

Winchester Amateur Operatic Society

19th SESSION



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The Guildhall  
Winchester

MAY 12th to 16th  
1936  
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COUNTY MATINEE
Friday, May 15th, at 3 p.m.

"THE MIKADO"

Synopsis



THE story of the Opera closely concerns the adventures of Nanki-Poo, the Mikado's son and heir, who is discovered as a wandering minstrel fleeing from the unwelcome attentions of the terrible Katisha, an elderly lady whom the Mikado has ordered him to marry within a week or perish. A year before he had fallen in love with "a gentle maiden, Yum-Yum" of Titipu and she returning his affection, he is anxious to renew the acquaintance, but, of course, disguised.

He has learnt that Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor to which she was then betrothed, has been condemned to death for "flirting," so that he hopes to find his old love free. But alas, Ko-Ko has been reprieved, and not only that, but he has been raised to the exalted rank of Lord High Executioner, the highest rank in fact a citizen can attain. Pish-Tush, a dignified Noble Lord, explains the details of this procedure in a distinctly interesting fashion and makes it appear, although in a very subtle manner, almost a common-sense solution of an acute problem of Local Government.

Nanki-Poo, meeting Pooh-Bah, is much impressed by this "particularly haughty and exclusive person," who can trace his wonderful ancestry right back to "a protoplasmic, primordial atomic globule" and learns from this sage that his old sweetheart, Yum-Yum, is to be married that very day to Ko-Ko, her guardian.

This is terrible news to Nanki-Poo, but there may yet be time to save her from so dire a fate and he sets about it in right good fashion. Meanwhile, the irrepressible Ko-Ko is making his first public appearance, and he enters on his new duties with the greatest alacrity, incidentally seeing a chance of paying off

So far the story is an exclusively masculine affair, but Yum-Yum and her sisters arrive, escorted by a old scores with sundry persons whom he thinks would be much better out of the way as soon as possible. bevy of dainty schoolfellows, all "wondering what the world can be." Yum-Yum is soon to find out! They all sing some exquisite music—

"Is it but a world of trouble,
Sadness set to song?
Is its beauty but a bubble,
Bound to break ere long?

Are its palaces and pleasures
Fantasies that fade?
And the glory of its treasures,
Shadows of a shade?"

Ko-Ko is charmed by his lovely little bride that is to be, but is astounded at the warm welcome she and her two charming bridesmaids, Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo, give to the strolling minstrel, Nanki-Poo, who bursts on the scene. Who is this attractive intruder? Nanki-Poo seals his own fate for incautiously revealing his love for Yum-Yum; Ko-Ko soon has him carried off for his presumption.

Both the lovers, however, manage to steal a most affecting interview shortly afterwards and seal their new-born love with rapturous embraces in best Japanese fashion. But a letter arrives from the Mikado to Ko-Ko and the latter is faced with a problem which will tax all his ingenuity and resource. No executions have taken place in Titipu for a year, so the office of Lord High Executioner is to be abolished and Titipu reduced to the rank of a village. Someone must be executed, and within a month. Everything seems to point to him to be the first victim, but his ready wit finds a way out. He will appoint a substitute! Pooh-Bah and Pish-Tush seem strangely reluctant to lose their heads to save his, but the situation is saved, for the time being at any rate for Ko-Ko, when he discovers a would-be suicide in the person of Nanki-Poo, who is looking for a suitable branch to hang himself from because Ko-Ko is going to marry Yum-Yum. The conditions of acceptance are distinctly original and diverting and are revealed in the interview between the two.

While the citizens are bantering Nanki-Poo on his mixed fortunes of life and death another bomb bursts in their midst, for the dreaded Katisha arrives on the scene, searching for her perjured lover and there is a terrible to-do. She struggles to reveal his identity, but to no avail, for the howling mob shout her down and she retires, literally gnashing her teeth and breathing furious vengeance on all and sundry.

