

Winchester Amateur Operatic Society

(28th SESSION)



THE
GUILDHALL
WINCHESTER

MAY 17th, 19th, 22nd
23rd and 24th, 1952

Matinee
Saturday, May 24th

MAY 15TH AND 16TH: SECONDARY
AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

MAY 21ST: WINCHESTER COLLEGE
AND ST. SWITHUN'S SCHOOL

Foreword

To our Patrons and Friends.

IT gives the members of the Winchester Operatic Society the greatest pleasure to present to their many friends and patrons the very amusing Gilbert and Sullivan Comic Opera "Princess Ida" or "Castle Adamant," this for the third time being a revival of the Opera by the Society, following its first production in 1926 and again in 1935 at the Guildhall. It marked a new and important feature in the history of the Savoy works, being divided into three Acts instead of the customary two Acts accorded to every other Opera. It first saw the light on January 5th, 1884, scoring a well-deserved success and running for a fairly long series of performances. "Princess Ida" struck an entirely new note in the Gilbert and Sullivan productions as far as its subject matter was concerned, featuring as it did an aggressive and exceedingly humorous attack by the women of the period on man's so-called rights and privileges. The formation and establishment of a Women's University founded by the Princess, and from which all males were rigorously excluded, gave Gilbert first-class opportunity to exercise his customary wit and humour in the fiery invective poured forth by the leading ladies of the College,

*"Man's a ribald—Man's a rake,
Man is Nature's sole mistake!"*

Soon after the opening of the Opera he provides a characteristic Gilbertian note on the entry of Gama's huge sons who sing lustily in unison

*"Sons of Gama Rex,
Like most sons are we, Masculine in Sex."*

Near the conclusion of the Opera Gilbert provides another shaft of pointed wit.

Princess Ida claims that if her scheme had been successful "at my exalted name, posterity would bow." Hildebrand retorts with ready tongue "If you enlist *all women* in your cause—*how is this posterity to be provided?*" a merry quip indeed from the King and with unanswerable logic. Endless arrows of wit and humour are released from Gilbert's bow in the Opera but they hit the mark without disfiguring it, for the tips are not dipped in poison, but always with fun and merry laughter.

Gilbert introduces a new note in this Opera in the strange personality of King Gama, a character unpleasant and almost revolting in appearance and one possessed of a particularly sarcastic and venomous tongue. He provides, however, a good deal of capital entertainment and the striking song "The disagreeable Man" was a great favourite of Gilbert himself. The highlight of the Opera reaches its peak of fun and laughter in the scene in the college garden with the humorous invasion by the three disguised girl-graduates, Hilarion, Florian and Cyril, capitally acted and sung from start to finish. The Opera contains much of Sullivan's graceful and entirely appropriate music both in solo and concerted numbers, melodies that provide the greatest possible pleasure.

The preparation of this three-Act Opera has entailed a great deal of unremitting hard work by the whole of the members concerned throughout the long rehearsal season at St. Maurice Hall and no effort has been spared by Mr. Lawson Mackay as Producer and by Mr. John Sealey as Musical Director, to prepare as finished a performance as possible.

The dressing of "Princess Ida" throughout provides one of the most striking and spectacular productions of the many Savoy Operas and no effort will be spared to make this one of the dominant and attractive features of the whole production.

Besides old and valued members of the Society in the principal cast and chorus who have proved their worth in past productions "Princess Ida" will be strengthened by the inclusion of new members of considerable promise and acting ability, new blood always serving each year to provide increased interest and enthusiasm in the corporate life of the Winchester Society.

Gilbert and Sullivan Operas have enjoyed a long and wonderful history. Clearly there must be something exceptional about them, some magnetic force that draws the multitudes to them, some elixir that gives to them the freshness of eternal youth. They still stand alone, unchallenged by any changing in popular taste or by the passing of time. The Society hopes that its many friends will thoroughly enjoy "Princess Ida."

A. C.

“*Princess Ida*”

OR CASTLE ADAMANT

The Story of the Opera

“**P**RINCESS IDA” is the daughter of King Gama and when but twelve months old she had been betrothed to Prince Hilarion, the two-year-old son of King Hildebrand.

