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25th Anniversary Production

'The
PIRATES
OF
PENZANCE'

Souvenir Programme

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BATLEY CONGREGATIONAL OPERATIC SOCIETY
HANOVER STREET

Presents its 25th Anniversary Production

"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE"

or
"The Slave of Duty"

By W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

in the Schoolroom at 7.30 p.m. each evening
from Saturday, 7th April to Saturday, 14th April, 1973

President's Remarks

Welcome to our Silver Jubilee production.

Every show that comes around, some people think is the best. With "The Pirates of Penzance" we have some of Arthur Sullivan's most popular music and we are sure you will laugh at W. S. Gilbert's libretto.

Everyone connected with the production has put a tremendous amount of effort into providing a first class show. We trust you will enjoy it.

Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement, for without them we could not carry on.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN WHITEHEAD,

President.



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For Your Diary

On Wednesday, 20th June, 1973, the Society will present its 6th Annual "Night of Music" with the Society's principals and the full chorus. This year the main item will be "Trial by Jury."

Tickets for this event and any information regarding the Society can be had from the Secretary, Mr. J. Farquharson, 193 Soothill Lane, Batley, or the Treasurer, Mr. G. M. Harrap, 197 Soothill Lane, Batley or at the Booking Office in the Schoolroom.

The **After-Show Dinner Dance** will be held on Saturday 12th May, 1973, in Blenheim House. In this, our 25th Anniversary, we invite all former members of the Society to join us at this event. Details are available from the Secretary.

The Society's 1974 production will be "RUDDIGORE."

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PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1949—The Mikado	1962—The Pirates of Penzance
1950—Iolanthe	1963—Ruddigore
1951—The Pirates of Penzance	1964—Princess Ida
1952—The Gondoliers	1965—The Yeomen of the Guard
1953—Ruddigore	1966—Trial by Jury and H.M.S. Pinafore
1954—H.M.S. Pinafore	1967—The Sorcerer
1955—The Yeomen of the Guard	1968—The Mikado
1956—Princess Ida	1969—The Grand Duke
1957—Utopia Ltd.	1970—The Gondoliers
1958—Patience	1971—Patience
1959—The Mikado	1972—Iolanthe
1960—Iolanthe	
1961—The Gondoliers	

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are due to our Producer, Musical Director and Accompanists, to all those who work behind the scenes, to our patrons for their loyal support, to our audiences and to our advertisers without whose help this programme would not be possible.

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The Story . . .

IT is always a daunting task to write the story of a Gilbert & Sullivan opera since viewed in cold type it always appears unutterably absurd. It is, however, in this very absurdity that the humour and appeal of the operas lie. Gilbert's secret, as has so often been stated, is to take a ridiculous situation and treat with the utmost seriousness. Given this principle, there is little need for jokes; the whole plot is a joke.

The absurdity of the situation in "The Pirates of Penzance" is that Frederic has such a strong sense of duty that he can be prevailed upon to do anything in duty's name. He has been mistakenly apprenticed to Pirate until he reaches his twenty-first birthday. When it is pointed out to him that, as his birthday is on the twenty-ninth of February, he will not reach his twenty-first birthday until he is at least 84, his sense of duty compels him to abide by the letter of his bond.

The opera opens with the pirates celebrating Frederic's birthday. He is twenty-one years old and is to leave them after completing his apprenticeship. Ruth, his nursemaid, confesses that she made a mistake and apprenticed him to the pirate instead of the pilot. Frederick leaves the pirates and on his first excursion into the outside world finds Major-General Stanley's daughters on a picnic. He immediately falls in love with Mabel. The pirates return, find the bevy of beautiful maidens and decide to marry them on the spot. This is only prevented by the timely arrival of Major-General Stanley, who, having heard that the pirates are merciful to orphans, pleads for his daughters' release on the false grounds that he is an orphan.

The second act finds Major-General Stanley bitterly regretting the lie which he told the pirates. Quite apart from any question of personal honour, he is terrified by what the pirates might do to him when they find out they have been duped. Frederic announces that, with the help of the local police force, he is to march against the pirates and destroy them. It is at this point that Frederic is told of the "mistake" in his indentures, and despite the pleas of Mabel, returns to the pirates and a jubilant Ruth. There follows a battle between the police and the pirates in which the pirates are successful. The police however charge the pirates to yield in the name of Queen Victoria, and the pirates immediately do so. On hearing from Ruth that the pirates are "all Noblemen who have gone wrong," the Major-General immediately releases them and offers them his daughters in marriage. The show is provided with a rousing finale by the ensuing celebrations.