Act 2 reveals the wedding arrangements in full swing and very attractive they are, for Yum-Yum, although an unwilling bride, is being gaily decked by her bridesmaids for the ceremony. But Ko-Ko has some great news to impart before the actual wedding: "When a married man is beheaded his wife is buried alive." That is the law, and straight from his solicitor, Pooh-Bah, an encyclopedia of knowledge on such points. Yum-Yum thinks it a "stuffy death," while Nanki-Poo, declaring that he cannot live without her, again considers suicide, and even invites Ko-Ko to perform the ceremony, much to the latter's disgust.

But the arrival of the Mikado is imminent, so Ko-Ko plots with Pooh-Bah to invent a plausible scheme and it nearly comes off. But not quite, for Katisha springs a mine and the miscreants stand revealed.

The tangle is ultimately sorted out to everyone's satisfaction but Ko-Ko's, who reaps a terrible reward for his scheming. All ends happily but for this, and the company break into joyful song—

"With laughing song and merry dance,
With joyous shout and ringing cheer,
Inaugurate our new career!"

A. C.

"THE MIKADO"

or "THE TOWN OF TITIPU"

Written by SIR W. S. GILBERT and Composed by SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN
(Produced by permission of RUPERT D'OYLY CARTE, Esq.)

THE GUILDHALL, WINCHESTER
MAY 12TH, 13TH, 14TH, 15TH, 16TH, 1936

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

The Mikado of Japan	-	-	-	-	JOHN SMITH
Nanki-Poo (his son, disguised as a Wandering Minstrel and in love with Yum-Yum)	-	-	-	-	ERIC PARISH
Ko-Ko (Lord High Executioner of Titipu)	-	-	-	-	ARCHIE CLEMENTS
Pooh-Bah (Lord High Everything Else)	-	-	-	-	HORACE TAYLOR
Pish-Tush (A Noble Lord)	-	-	-	-	SYDNEY JOHNSTON
Go-To (A Noble Lord)	-	-	-	-	J. T. M. HEARSEY
Yum-Yum	}	(Wards of Ko-Ko)	-	-	EMMIE LOCK
Pitti-Sing					BARBARA WHITWAM
Peep-Bo					RITA OWTON
Katisha (An Elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo)	-	-	-	-	DOROTHY CROSBY

CHORUS OF SCHOOL-GIRLS, NOBLES, GUARDS AND COOLIES.

ACT I. COURTYARD OF KO-KO'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

ACT II. KO-KO'S GARDEN

CHORUS OF SCHOOL-GIRLS

J. ALCOCK	D. EAST	K. HAIGH	P. PARISH
J. BARNES	W. EDWARDS	G. HEARSEY	C. PORTSMOUTH
I. BILES	M. ELTON	V. JOHNSTON	P. RICHARDSON
M. BINSTED	A. GARD	R. KEYSER	V. RUSSELL
Q. BIRD	D. M. GARDENER	A. MAJOR	J. WHITWAM
M. CROSS	J. HAIGH		

NOBLES

J. W. CAVE	R. EAST	M. HAYNE	E. TAYLOR
F. CHISNELL	F. EFFENEY	A. J. PATERSON	H. I. TAYLOR
J. CLEAR	A. FINCH	A. SLATER	L. WHITWORTH
J. DOUGLAS			

Ko-Ko's Attendant - - - DOUGLAS SMITH

GUARDS AND COOLIES

B. R. BROOKS	L. W. BUNCE
R. R. CHAPLIN	J. O. NORGATE

ORCHESTRA

<i>1st Violins:</i>	<i>Violas:</i>	<i>Flutes:</i>	<i>Clarinets:</i>
MISS N. FULCHER	MISS A. HARRIS	MR. H. J. KITE	*MR. J. A. HOLDS-
MISS COLECLOUGH	MISS M. K. COOK	*MR. F. FITCH	WORTH
MRS. GILL			*MR. A. V. SHUTE
MISS EDWARDS		<i>Baritone:</i>	
MRS. WARWICK		*MR. A. HAY	
	<i>'Cellos:</i>	<i>Oboe:</i>	<i>Cornets:</i>
	*MR. E. J. LOVELACE		*F. W. LYNES
	*MR. J. ALINGTON		W. JACOBS
		<i>Double Bass:</i>	<i>Trombones:</i>
<i>2nd Violins:</i>	MR. A. PIPE		*MR. E. LANGHOPE
MISS G. FIELDER		<i>Horns:</i>	*MR. D. BROWN
MRS. JAMESON		*MR. E. ROBERTS	
MISS STREATFEILD		*MR. P. KEOGH	<i>Timpani:</i>
MR. GREENWAY			*MR. G. KEMBLE

* Astral Orchestra.