The picturesque opening scene reveals King Hildebrand with his courtiers and escort of soldiers awaiting the arrival of King Gama and his beautiful daughter, Princess Ida, for the celebration of the nuptials in accordance with the marriage contract drawn up and signed twenty years ago by the two Kings. There seems to be some latent doubt as to whether the contract will be honoured, as Prince Hilarion has heard a rumour that his bride-to-be has “forsover the world,” whatever that strange claim may imply.

The arrival of King Gama, preceded by his three sons, huge bearded warriors clad in full armour, is spectacular, to say the least of it. The royal visitor has been fitly described by King Hildebrand as “a twisted monster—all awry” and such he proves to be in general appearance. His chief weapon is an exceedingly venomous tongue and he makes full use of it at every opportunity afforded. Princess Ida’s absence has to be explained for her presence was to be the chief attraction. Gama’s ready tongue provides the reason. His daughter Ida has established and rules a Woman’s University in Castle Adamant, from which *all males* are excluded. King Hildebrand, infuriated, incites his son, Prince Hilarion, to go to the Castle and claim Ida as his wife. If she refuses, his soldiers will “storm the lady.” King Gama and his three warrior sons will be detained as hostages, all four being duly marched off to their prison cell. If Prince Hilarion does not safely return from his mission Gama will be hung and in as *polite* a manner as possible.

ACT II.

In the second Act we are transported to Castle Adamant and in the lovely gardens we are given a charming introduction to Lady Psyche surrounded by a bevy of beautiful maidens, girl-graduates who with Princess Ida have sworn to place their feet upon man’s neck. We have arrived at the interesting moment when Lady Blanche reads out the list of condign punishments to the members who have been proved guilty of alarming and even shocking breaches of good conduct. Princess Ida is hailed as “a mighty maiden with a mission” and in her inaugural address she trounces “poor man” completely, leaving him without a leg to stand on. Lady Blanche, “The Mighty Must,” reveals the astounding information that although *men* are excluded from the University there is jealousy within its sacred walls and she means, as leading lecturer of the College, to stamp it out.

Meanwhile Prince Hilarion and two chosen brave comrades, Florian and Cyril, have reached the garden walls and, clambering over, don, for fun, some collegiate robes left carelessly about, and so transform themselves into three very charming girl-graduates. They are discovered by Princess Ida who is much impressed by these three new students who seek to enter her College in such a refreshing and unorthodox manner. Such is their eloquence and engaging personalities that she promises them "a happy, happy time, if all they say is true." The luncheon bell rings and Cyril, imbibing too much of the College home-brewed beer, lets the cat out of the bag by singing lustily in his cups,

*" Oh kiss me, kiss me, kiss me, kiss me,
Though I die for shame-a."*

The Princess, horrified, falls into the garden stream and is gallantly rescued by Prince Hilarion. True to her colours, however, she arrests all three and things look rather black for the new students.

Armed soldiers, led by King Hildebrand, are discovered without the walls, a siege is laid and Princess Ida is given a day "to think things over."

ACT III.

Act III finds the Castle walls manned with brave but very faint-hearted girl-students, all armed for the fray with battle-axes, but each and all excusing themselves from mortal combat. King Hildebrand, loath to war with women, at last agrees that the affair be settled with a battle between Gama's sons and the three new students, Hildebrand's knights. The sons of Gama are heavily defeated, and the mangled bodies of her brothers proving too much for the Princess, she gives in all along the line, crying "*Hold—we yield ourselves to you!*"

All ends happily, as it should in Opera. Man has won the day! Prince Hilarion wins his bride, Lady Blanche is promoted by Princess Ida to the coveted Headship of the University and the charming Melissa engages herself to Florian, while, as a surprise, the irascible King Gama shakes hands with the rival monarch King Hildebrand. The whole company join in singing heartily,

*" It were profanity for poor humanity
To treat as vanity the sway of love,
In no locality or principality
Is our mortality its sway above."*

A. C.

Gilbert and Sullivan's Opera

“Princess Ida”

OR CASTLE ADAMANT

(By permission of Bridget D'Oyly Carte)

Dramatis personae :

