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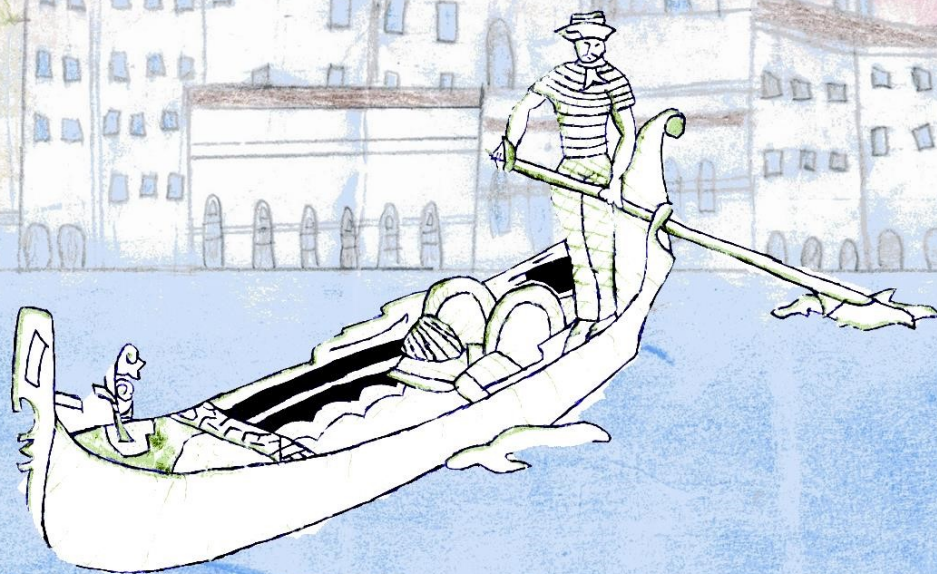
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Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

presents

THE GONDOLIERS

Or 'The King of Barataria'



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Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm

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Acknowledgements

Producer/Director	Helen Fox
Musical Director	Nicholas Whitaker
Accompanists	Martin Whitaker, Beth Blundell, Ian Abbott, Andrew Bedford, Linda Broadbent
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Publicity	Carol Parkinson
Programme Editor	Robert Thurman
Librarian	Tracey Hook
Musical Score	James Newby Music
Safety Officer	Stephanie Roe
Understudies	Deirdre O'Shea (Fiametta), Bex Barker (Vittoria), Helen Fox (Casilda)

*With thanks to our Orchestra, front of house staff
and all who have helped with this production*

Society Officials

President: Stephanie Roe, **Secretary:** Lyndsey Hall **Treasurer:** Robert Thurman
Executive Committee: Ali Burton, David Hall,
Tracey Hook, Carol Parkinson, Tanya Parsons, Catherine Roberts,
Rita Jno-Baptiste, Fi Baker

Honorary Life Members of the Society

Mrs M Harrap, Mr K Horner, Mrs S L Roe,
Mrs S Stopford, Mr C R Thurman, Mr G Weston

NODA Long Service Medal Holders

Mr K Horner, Mrs D Moores, Mrs C Parkinson, Mr M G Parkinson, Mrs S Stopford,
Mrs S L Roe, Mr C J Sowerby, Mr C R Thurman, Mrs K Thurman, Mr I Townend

Invited Guests

The Auditions Panel: Mr David Croft, Mrs Aileen Middleton and Mr Martin Whitaker
The Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees. Cllr Jim Dodds and Mrs Carol Dodds.
Representatives from Leeds, Halifax, Harrogate, Wakefield, Meltham and Haworth
G & S Societies, Batley Amateur Thespian Society, Carlinghow Theatre Company,
Dewsbury Arts Group and Dewsbury Collegians, Heckmondwike Players
Mr Noel Rigg & Mrs Dorothy Rigg (NODA), Mr Malcolm Haigh

Welcome

Last year at this time we were all very worried that *Princess Ida* might be our last production. Thanks to the teamwork and fundraising by our members, a substantial grant from the William Henry Coulter Trust and proceeds from *The Baker's Dozen* we live to fight another day, facing a much rosier future and hopeful of reaching our 70th Anniversary.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to welcome you once again to Batley Town Hall for our 69th production of *The Gondoliers*. This year we will be welcoming some very special guests to our Saturday matinee – the talented young artists from North Kirklees who entered our poster design competition, two of whom provided the illustrations which were combined to form the cover of this programme and the posters, with a little assistance on the computer from our own Robert Thurman. More of the entries can be seen in the Batley Library display window.