'The Pirates of Penzance'

By William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

Principal Cast

Major-General Stanley	N. Allan Haigh
The Pirate King	Clive Moul
Samuel (his Lieutenant)	Lyndon Wilkinson
Frederic (The Pirate Apprentice)		Raymond Firth
Sergeant of Police	Geoffrey Greenwood
Mabel	} General Stanley's daughters	Judith Haller
Edith		Clarice Whittam
Kate		Celia Woodcock
Isobel		Glenys Bretherick
Ruth (a Pirate Maid of All Work)		Marjorie Harrap

Chorus

LADIES—M. Bullock, E. Daggett, D. Exley, M. Greenwood, S. Kitson, M. Ludford, V. Moore, B. Moul, B. Newell, H. Pairman, M. Roebuck, J. Turner and K. Wright.

GENTLEMEN — H. Beaumont, F. Burton, G. Haller, P. Newell, B. Pearson, E. Thompson, B. Turner, J. Whitehead, J. Wood, M. Woodcock and A. Wright.

ACT I—A rocky sea shore on the coast of Cornwall

ACT II—A ruined chapel by moonlight

Produced by BARBARA THORNTON

Musical Director — RONALD WHITTAM

Accompanists—

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Musical Numbers

Overture

ACT I

1. Opening Chorus of the Pirates and Solo (**Samuel**)
"Pour, oh pour the pirate sherry."
2. Solo (**Ruth**)—"When Frederic was a little lad."
3. Song (**Pirate King and Chorus**)—"Oh better far to live and die"
4. Recitative and Duet (**Ruth and Frederic**)—
"Oh false one, you have deceived me"
5. Chorus of girls—"Climbing over rocky mountains"
6. Recitative (**Edith, Kate, Frederic & Chorus**)—"Stop ladies pray"
7. Aria (**Frederic & Chorus of Girls**)—
"Oh! is there not one maiden breast"
8. Air (**Mabel and Chorus**)—"Poor wand'ring one"
9. (**Edith, Kate & Chorus of Girls**)
"What ought we to do, gentle sisters, say"
10. Duet (**Mabel & Frederic with Chorus of Girls**)
"How beautifully blue the sky"
11. (**Frederic and Chorus**)—"Stay, we must not lose our senses"
12. Recitative (**Mabel, Major General, Samuel & Chorus**)
"Hold, Monsters!"
13. Song (**Major-General and Chorus**)
"I am the very model of a modern Major-General"
14. Finale—"Oh men of dark and dismal fate"

ACT II

1. Introduction and Solo (**Mabel and Chorus**)—
"Oh dry that glistening tear"
2. Recitative (**Frederic and Major-General**)—
"Now, Frederic, let your escort lion-hearted"
3. Chorus with solos (**Mabel and Edith**)—
"When the foeman bares his steel"
4. Recitative and Trio (**Ruth, Frederic and Pirate King**)—
"Now for the pirates' lair"
5. Trio (**Ruth, Frederic and Pirate King**)—
"When you had left our Pirate fold"
6. Trio (**Ruth, Frederic and Pirate King**)—
"Away, away, my heart's on fire"
7. Recitative and duet (**Mabel and Frederic**)—
"All is prepared! Your gallant crew await you"
8. Duet (**Mabel and Frederic**)—"Stay, Frederic, stay"
9. Recitative (**Mabel and Chorus of Police**)—"No! I'll be brave"
10. Song (**Sergeant and Chorus**)—
"When a felon's not engaged in his employment"
11. Solo (**Sergeant and Chorus**)—"A rollicking band of pirates we"
12. Solo (**Samuel and Chorus**)—"With cat-like tread"
13. (**Frederic, King, Major-General and Chorus**)—"Hush! not a word"
14. Song (**Major-General**)—"Sighing softly to the river"
15. Finale.

Do You Remember ??

The photograph opposite is of the Society in the year 1955. That year's show was "The Yeomen of the Guard."

