

# "PRINCESS IDA" 

or Castle Adamant

STORY OF THE OPERA


## ACT I.

" PRINCESS IDA" was produced January 5 th, 1884, and contrary to the usual custom of Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, is divided into three Acts. The opening scene reveals the company of soldiers and courtiers attached to King Hildebrand's Palace busily engaged in searching with fieldglasses and telescopes, etc., for signs of King Gama and his beautiful daughter Ida, to whom Hildebrand's son, Prince Hilarion, was betrothed when she was only a year old. Everything is prepared for the celebration of the nuptials in accordance with the marriage contract " signed and sealed " of the two Kings twenty years ago. Considerable doubt exists though as to whether after this lapse of time the contract will be duly honoured, for Hilarion has heard that his bride-to-be, "who is a strange girl and does odd things," has forsworn the world and men in particular. King Gama is seen approaching, preceded by his three doughty warrior sons, Arac, Guron and Scynthius, but, as was feared, without Princess Ida.

The three warriors announce themselves as " like most sons, masculine in sex" and fighters to the backbone.

King Gama, the twisted monster, soon reveals his rumoured character, and proceeds to deal out insults to all and sundry with his renomous and sarcastic tongue with great impartiality. The impression he makes is far from pleasing, not that he cares much about that, even while he plaintively sings:
" Yet everybody says I'm such a disagreeable man,
And I can't think why!'"
Hildebrand demands the reason for Ida's absence, and is told that she has established and rules a Woman's University in Castle Adamant, from which all males are rigorously excluded. Gama suggests that if she is approached " most politely" she may deign to look on Hilarion, to which King Hildebrand effectively replies by throwing King Gama and his three sons into prison most politely, while Hilarion is despatched with two friends to Castle Adamant to spy out the land and claim his bride. Gama is to be hung, again " most politely," if Hilarion does not return safely.

## ACT II.

We are now transported to the grounds of Castle Adamant and introduced to the lovely maidens who with Princess Ida have sworn to place their fect upon man's neck. A river flows gently along close to the seated girl-graduates, while the Castle can be seen in the distance. Lady Psyche treats them all to some highly original thoughts on that despicable creature, Man, to all of which they seem to heartily agree.

> "Man's a ribald-Man's a rake, Man is Nature's sole mistake! ",

## STORY OF THE OPERA (continued)

Lady Blanche reads out the list of punishments, all being Gilbertian in character and much too amusing to reveal here. Chloe, the budding artist, shocks everyone by her horrifying domestic sketches and receives condign punishment in consequence.

Princess Ida is hailed unanimously as a " mighty maiden with a mission, Paragon of common sense," and her inaugural oration dresses down poor man most completely, leaving him without a leg to stand on. Lady Blanche reveals the interesting fact that although men are excluded, the green-eyed monster jealousy lives within the Castle walls, for she believes herself to be the most fitting Head of the College, styling herself " the inevitable must !"

The ladies retire to think over their leader's burning eloquence, and by this time Hilarion and his two friends, Cyril and Florian, have reached the garden walls. Climbing over, they don some collegiate robes left carelessly on a seat and put them on "for fun." Princess Ida, happening to stroll back, they are discovered, but all three carry through the joke the best they can, and she is much impressed by these three new students who seek to enter her college ranks in such a refreshing and unorthodox manner. She promises them all a "happy, happy time," and leaves them. Lady Psyche appears and discovers that one is her long-lost brother, and Melissa, who is always up to mischief, joins in the conspiracy. Lady Blanche's eagle eye has by this time caught sight of the party and her interview with Mclissa, her daughter, is sternly affecting. The charming eloquence of the latter, however, persuades her to wink at the escapade, although she "has not winked at anything for years." The luncheon bell is heard and all the students, new and old, join together in an al fresso meal, Cyril, who is a bit of a toper, imbibing too freely of the College home-brewed wine with disastrous effects, for he lets the cat out of the bag in his hilarity.
"Oh kiss me, kiss me, kiss me, kiss me
Though I die for shame-a."
The Princess is horrified, falls into the river and is gallantly rescued by Hilarion. True to her colours, she rewards him by arresting all three, so things look rather black.

Armed bands of soldiers are then discovered without the walls and King Hildebrand delivers his ultimatum, giving the Princess a day to think it over. The three sons of Gama, who have also been brought along in chains, warn her also that refusal to yield will mean death to them and incidentally her father. But the Princess hurls defiance and prepares for war.
" Though I am but a girl, defiance thus I hurl, Our banners all, on outer wall, we fearlessly unfurl."