Over the years the society has performed all of the published operas by the famous pair, and this will be the eighth time of presenting *The Gondoliers*. We have already started making plans for our 70th Anniversary production which will be *The Sorcerer*.

This year we are delighted to welcome Helen Fox who is making her debut as Producer. She has produced previously, but not Gilbert & Sullivan, although she is no stranger to the Savoy Operas or the society, having appeared as Casilda in our previous production in 2007, Constance in *The Sorcerer* in 2008 and Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2009. Once again we welcome back Nicholas Whitaker as Musical Director in his fourth year with us. We are also pleased that Paul Richmond was able to return to take the role of Marco with us.

This year has been our toughest yet but without your continued support we would not be here and we all thank you most sincerely. Now sit back and join us as we take a gondola ride along the canals of Venice to see what the locals are up to.

Thank you

Stephanie Roe - President

Would you like to join us?

We rehearse every Wednesday at 7.30pm
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www.batleygands.org.uk

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robert.thurman57@googlemail.com

The Gondoliers - plot synopsis - Act I

The scene is a square in Venice, where a group of girls are busy making bouquets of roses. They have heard that Marco and Giuseppe, the most popular and desirable of the city's gondoliers, have decided to choose brides for themselves today, and these "floral tributes" are for them. Marco and Giuseppe arrive and flirt with the girls. They announce that in the interests of fairness, they will let luck decide who shall be their brides. They play a game "My Papa he keeps Three Horses" which is similar to "Blind Man's Bluff". This results in the capture of Tessa by Giuseppe and Gianetta by Marco, and the whole group exits to prepare for a joint wedding.

Into the empty square now steps the Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro and their lovely daughter Casilda. The Duke is an impoverished nobleman, and his retinue consists of a single attendant, Luiz, with whom Casilda is particularly haughty and severe. Having arrived in Venice, the Duke and Duchess explain the reason for their visit, revealing a secret which has been kept for the past twenty years. It seems that when Casilda was six months old, she was married by proxy to the infant son of the King of Baratara, a monarch who unfortunately then became a "Wesleyan Methodist of the most bigoted and persecuting type". Casilda's infant husband was abducted by the Grand Inquisitor to prevent his indoctrination into this sect, and brought to Venice. Now, however, the King and his court have been wiped out in a rebellion, and the Duke and Duchess have brought Casilda to Venice to reunite her with her husband and to see her take her place as the new Queen of Baratara. The prospect is relished by the Duke, who is so down-at-heel that he has decided to raise funds by turning himself into a Limited Company, a situation Casilda finds somewhat distasteful.

The Duke and Duchess enter the Ducal Palace, and Casilda and Luiz immediately rush into each other's arms. It seems they have a secret of their own – they are in love. Casilda, however, is a dutiful girl and realises that her affair with Luiz must be terminated. The Duke and Duchess return, accompanied by Don Alhambra del Bolero, the Grand Inquisitor who was responsible for abducting Casilda's infant husband and bringing him to Venice. As Don Alhambra explains, there is a slight problem. The family with whom he left the prince also had a son of their own of the same age. Thanks to a taste for drink, their father (or foster father in the case of one of them) became unable to remember which boy was his own and which was the prince. Both boys became gondoliers, and now the only person who can say for certain which is the prince is the nurse to whom he was entrusted and who just happens to be Luiz's mother. This lady is now the wife of a brigand operating in the mountains around Cordova, and she is to be brought to the city and made to reveal the prince's identity. Casilda protests that she has been placed in a difficult position, but Don Alhambra advises her to "submit to Fate".

They exit and their place is taken by the gondoliers, the contadine and the newly-weds. Don Alhambra arrives to explain that either Marco or Giuseppe is in fact the only son of the late King of Baratara. They are to leave at once, and until it is known which of them is actually the King, they are to reign jointly. Gianetta and Tessa are upset to learn that they are not allowed to accompany their husbands, but Don Alhambra assures them (not quite truthfully) that this is only until the identity of the King has been discovered. Marco and Giuseppe plan to remodel the monarchy to fit with their republican principles, and embark on a ship which will take them to Baratara.