WINCHESTER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

COMMITTEE:

President - THE LORD NORTHBROOK

A. CLEMENTS	E. PARISH	R. ELKINS	F. MAJOR
F. C. CHISNELL	H. G. CROFT	G. S. JOHNSTON	A. F. MEDLEY
	J. W. ELKINS	J. T. LAVERTY	

<i>Musical Director</i>	-	-	-	-	SIR DAN GODFREY
<i>Producer and Stage Manager</i>	-	-	-	-	PERCY RENDELL (late of D'Oyly Carte Opera Company)
<i>Assistant Stage Manager and Property Manager</i>	-	-	-	-	ARNOLD MEDLEY
<i>Accompanist</i>	-	-	-	-	PRIMROSE COBB, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M.
<i>Co-Secretaries</i>	-	-	-	-	{ J. T. LAVERTY JOAN WHITWAM
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	-	-	-	-	C. C. GREGORY
<i>Assistant Hon. Treasurer</i>	-	-	-	-	C. H. DILLON-TRENCHARD

Costumes, Wigs, etc., from B. J. SIMMONS & Co. LTD., London
Scenery by Old Castle Scenic Studios, Basingstoke

General Scenic Supervisor - - - R. A. SIMPKINS

The Society is holding its usual Dinner and Dance at the Guildhall on Monday, May 18th, and a cordial welcome is extended to any friends who would like to be present. Tickets for same (price 7/6) can be obtained from any member of the Dinner Committee, or from the Chief Steward at the Hall during the Opera Week.

The profits from the sale of Chocolates are generously given by Messrs. Tyler's Winchester, towards the funds of the Society.

STEWARDS :

Mr. L. M. BALDING	Mr. L. W. JARVIS	Mr. C. PINNICK
„ BILES	„ P. F. JOURNEAX	„ S. A. RICHARDSON
„ W. COCKS	„ F. H. JUPE	„ G. ROGERS
„ H. CROFT	„ LIVING	„ F. SMITH
„ A. J. CROSBY	„ W. LOCK	„ E. E. SOLOMON
„ R. ELKINS	„ B. D. G. LUDFORD	„ F. STILLMAN
„ R. GARD	„ F. MAJOR	„ THWAITE
„ J. GARDENER	„ H. MASLEN	„ E. R. VAUGHAN
„ A. J. HARDING	„ H. J. MORETON	„ W. R. VAUGHAN
„ D. F. HARDING	„ J. MORETON	„ C. WATSON
„ G. HARDING	„ F. MULVEY	
„ R. C. HAWKINS	„ R. B. PICKETT	

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MISS ASHBY	MISS HARROD	MRS. F. SMITH
MISS A. BILES	MISS J. HENNESEY	MISS W. M. A. SMITH
MISS BISHOP	MISS M. HUTCHINGS	MISS M. TAYLOR
MRS. A. CLEMENTS	MISS N. LANGFORD	MISS R. TAYLOR
MISS P. COBB	MISS S. LOCK	MISS R. WEBB
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MISS M. CROFT	MISS C. MEDLEY	GARTH
MISS B. DEAN	MISS H. PEARSON	MISS S. WESTGARTH
MISS S. DOSWELL	MISS PINNICK	MRS. WHITWORTH
MISS M. DOWNIE	MISS P. PRITCHARD	MRS. D. WICKENS
MRS. R. ELKINS	MISS W. RUSSELL	MISS J. WARD
MRS. L. D. GORDON	MISS C. SAINTLEY	MRS. WILD
MRS. HANCOCK	MISS D. SLATER	