King Hildebrand	-	-	-	-	-	-	JOHN MILLER
Hilarion (<i>his Son</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	MERVYN HAYNE
Cyril } (<i>Hilarion's Friends</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	BERTRAM DOBSON
Florian }	-	-	-	-	-	-	HORACE TAYLOR
King Gama	-	-	-	-	-	-	STANLEY RICHARDSON
Arac } (<i>His Sons</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	ROBERT WILTON
Guron }	-	-	-	-	-	-	AUSTEN HOOKER
Scynthius }	-	-	-	-	-	-	CECIL SACREE
Princess Ida (<i>Gama's Daughter</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	VERA PORTSMOUTH
Lady Blanche (<i>Professor of Abstract Science</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOROTHY CROSBY
Lady Psyche (<i>Professor of Humanities</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	JOAN STONE
Melissa (<i>Lady Blanche's Daughter</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	HAZEL PONSFORD
Sacharissa } (<i>Girl Graduates</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	-	EDITH FRANCIS
Chloe }	-	-	-	-	-	-	MOLLIE LAIT
Ada }	-	-	-	-	-	-	MARION SAINT

Soldiers, Courtiers, “Girl Graduates,” “Daughters of the Plough,” etc.

ACT I	-	PAVILION IN KING HILDEBRAND'S PALACE
ACT II	-	GARDENS OF CASTLE ADAMANT
ACT III	-	COURTYARD OF CASTLE ADAMANT

Chorus of Girl Graduates :

MOLLY BINSTAD	MURIEL FISHER	CONSTANCE SMITHERS
QUEENIE BIRD	WINIFRED GOSLING	HAZEL WARD
MARY BRAY	CLARICE PORTSMOUTH	MARJORIE WILLIAMS
JANET DOBSON	STELLA ROBERTS	MURIEL WILSON
MARGARET ELTON	BARBARA SACREE	SHIRLEY WRIE

Daughters of the Plough :

IRIS O'GRADY	CREINA MOBERLY	GWENDOLIN WARD
--------------	----------------	----------------

Chorus of Soldiers and Courtiers :

ALFRED ANDERSON	JACK DOUGLAS	JOHN O'GRADY
RONALD BAVERSTOCK	GERALD HARDING	WESLEY SAVAGE
ROLAND BELCHER	RAYMOND HUTCHINS	GEOFFREY SMITH
LIONEL CHEW	ALFRED LAMBERT	LAWRENCE WARD
DAVID COUND	KINGSLEY LEONARD	FRED WATTERSON

Officers :

LESLIE MARSHALL

REGINALD SAINT

Producer and Stage Director :

LAWSON MACKAY

Musical Director :

JOHN SEALEY,
B.MUS., F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

INTRODUCTION

ACT I

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | CHORUS AND SOLO (<i>Florian</i>) | - | - | - | " Search throughout the panorama " |
| 2. | SONG (<i>Hildebrand and Chorus</i>) | - | - | - | " Now hearken to my strict command " |
| 3. | RECITATIVE AND SONG (<i>Hilarion</i>) | - | - | - | " To-day we meet " |
| 4. | CHORUS | - | - | - | " From the distant panorama " |
| 5. | TRIO (<i>Arac, Guron, Scynthius, and Chorus</i>) | - | - | - | " We are warriors three " |
| 6. | SONG (<i>Gama</i>) | - | - | - | " If you give me your attention " |
| 7. | FINALE | - | - | - | " P'raps if you address the lady " |

ACT II

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 8. | CHORUS OF GIRLS AND SOLOS (<i>Lady Psyche, Melissa, and Sacharissa</i>) | - | - | - | " Towards the empyrean heights " |
| 9. | CHORUS OF GIRLS | - | - | - | " Mighty maiden with a mission " |
| 10. | RECITATIVE AND ARIA (<i>Princess</i>) | - | - | - | " Minerva ! oh, hear me " |
| 10a. | EXEUNT FOR PRINCESS IDA AND GIRLS | - | - | - | " And thus to empyrean heights " |
| 12. | TRIO (<i>Cyril, Hilarion, and Florian</i>) | - | - | - | " Gently, gently " |
| 13. | TRIO (<i>Cyril, Hilarion, and Florian</i>) | - | - | - | " I am a maiden " |
| 14. | QUARTET (<i>Princess, Cyril, Hilarion, and Florian</i>) | - | - | - | " The world is but a broken toy " |
| 15. | SONG (<i>Lady Psyche, with Cyril, Hilarion, and Florian</i>) | - | - | - | " A lady fair of lineage high " |
| 16. | QUINTET (<i>Psyche, Melissa, Cyril, Hilarion, and Florian</i>) | - | - | - | " The woman of the wisest wit " |
| 17. | DUET (<i>Melissa and Lady Blanche</i>) | - | - | - | " Now wouldn't you like " |
| 18. | CHORUS OF GIRLS AND SOLOS (<i>Blanche and Cyril</i>) | - | - | - | " Merrily ring the luncheon bell " |
| 19. | SONG (<i>Cyril</i>) | - | - | - | " Would you know the kind of maid " |
| 20. | FINALE, ACT II (<i>Princess, Hildebrand, Melissa, Lady Psyche, Blanche, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian, Arac, Guron, Scynthius, and Chorus of Girls and Men</i>) | - | - | - | " Oh, joy ! our chief is saved " |