Previous Productions

2017 sees our sixty ninth annual production. This is the Society's eighth performance of *The Gondoliers*. For those interested in statistics, here is a list of all the shows we have presented since 1949 - all thirteen of Gilbert & Sullivan's wonderful collaborations.

The Mikado	1949, 1959, 1965, 1977, 1986, 1995, 2005, 2014
The Yeomen of the Guard	1955, 1965, 1978, 1990, 2000, 2012
Iolanthe	1950, 1960, 1972, 1983, 1992, 2001, 2011
The Gondoliers	1952, 1961, 1970, 1981, 1991, 1998, 2007
The Pirates of Penzance	1951, 1962, 1973, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009
HMS Pinafore	1954, 1966, 1974, 1984, 1993, 2003, 2015
Patience	1958, 1971, 1985, 1996, 2006
The Sorcerer	1967, 1980, 1988, 1997, 2008
Ruddigore	1953, 1963, 1975, 1987, 2002, 2013
Trial By Jury	1966, 1974, 1984, 1993, 2003, 2015
Princess Ida	1956, 1964, 1976, 1982, 1994, 2004, 2016
Utopia Limited	1957, 2010

The William Henry Coulter Trust

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The Society was both grateful and delighted to receive a grant from the Trust to assist with the cost of the Orchestra for this production. Its application was made on the basis that the Society had a strong desire to continue to provide a fully orchestrated performance, for the benefit of local audiences. This would not only enhance the production but would encourage and support local musicians, both amateur and semi-professional.

*Further details can be obtained from: The Secretary, The William Henry Coulter Charity
C/o Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants, 20 Owl Lane, Dewsbury WF12 7RQ*

The William Henry Coulter Trust – Charity Registration Number: SI8930



The Ladies and Gentlemen of the chorus

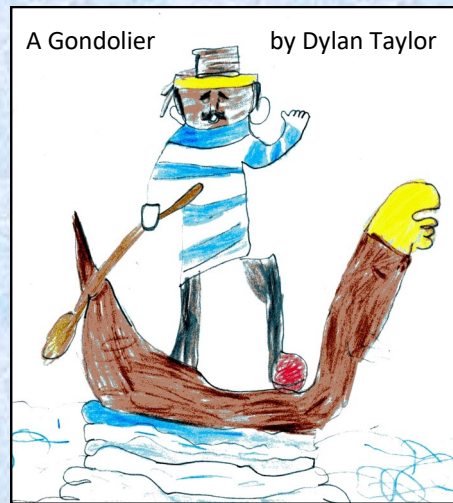
Back Row: Helen Carbutt, Brook Carbutt, Marilyn Cooper, Tony Johnson, Deirdre O'Shea, Eoin O'Shea, Debbie Moores, Steve Roe, Kath Thurman, AJ Jno-Baptiste
Front Row: Jennifer Day, Catherine Roberts, Ali Burton, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Bex Barker

Costume Sponsorships

The Duke of Plaza-Toro - Sir Hugh Jarse
 The Duchess of Plaza-Toro - In loving memory of Rene Kitson
 Gianetta - Carol Parkinson
 Inez - Barbara Longbottom and Marilyn Cooper

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Act II

Act II is set in the Court of the Kingdom of Barataria, now occupied by Marco and Giuseppe as joint kings and their gondolier friends as courtiers. It is immediately apparent that this Court is being run on reformed lines: the two monarchs are expected to put in a hard day's work and everyone, regardless of their function, has a title. Marco and Giuseppe's happiness is completed by the arrival of the girls, bringing Gianetta and Tessa, and a banquet and a dance is planned to celebrate. They are interrupted by Don Alhambra, who is appalled at the republican slant being given to the monarchy. He tells a story about another place where the experiment was tried with the result that "When everyone is somebody, then no-one's anybody".

Don Alhambra now reveals that whichever of the two gondoliers is king was married as an infant to Casilda, daughter of the Duke of Plaza-Toro. Gianetta and Tessa, who have been eavesdropping, are naturally annoyed, and while Don Alhambra goes off to interview the nurse, an argument ensues.

