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1979

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Good Evening and Welcome,

This is the first time I have had the pleasure of welcoming you to one of our productions of Gilbert & Sullivan Opera.

Perhaps this is a 'first' for you also, the first time you have seen this particular opera, or the first time you have seen one of our productions, but I am confident that you will enjoy your evening with us.

'The Pirates of Penzance' contains much to entertain even if you are not a Gilbert and Sullivan fan, lively choruses and delightful solos, with of course a traditional happy ending.

My sincere thanks for your support and may I draw your attention to the Diary Page in this programme: you are cordially invited to all the events listed, we shall be very pleased to see you.

Yours sincerely,

EDWARD THOMPSON

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The Story

THIS YEAR we present "The Pirates of Penzance", which was first performed on April 3rd, 1880. The libretto is supposed to spring from an adventure in Gilbert's own childhood when he was kidnapped, while in charge of his nurse, by bandits near Naples.

The Opera opens with a rousing chorus of Pirates, stating that Frederic is now out of his indentures; then Ruth tells how she was entrusted to apprentice Frederic to a **pilot**, but made a mistake and apprenticed him to a **pirate**.

Then the ladies, who are all daughters of the Major-General, take the stage singing, completely oblivious of the fact that a pirate has come into their midst, and being greatly shocked when they find out. Frederic tells his tale of woe and how he has completed his indentures because he is a 'Slave of Duty'. But only Mabel, who declares herself with one of Sullivan's marvellous cadenzas, is favourably inclined towards him.

Then when the pirates come to try and marry the girls, their father, the Major-General, comes along and is promptly captured by the pirates, but is released when he tells them he is an orphan boy. The music then works up to what some feel is the most dramatic piece of music in the whole show, "Hail Poetry", usually sung without accompaniment.

The Second Act brings in the police who the Major-General has employed to capture the pirates. They show a superficial brave front goaded on by the girls, but soon show their true colours when confronted by the pirates. It is now discovered that Frederic was born on February 29th so he has a long time to serve before his 21st birthday, which is, of course, a well-known Gilbertian paradox.

Mabel and Frederic then swear their love and faithfulness to one another and Mabel appeals to the police for help. So with the famous song by the Sergeant of Police, and comical skirmishes between the police and pirates, the Opera ends with the pirates yielding after being charged to do so in Queen Victoria's name. It is then discovered that the pirates are all noblemen who have gone wrong, so of course the ladies are satisfied and all live happily ever after

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The Pirates of Penzance

or

The Slave of Duty

By WILLIAM S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN

ACT 1—A Rocky seashore on the coast of Cornwall

ACT 2—A ruined castle by moonlight

PRINCIPALS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Frederic (The Pirate Apprentice) | ... | STEVEN GREENWOOD |
| Sergeant of Police | ... | GEOFFREY GREENWOOD |
| Samuel (His Lieutenant) | ... | KEITH HORNER |
| The Pirate King | ... | CLIVE MOUL |
| Major-General Stanley | ... | N. ALLAN HAIGH |
| Mabel | ... | JUDITH HALLER |
| Edith | General Stanley's | GLENYS BRETHERICK |
| Kate | Daughters | STEPHANIE ROE |
| Isabel | ... | ALISON STEAD |
| Ruth (A Pirate Maid of all work) | ... | MARGARET GREENWOOD |

LADIES CHORUS

M. BULLOCK, M. CARBUTT, A. CRABTREE, D. DUNNING,
J. GREENWOOD, M. HAIGH, K. JOHNSON, B. MOUL, I. RICHARDSON,
J. RUMBOLD, J. STERN, C. WHITTAM.

GENTLEMEN CHORUS

B. CARBUTT, R. DARRINGTON, A. G. GREENWOOD, P. HALEY,
G. HALLER, P. NEWELL, R. B. PEARSON, C. SOWERBY, E. THOMPSON,
R. THURMAN, J. BROSCOMBE.

Ice cream will be served at the back of the Hall, and other Refreshments will be served downstairs during the Interval.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture

ACT 1

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 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 (Frederick & 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 2

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.

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are due to all members of the cast who have given so many hours to rehearsals: to our Producer, Musical Director and Accompanists, to Mr. A. Dobson for designing the Scenery, and Messrs. E. Bullock, C. K. Moul and G. Greenwood for building and painting the set, and to many "back room" people who help in so many ways; to our patrons and members for their loyal support; and to the many advertisers without whose help this programme would not be possible.

FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY, 28th APRIL, 1979 — Annual Dinner Dance at Blenheim House, Field Hill, Batley, why not join us? All are welcome, details from the Secretary or any member.

SATURDAY, 16th JUNE, 1979 — At Dewsbury Town Hall, The Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society present a concert version of **'LILAC TIME'** Tickets are now available at the Booking Office.

SATURDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER, 1979 — The Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society are in Concert with **THE BAND OF THE YORKSHIRE IMPERIAL METALS**, Guest Artist — **MARILYN HILL SMITH** Soprano. Make a note of this date at Dewsbury Town Hall.

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