## ACT III.

The Castle walls are manned, but Ida finds many of her students reluctant to carry on with the dreadful business. The lady surgeon absolutely refuses to cut off "real live legs and arms." The Princess is faced with many problems, but she resolutely determines to tackle all and sundry herself, such as amputations, tifle-firing, playing all the bandswomen's instruments, as well as blowing up all her enemies with gunpowder. King Gama arrives with a message from Hildebrand. He is loath to war with women and suggests that the whole affair could be settled with a scrap between the sons of Gama Rex and the three " new students." The Princess feels insulted, but Gama is so upset, being tortured by the kind treatment of Hildebrand's people and having " nothing to grumble at," that she eventually yields out of pity, and the battle takes place.

Gama's sons are defeated, and seeing her brothers lying wounded and bleeding proves too much for her that she at last gives in all along the line.

Lady Blanche is given the coveted Headship, the Princess resigns herself to Hilarion Melissa to Florian, while King Gama buries the hatchet by shaking hands with King Hildebrand. So all ends happily as it should in Opera.
" 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.

# Winchester Amateur Operatic Society 

"PRINCESS IDA"<br>or Castle Adamant

Lyrics by Sir W. S. Gilbert
Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan

## Dramatis persona:



> Chorus: Soldiers, Courtiers, " Girl Graduates," "Daughters of the Plough."

## ACT I. Scene.-PAVILION IN KING HILDEBRAND'S PALACE.

"II. " GARDENS OF CASTLE ADAMANT.
" III. " COURTYARD OF CASTLE ADAMANT.

| Courtiers and "Girl Graduates." |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Baldwin, A. M. C. | Gard, A. | Lansley, M. A. | Pinvick, E. L. |
| Brown, E. H. | Gardner, G. | Lore, M. | Portsmouth, C. |
| Colerick, N. | Harrod, D. | Major, G. | Smitre, W. |
| Chisnele, E. M. | Herrivg, G. | Mathews, M. R. | Watts, I. |
| Faithfuli, A. | Hibberd, G. | Picken, N. R. | Webb, N . |
| Fifield, N. | Labdon, H. |  |  |
| Courtiers and Soldiers. |  |  |  |
| Adams, G. W. | Cole, C. S. | Johnstone, G. S. | Savage, W. |
| Alexander, W. C. | Dyer, G. E. | Laverty, D. G. | Solonon, E. E. |
| Bascomb, F. A. | Elkins, R. | Lloyd, R. R. | Salter, L. E. |
| Cocks, W. M. | Fenneid, J. | Milds, G. H. | Wetton, W. |
| Chisneli, F. | Grimmett, J. W. |  |  |
| Daughters of the Plough. |  |  |  |
| Leigh Spencer, M. | Du Boulay, G. | Seymour, N . | Stevenson, J. |

## "PRINCESS IDA"

## Musical Numbers

## ACT I.

Introduction.
I. Chorus and Solo (Florian) - " Search throughout the panorama."
2. Song (Hildebrand and Cborus) - - "Now hearken to my strict command."
3. Recit and Song (Itilarion) - - "To-day we meet."
4. Chorus - - - "From the distant panorama."
5. Trio (Arac, Guron and Soynthius) - - "We are warriors three."
6. Song (King Gama) - - "If you give me your attention."
7. Finale - - - " Perhaps if you address the lady."

## ACT II.

8. Chords of Girls and Solos (Lady Psyche,

Melissa and Cbloe) - - "Towards the Empyrean heights."
9. Chorus of Girls - - "Mighty Maiden."
10. Rectit and Aria (Princess) - - "Minerva! Minerva!"
it. Song (Lady Blanche) - - - "Come mighty must."
12. Trio (Hilarion, Cyril and Florian) - - "Gently, Gently."
13. Trio (Hilarion, Cyril and Florian) - - "I am a Maiden."

I4. Quartett (Princess, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian ( - - $\quad$ "The world is but a broken toy."
15. Song (Lady Psyche with Hilarion, Cyril and Florian) - - - "A Lady Fair."
i6. Quintet - - - " The woman of the wisest wit."
i7. Duet (Melissa and Lady Blanche) - - "Now wouldn't you like."
i8. Chorus of Girls, Solos (Blanche and Cyril) "Merrily ring the luncheon bell."
ig. Song (Cyrif) - - " "Would you know the kind of maid."
20. Finale - - - - "Oh joy."

ACT III.
21. Chorus and Solo (Melissa)

-     - "Death to the invader!"

22. Song (Princess) - - - "I built upon a rock."
23. Song (King Gama) - - "Whene'er I spoke."
24. Chorus of Ladies and Soldiers - "When anger spreads his wings."
25. Song (Arac with Scynthius, Guron and Chorus) "This helmet I suppose."
26. Chords during the Fight - - "This is our duty."
27. Finale - - - - "With joy abiding."

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