Next on the scene is the Ducal party, now dressed magnificently. The Duchess reminisces about her early married life, then there is a duet with the Duke which reflects on their various money-making schemes. Marco and Giuseppe join them, and the Duke is dismayed at the off-hand way they are treated by their subjects and by the monarchs' lack of regal bearing. He gives them a lesson in deportment, assisted by Casilda and the Duchess. The Duke and Duchess then depart, leaving Marco, Giuseppe and Casilda to make awkward conversation. Joined by Gianetta and Tessa, they sing about their peculiar problem: two husbands, three wives.

Don Alhambra and the entire Court return, bringing Inez, the nurse who is now prepared to disclose the true identity of the King. Inez explains what happened all those years ago, when the prince was entrusted to her care, and reveals that the King of Barataria is ... but that would be telling, wouldn't it?

Carol Parkinson



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 The
 Sorcerer
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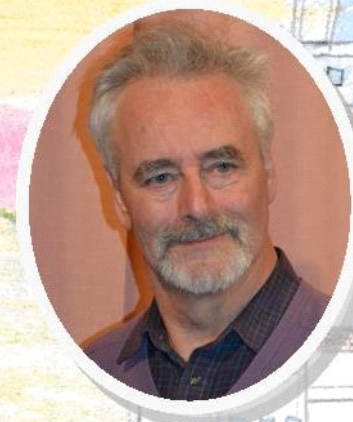
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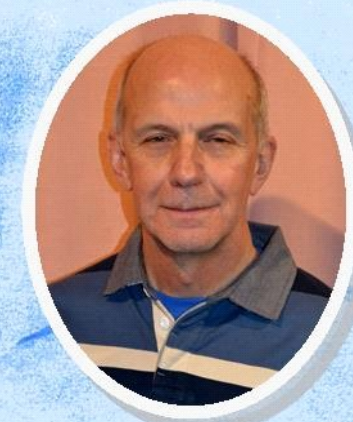
Fiametta
Tanya Parsons



Giorgio - Brook Carbutt



Vittoria - Tracey Hook



Francesco - Steve Roe



Inez - Marilyn Cooper

Venetian scene
by Saffia Muhammed
and Gondolier
by Sophie Whittaker



Casilda - Anna Trent

Anna graduated from University with a BMus (Hons) and an MA in performance. She has frequently sung in concerts up and down the country. Her love of Gilbert & Sullivan began at the age of sixteen and she has performed the majority of the lead soprano roles from twelve of the duo's operettas for various societies in West Yorkshire.

Gianetta - Carol Parkinson

Carol joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 1984 and has enjoyed playing a whole range of parts with the Society since then. *The Gondoliers* was not the first show she appeared in, but Gianetta was the first leading role she ever took, so she retains a fondness for the show and is delighted to be revisiting the part in 2017.



Tessa - Liz Blount

Liz played Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado* when she truly was a little maid from school. She has since played a variety of roles in the amateur theatre, her favourite being that of Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Liz joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 2012, when she took the part of Phoebe in *The Yeomen of the Guard*.



The Gondoliers Painting Competition

The Society held a competition for the artwork to be used in the publicity material and programme for this year's production of *The Gondoliers* and invited local children to submit entries during the autumn term of 2016. Fifty five entries were received from Batley Grammar Primary School, Norristhorpe Junior and Infant School and Headfield C of E School: a further entry was received independently through a local library.

The entries were judged by David Wood MBE, Stephanie Roe (President) and Robert Thurman (Treasurer & Programme Editor). All were impressed with the entries received.



The joint winners were Sophie Whittaker (aged 11) from Norristhorpe and Saffia Muhammed (aged 9) from Headfield. Other entries by Thomas Rann (9), Jessica Hammond (10) and Dylan Taylor (7), all from Norristhorpe, were highly commended, as was Zaynah Hussain (8) who submitted her entry independently.

We would like to thank the Head and Art teachers at the respective schools for their help in encouraging their pupils to take part and also the staff at Batley,

Birstall, Dewsbury and Mirfield Libraries for promoting the competition.

The photograph shows Mrs Claire Jordan and Mrs Françoise Joyce, the Heads and Assistant Head Teachers at Norristhorpe Junior and Infant School. The artists shown are Thomas Rann, Sophie Whittaker (winner) who drew the gondolier shown on the front cover and on our posters, Jessica Hammond and Dylan Taylor (whose little gondolier appears in this programme). The background view of Venice was beautifully painted by Saffia Muhammed.

Thank you to all those who entered and congratulations to the worthy winners, who each received tickets for the show, their winning entries framed and a cash prize.