ACT III

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 21. | CHORUS AND SOLO (<i>Melissa</i>) | - | - | - | " Death to the invader ! " |
| 22. | SONG (<i>King Gama, with Chorus of Girls</i>) | - | - | - | " Whene'er I spoke " |
| 23. | SONG (<i>Princess</i>) | - | - | - | " I built upon a rock " |
| 24. | CHORUS OF LADIES AND SOLDIERS | - | - | - | " When anger spreads his wing " |
| 25. | SONG (<i>Arac, with Guron, Scynthius, and Chorus</i>) | - | - | - | " This helmet, I suppose " |
| 26. | CHORUS DURING THE FIGHT | - | - | - | " This is our duty " |
| 27. | FINALE | - | - | - | " With joy abiding " |

Winchester Amateur Operatic Society

President - THE LORD ASHBURTON

Vice-Presidents :

ALDERMAN MRS. G. CROMPTON, J.P.

MR. A. CLEMENTS

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR DOUGLAS EVILL, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.C., A.F.C.

DR. RONALD GIBSON

DR. P. T. FREEMAN, M.B.E., J.P.

Executive Committee :

MERVYN HAYNE (*Chairman*)

QUEENIE BIRD

AUBREY HARDING

HORACE TAYLOR

DOROTHY CROSBY

IRENE HAYNE

ROY PORTSMOUTH

MARGARET ELTON

RAYMOND HUTCHINS

VERA PORTSMOUTH

<i>Stage Manager</i>	-	-	-	-	-	PHILIP KING
<i>Treasurer</i>	-	-	-	-	-	WILLIAM STANIFORTH
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	-	-	-	-	-	LESLIE FREEMAN
<i>Auditor</i>	-	-	-	-	-	HORACE W. POOLE
<i>Lighting by</i>	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES OFFORD
<i>Prompters</i>	-	-	-	-	-	{ MARGARET BONE EILEEN TRIGGS
<i>Call Boys</i>	-	-	-	-	-	{ LESLIE FREEMAN STEPHEN SIMMONS
<i>Stage Assistants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	{ ERNEST HUNT CECIL JACKSON ERNEST PONSFORD REGINALD SAINT FREDERICK SIMPKINS
<i>Make-up Assistants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	{ NORRIS ELTON THOMAS HARDING MURIEL WILSON
<i>Wardrobe Mistresses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	{ PATRICIA BINSTAD KITTY BISHOP DOREEN COLLINS VIVIEN COTTERELL RUBY VAUGHAN
<i>Accompanist</i>	-	-	-	-	-	DORIS PEARCE
<i>Joint Secretaries</i>	-	-	-	-	-	{ BARBARA HARDING GERALD HARDING

Costumes, Perruquier and make-up, B. J. SIMMONS & CO. LTD., London

Scenery by STAGE SCENERY LTD., LONDON

£1,912

The above sum is the total amount given to various charities since the formation of the Society

ORCHESTRA

1st Violins :
 MR. E. TRIGG
 MISS K. COLECLOUGH
 MRS. B. C. DOBSON
 MRS. G. HARTNELL
 MRS. M. M. PAYNE
 MRS. P. H. WARWICK