An Apology

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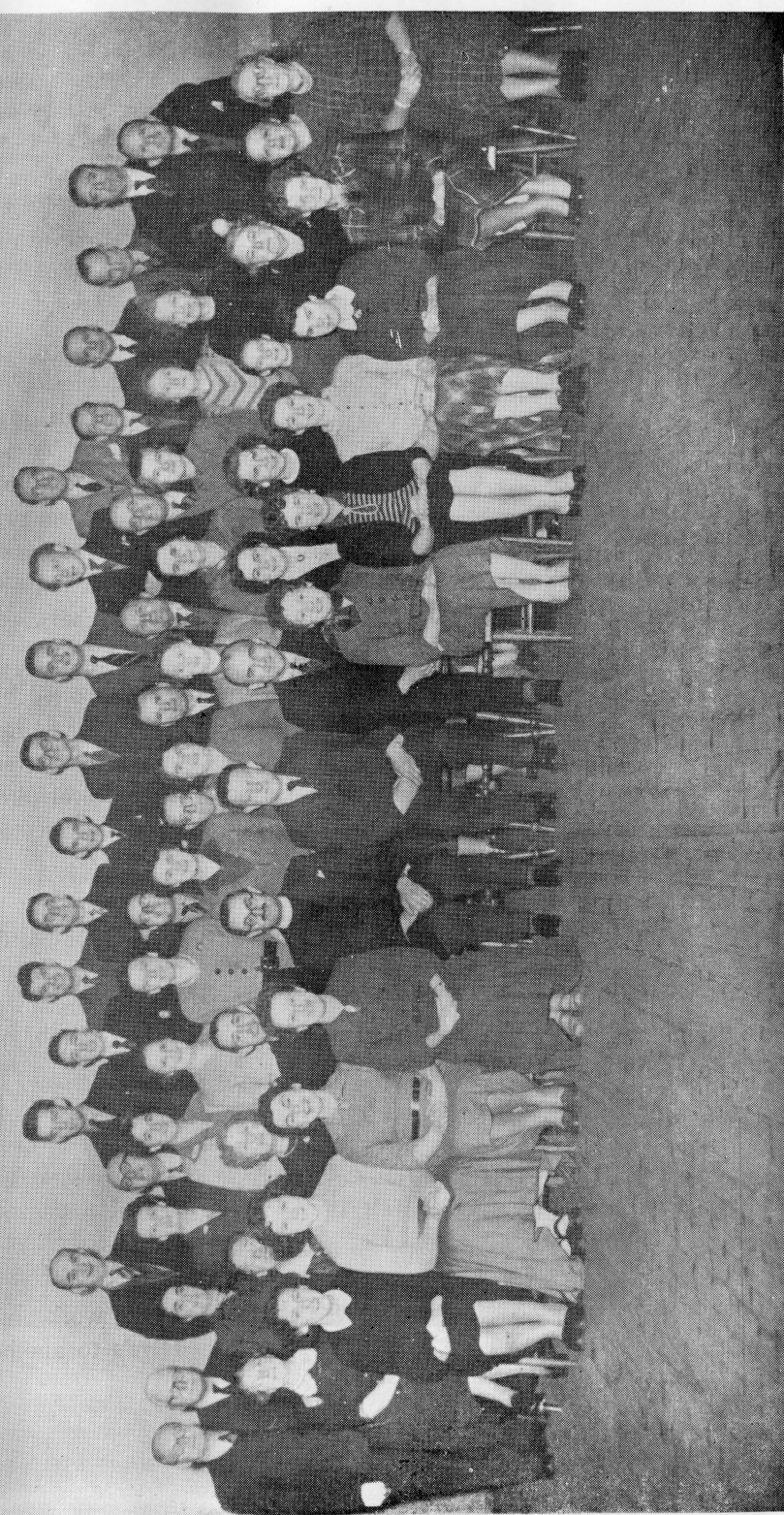
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Twenty-Five Years of G & S

With this, the third production of "The Pirates of Penzance," the Society reaches its 25th consecutive Gilbert & Sullivan opera. During these years the Society has won for itself a reputation as one of the best Gilbert & Sullivan societies in the area.

The first show was produced at Hanover Street in 1949, when the Church Choir decided to extend its activities in this direction. The Choir chose "The Mikado" with Ella Burton as Yum-Yum, Alfred Smithson as Nanki-Poo, Irene Richardson as Peep-Bo, Olga Carter as Pitti-Sing, Mrs. A. Hirst as Katisha, Mr. Kenworthy as the Mikado, Reg. Carter as Ko-Ko and Stanley Lockyer as Poo-Ba. A number of those in this original production are still with the Society either as singing or non-acting members.

The early shows were produced and musically directed by Mr. J. W. Gillings. Since then the Society has had shows produced by Hilda Naylor, Vera Stubbs, Bill Dobson and most recently Barbara Thornton. The Society has had three musical directors, Mr. C. Carbutt, Mr. Charles Twigg and the present director Mr. Ronnie Whittam.

Mr. Twigg was with the Society for ten years, 1958-68, during which the Society produced some fine shows. Everyone will have his own favourites. Ones which stand out in my memory are, "The Gondoliers" (1961); "The Pirates of Penzance" (1962); and "Trial by Jury" (1966).

The Society has been fortunate in having a number of excellent principals who have given performances of professional quality over the years. Chorus work, too, has been of a consistently high standard.

This has been a Society which has enjoyed its work and this has been seen in the zest of the shows. Here's to another 25 years of laughter and music!

The Batley Congregational Operatic Society 1973



Photo by G. KITSON

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