Robert Thurman

Helen Fox - Producer

Helen has been involved with the Savoy Operas for as long as she can remember. Beginning in Essex with South Anglia Savoy Players at the tender age of six she can easily say it is in her blood. She has been performing Gilbert & Sullivan since she was 15, when she played a monk in the Finale Act 1 of *Yeoman of the Guard*. As part of South Anglia she won Best Supporting Actress at the Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton playing Kate in *Pirates of Penzance* and Best Comedienne at the Waterford International Festival as Leila in *Iolanthe*. Since moving to Yorkshire in 2004 she has performed with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society, playing a number of parts, her favourite being Mabel in *Pirates*. *Gondoliers* has always had a place in Helen's heart, her first principal part being Vittoria, staged in Rome with the Imperial Players when she was 18. It was also her first show at Batley, when she played Casilda in 2007. Helen is no beginner to directing, having directed the Youth Section of Dewsbury Arts Group for seven years, a One Act Play written by our very own Carol Parkinson and last year, her first full length play. *The Gondoliers* is a double first, being her directorial debut of an Operetta and also Gilbert and Sullivan. She has loved working with Batley and hopes that this is the first of many with the group.

Nicholas Whitaker - Musical Director

Hailing originally from the North Riding, Nicholas began his musical education as a chorister at Wakefield Cathedral under Jonathan Bielby. While reading for an Honours degree in music at Edinburgh, he studied the organ with John Kitchen and conducting with David Lawrence. He also held a choral scholarship at St. Mary's Cathedral - the only cathedral in Scotland maintaining a daily, 'English' choral tradition. After postgraduate study down south (the Scottish weather was becoming a nuisance) he returned to his native Yorkshire in 2010. As well as directing at Batley, Nicholas holds a Lay-Clerkship at Wakefield Cathedral and directs his own choir, the Assumption Consort. In his free time, of which there is precious little, Nicholas enjoys real ale, cricket, driving his convertible and trying to shock societies with the violence of the socks he wears while conducting.



Marco - Paul Richmond

Paul has performed since he was a schoolboy and has played nearly all the Gilbert & Sullivan tenor roles with societies throughout the North and recently, in London. With his wife, Elaine, he enjoys branching out into the wider repertoire of opera and musical theatre. As a judge sitting in Manchester it's not surprising his hobby is the topsy turvey world of comic opera.



Giuseppe - David Parker

David is now an established member at Batley, having first played the role of Giuseppe in the last production of *Gondoliers* at The Little Theatre in 2007. He is well versed in the lore of Gilbert & Sullivan and has performed with many local societies, including Leeds and Wakefield.



The Duchess of Plaza-Toro Stephanie Roe

The Duchess remains one of Stephanie's all-time favourite roles, having played it three times before. In her view the solo in the second half is one you can really get your teeth into and the role provides a nice combination of duets and ensemble work as well as the odd bit of dancing. The poor old Duke just doesn't stand a chance!





**The Duke of Plaza-Toro
Malcolm Parkinson**

Brought up on songs that he learnt at his mother's knee and other low joints, Malcolm is to music what Fiery Jack is to piles. Playing the fool in all but one of the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, he has no wish to be in Grand Duke. Dewsbury Arts Group has enabled him to spread his talent, albeit thinly, over straight plays, music hall and Sondheim.

Luiz - Leon Waksberg

Leon began singing at University. He has played all the leading tenor and juvenile baritone roles for many local societies, and at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival. He has also performed major roles in a variety of operas and musicals. He recently composed an operatic adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*.