2nd Violins :
 MISS N. FULCHER
 MISS G. EDWARDS
 MISS G. FIELDER
 MRS. D. TROWBRIDGE

Violas :
 MISS A. HARRIS
 MISS O. HAYWARD

'Cellos :
 MR. L. DE L. MARGUERIE
 MR. E. ZEFFERT

Double Bass :
 MR. A. C. PRIOR

Flutes :
 MRS. T. KING
 MR. E. J. CLARKE

Oboe :
 MR. A. H. ORTON

Clarinets :
 MR. A. TAYLOR
 MRS. A. TAYLOR

Bassoon :
 MR. H. CLARK

Horns :
 MR. P. MORRIS
 MR. H. BURCH

Trumpets :
 MR. S. V. PAYNE
 MR. C. RHODES

Trombones :
 MR. T. COXON
 MR. C. HASKELL

Timpani :
 MR. W. DUNN

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

The Society is holding its Dinner and Dance at the Guildhall on Monday, May 26th, and a cordial welcome is extended to all friends who would like to be present.

Tickets for same (price 13s. 6d.) may be obtained from any member of the Committee or from the Chief Steward.

PAST PRODUCTIONS

"The Pirates of Penzance"	-	1913	"The Yeomen of the Guard"	-	1932
"The Mikado"	-	1914	"The Pirates of Penzance"	-	1933
"Iolanthe"	-	1920	"Ruddigore"	-	1934
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	-	1921	"Princess Ida"	-	1935
"The Gondoliers"	-	1922	"The Mikado"	-	1936
"Patience"	-	1923	"Iolanthe"	-	1937
"Ruddigore"	-	1924	"Tom Jones"	-	1938
"Trial by Jury" and			"Monsieur Beaucaire"	-	1939
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	-	1925	"Merrie England," Concert Version		1947
"Princess Ida"	-	1926	"Iolanthe"	-	1948
"The Mikado"	-	1927	"Gondoliers"	-	1949
"Iolanthe"	-	1928	"Patience"	-	1950
"Merrie England"	-	1929	"Trial by Jury" and		
"The Gondoliers"	-	1930	"The Pirates of Penzance"	-	1951
"Utopia"	-	1931			

Chief Steward : AUBREY J. HARDING

Stewards :

C. A. BATH
J. W. CAVE
W. F. COOPER
R. G. CROFT
V. N. CROSBY
A. R. EDMONDS
G. J. EMMENCE
H. R. EVANS

E. J. HOWELLS
D. H. HUTCHINGS
C. J. H. MANN
R. MARTIN
J. C. MORETON
P. C. MORETON
G. A. MOSS
R. N. PARSONS

C. R. L. PORTSMOUTH
W. W. POWELL
H. G. REED
A. B. RENTON
A. V. SMALL
C. SPIKINS
W. D. R. WELLER
J. M. WILSON

Programme and Ice Cream Sellers :

MRS. C. A. BATH
MISS R. E. BELCHER
MISS E. BOWDEN
MISS M. E. BROKER
MRS. L. J. L. CHEW
MRS. R. COOKE
MRS. W. F. COOPER
MISS E. COUND
MRS. R. G. CROFT
MRS. P. M. CUSDEN
MISS J. F. DAVEY
MRS. R. ELKINS
MRS. G. J. EMMENCE
MISS J. E. FRANCIS
MRS. I. M. FREEMAN
MISS M. FURMIDGE

MISS A. GARD
MISS J. H. GERAULT
MISS K. A. GUNN
MRS. B. HANCOCK
MISS J. M. E. HENNESEY
MRS. D. H. HUTCHINGS
MISS M. HUTCHINGS
MISS M. JAMES
MRS. M. E. JOLE
MISS C. D. LIDDLE
MISS J. LISTER
MISS P. V. LOVELL
MRS. C. J. H. MANN
MISS G. M. NORTH
MRS. R. N. PARSONS
MRS. R. PEATY

MISS J. R. PRITCHARD
MISS D. PUNTER
MISS L. L. RICHARDS
MISS C. RICHARDSON
MRS. S. A. RICHARDSON
MISS V. RUSSELL
MISS J. A. SAUNDERS
MISS D. SLAPE
MRS. A. E. STRANGE
MISS E. D. SYKES
MISS N. WALKER
MRS. W. D. R. WELLER
MRS. N. M. WESTGARTH
MRS. G. H. WICKENS
MISS B. S. WRIGHT
MRS. M. E. WRIGHT

A Licensed Bar and Buffet

IN THE BANQUETING HALL

will be available to patrons during the Intervals