

# PERFORMING ARTS

## David Sanborn

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"I usually try to play with musicians that are better than me, but this time I think I went overboard," confided saxophonist David Sanborn at Wolf Trap Wednesday night. Then he introduced arguably the best band he's ever led: keyboardist Kenny Kirkland, bassist Charnett Moffett, drummer Al Foster and percussionist Don Alias.

The all-star acoustic lineup marked a sharp departure from Sanborn's customary R&B-oriented sax work and the change was all for the better. Fans of his pungent, singing alto weren't denied its considerable pleasures, but in every respect the music, including tunes drawn from Sanborn's impressive new album "Another Hand," was far more sophisticated than usual.

No small thanks for that has to go to Kirkland, Alias, Charlie Haden, Marcus Miller and other composers who laid the framework for Ellington-like tone poems, Afro-Cuban polyrhythmic romps, passionate balladry and stirring passages of blues and swing. But Sanborn himself perhaps deserved most of the credit, since he not only held his own in this high-pressure setting but also allowed each of his bandmates to amply demonstrate his gift for improvising.

—Mike Joyce

will have three more performances tonight through Sunday afternoon in the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville. The orchestra and chorus of the Victorian Lyric Opera Company have the music well in hand under the direction of Barry Morley; the sets, costumes and stage direction are of professional quality; and the show is well worth catching for those who are attuned to the ancient and honorable tradition of amateur (or mostly amateur) G&S production.

Garvin has exactly the right mannerisms and tone of voice for the aristocratic Sir Joseph Porter. He and Austen (as the social outcast Dick Deadeye) provide the most memorable comic moments in the show, more through acting than singing ability, though both have pleasant enough voices. The remainder of the cast gave enjoyable performances at the matinee last Sunday but left room for improvement. The singing and acting of Jennifer Robertson (Josephine), Christopher Carrico (Captain Corcoran) and Paul Cohill (Ralph) showed occasional traces of strain or nervousness, and Shirley Friedman had pitch problems in one or two notes of her role as Little Buttercup.

—Joseph McLellan

## 'H.M.S. Pinafore'

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Two performers, Larry Garvin and John Austen, stand out in the generally competent production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" that