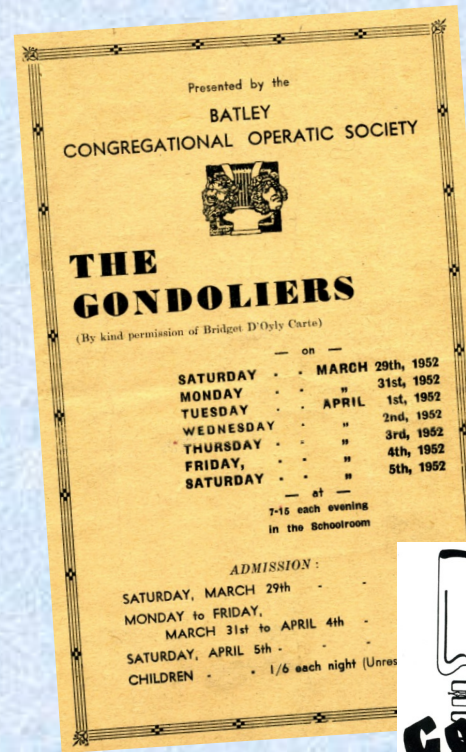


**Don Alhambra Del Bolero
Robert Thurman**

Robert has played a variety of principal roles in all thirteen of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas since joining the Society as a mere youth in 1976. He has also performed with Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society and Heckmondwike Players. Don Alhambra is a particular favourite, a role he has played on three previous occasions.



From our Archives



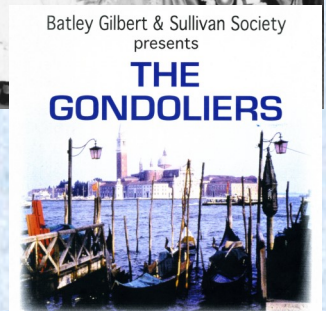
The programme for the 1952 production with cast photos.



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The cast of our 1970 production

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The Duke of Plaza-Toro (*a Grandee of Spain*)

Luiz (*his Attendant*)

Don Alhambra Del Bolero (*the Grand Inquisitor*)

Marco Palmieri

Giuseppe Palmieri

Antonio

Francesco

Giorgio

} (*Venetian Gondoliers*)

The Duchess of Plaza-Toro

Casilda (*her Daughter*)

Gianetta

Tessa

Fiametta

Vittoria

Inez (*the King's Foster-mother*)

} (*Contadine*)

Malcolm Parkinson

Leon Waksberg

Robert Thurman

Paul Richmond

David Parker

David Hall

Steve Roe

Brook Carbutt

Stephanie Roe

Anna Trent

Carol Parkinson

Liz Blount

Tanya Parsons

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Marilyn Cooper

Chorus of Gondoliers and Contadine

Bex Barker, Ali Burton, Helen Carbutt, Marilyn Cooper, Jennifer Day,

AJ Jno-Baptiste, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Tony Johnson, Debbie Moores,

Eoin O'Shea, Deirdre O'Shea, Catherine Roberts,

Kath Thurman, Leon Waksberg

ACT I – The Piazzetta, Venice

ACT II – Pavilion in the Palace of Barataria.

(An interval of three months is supposed to elapse between Acts I and II.)

Date – 1750

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture

Act I

- 1 "List and learn" *Chorus of Contadine, Gondoliers, Marco and Giuseppe*
- 2 "From the sunny Spanish shore" *Duke, Duchess, Casilda, and Luiz*
- 3 "In enterprise of martial kind" *Duke with Duchess, Casilda, and Luiz*
- 4 "O rapture, when alone together" *Casilda and Luiz*
- 5 "There was a time" *Casilda and Luiz*
- 6 "I stole the prince" *Don Alhambra with Duke, Duchess, Casilda, and Luiz*
- 7 "But, bless my heart" *Casilda and Don Alhambra*
- 8 "Try we life-long" *Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Luiz, and Don Alhambra*
- 9 "Bridegroom and bride" *Chorus*
- 9a "When a merry maiden marries" *Tessa*
- 10 "Kind sir, you cannot have the heart" *Gianetta*
- 10a "Then one of us will be a Queen" *Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta, and Tessa*

Act II

- 1 "Of happiness the very pith" *Marco, Giuseppe, and Chorus of Men*
- 2 "Rising early in the morning" *Giuseppe with Chorus*
- 3 "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" *Marco*
- 4 "Here we are at the risk of our lives" *Giuseppe, Tessa, Gianetta, Marco, and Chorus*
- 5 "Dance a Cachucha" *Chorus and Dance*
- 6 "There lived a king" *Don Alhambra with Marco and Giuseppe*
- 7 "In a contemplative fashion" *Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta, and Tessa*
- 8 "With ducal pomp" *Chorus of Men with Duke and Duchess*
- 9 "On the day when I was wedded" *Duchess*
- 10 "To help unhappy commoners" *Duke and Duchess*
- 11 "I am a courtier grave and serious" *Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Marco and Giuseppe*
- 12 "Here is a case unprecedented" *Marco, Giuseppe, Casilda, Gianetta, Tessa and chorus*