only deepened. When I found out that people were needed, I stepped up to produce and right the ship. I ran for the board because I wanted to make sure that The Sudbury Savoyards remained, open, inclusive, and steadfast, for years to come. For people to find a family like I did.

I have had many roles in this organization, both on stage and off. I won't highlight them here, except to say I got my girl Briana (and her Matt) to join us for Grand Duke, and you're welcome. In my time on the board, I have been honored to serve as Chair for the last two years. I have enjoyed this role more than I expected. I think I bring clear communication, efficiency and clarification of purpose and values. My north star is making sure everyone feels they have a voice and knows how much I and the organization value them and their presence. I worked to research and create sound COVID policies and to be sure everyone was on the same page through some challenging times. I am running for trustee again this year because I feel that I have more to offer and more work to do. I would like to embark on some equity work and anti-bias training, and continue to help shape the activities of our merry band. We are transitioning out of COVID, have procured a new permanent rental space, and are facing some interesting potential financial shifts. I feel that I bring value to these conversations and passion for seeing us through to the other side. I hope you'll join me.



## Laurel Martin



I joined The Sudbury Savoyards in 2001 as a chorus member in *The Sorcerer*. I hadn't been on stage since college but realized I still had the acting bug. Since then, I've been involved in all 20 mainshow productions, 13 summer shows, and 2 anniversary committees. The Savoyards have a long tradition of performing "Gilbert & Sullivan on a Grand Scale," but this isn't the only tradition that makes us special. I have always felt that our warm, welcoming nature is part of who we are as a company. In this group I have met my dearest friends and consider the Savoyards my theater family.

Another important facet of being a Savoyard is the numerous opportunities to try new things and learn new skills. Because of this fact, I've had the opportunity to wear a variety of hats: family matinee coordinator, set designer, summer show producer, summer show technical director, props chief, stage crew, tickets chief, and assistant stage director. When needed, I've taken up a paintbrush, sewing needle, drill, and hammer. I also previously served on the Board of Trustees from 2003-07 and from 2009-11.

The third special feature of the Savoyards is that we are decidedly intergenerational where members' children and grandchildren are part of our community. Everyone in my family has been involved with the group in various ways. Linnea began painting at age 3, first joined me on stage in *The Grand Duke* 2006, and participated in 7 mainshow productions as an actor, props designer, and paint chief. Davin has been with the Savoyards since before birth when he was introduced as "the bustle in the front" during *Patience* 2003, and his last stint as Lighting Designer was for *HMS Pinafore* 2020. When the children were young, Dan held down the fort at home, joined us at Saturday Tech Days, created graphics, and joined us as a stagehand for *The Mikado* 2017. The Sudbury Savoyards have been an integral part of my life for the past 22 years, and I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving the company as a member of the Board of Trustees.