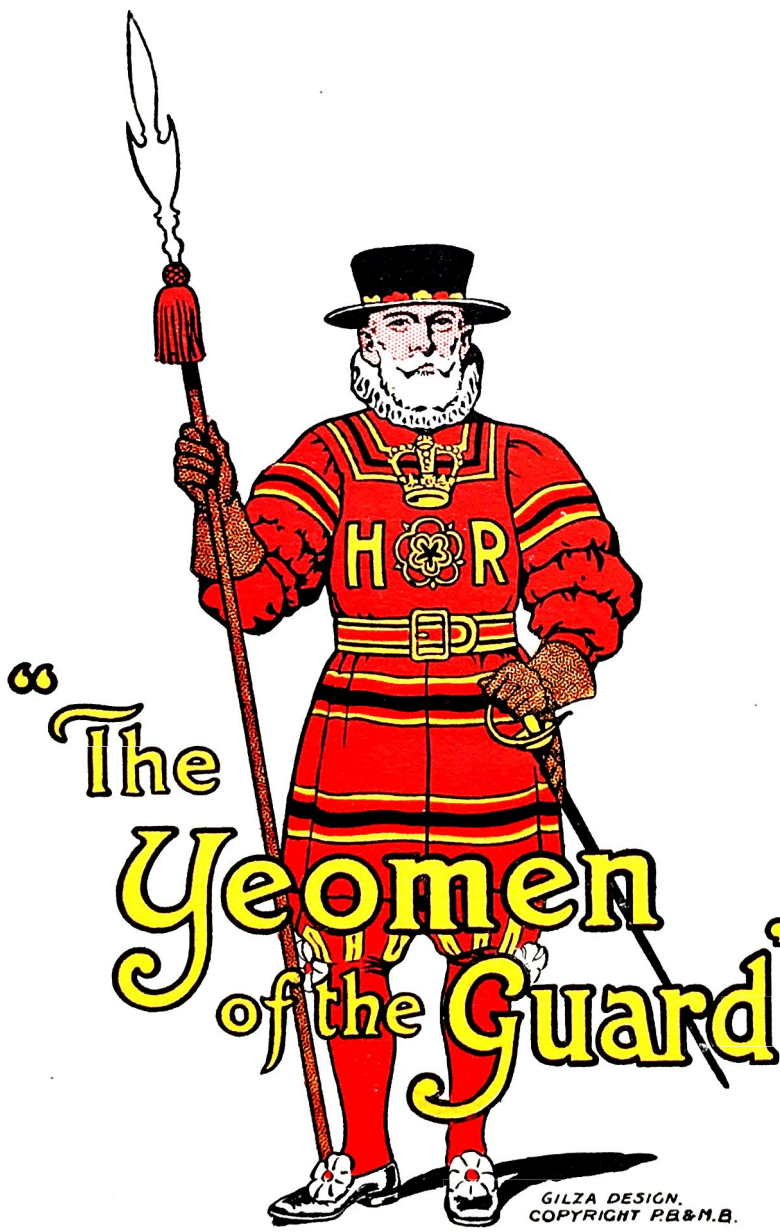
Winchester Amateur Operatic Society

(31st SESSION)



THE

GUILDHALL

WINCHESTER

MAY 14th, 17th, 19th,
20th and 21st, 1955

Matinee

Saturday, May 21st

MAY 13TH AND 16TH : SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

MAY 18TH : WINCHESTER COLLEGE AND ST. SWITHUN'S SCHOOL

Foreword

IT is a happy coincidence that this year, which is to be marked by a visit to the City of our beloved Queen and her Consort, the Society should have chosen an Opera so typically English as " The Yeomen of the Guard ".

It was last presented in 1932, and we believe that many of our patrons have been awaiting its revival. To them, and to those who also remember the original production in 1921, we would say that this production is equal to the earlier ones. Once again we have had the good fortune to work under the expert direction of Mr. Lawson Mackay and Mr. John Sealey, Producer and Musical Director respectively, both of whom have served us and, we venture to suggest, our audiences long and well.

Our audiences this year will once again include many young people from the schools of the City and County, the number will once again be over two thousand, and in entertaining them we hope that we are ensuring not only the continuation of this Society, but, more important, keeping alive the spirit and tradition of Gilbert and Sullivan.

We take this opportunity of welcoming Sir George Dyson, K.C.V.O., who has honoured us by accepting the Presidency of the Society in succession to Lord Ashburton. At the same time we must say how much we have missed our very old and highly esteemed friend Mr. Archie Clements, one of our Vice-Presidents, who has been prevented by illness from attending rehearsals this year. We feel sure that you will join with us in sending him our best wishes.

As a point of interest it may be noted that the cast this year includes five who were in the last production of this Opera twenty-three years ago, and whilst the Society has always thrived on long-serving members its future is dependent on newcomers, of whom we have a number making their stage debut this year. It is vital to the future of the Society that there should be a flow of new members each year and to those with singing ability it does provide a refreshing form of entertainment so much in contrast with modern tendencies. Our membership is, however, not restricted to those whom you will see on the stage, for we have a large number of non-acting members who find a deal of pleasure in helping us in many ways and enjoy attending rehearsals at which they are always welcome, to see the making of the Opera from start to finish—we are indebted to all of them for their valued assistance and support. Perhaps next season we may welcome you as either an acting or non-acting member. In the meantime we hope that you will receive our efforts with as much pleasure as we shall have in performing for you.

Winchester Amateur Operatic Society

President - SIR GEORGE DYSON, K.C.V.O.

Vice-Presidents :

ALDERMAN MRS. G. CROMPTON, M.B.E., J.P.
MR. A. CLEMENTS
DR. P. T. FREEMAN, M.B.E., J.P.
DR. RONALD GIBSON
MR. R. H. MCCALL
SIR JOHN W. S. MACLURE, Bart.
LT.-COL. SIR. W. V. MAKINS, Bart.
THE VERY REVEREND E. G. SELWYN, D.D., Dean of Winchester.

Executive Committee :

ROY PORTSMOUTH (*Chairman*)

QUEENIE BIRD
DOROTHY CROSBY
BERTRAM DOBSON
MARGARET ELTON
AUBREY HARDING
IRENE HAYNE
MERVYN HAYNE
RAYMOND HUTCHINS
HORACE TAYLOR
VERA PORTSMOUTH

Stage Manager	PHILIP KING
Treasurer	WILLIAM STANIFORTH
Assistant Treasurer	ROY MITCHELL
Auditor	ALFRED MAW
Lighting by	JAMES OFFORD
Prompters	DOROTHY CROSBY, DOROTHY FURMIDGE
Call Boys	ROY MITCHELL, STEPHEN SIMMONS
Stage Assistants	WARWICK BURDEN, ERNEST PONSFORD, TREVOR SACREE, FREDERICK SIMPKINS, DAVID TIZZARD
Make-up Assistants	NORRIS ELTON, MURIEL WILSON
Wardrobe Mistresses	PATRICIA BINSTEAD, KITTY BISHOP, VERA PORTSMOUTH
Accompanist	DORIS PEARCE
Joint Secretaries	BARBARA HARDING, GERALD HARDING

Costumes and Scenery - B. & H. DRURY LTD., Brighton
Make-up - - JULES MARTEN

£2,213

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

The Story of the Opera

THE story of "The Yeomen of the Guard", or "The Merryman and his Maid", owes much of its popularity to the fact that every line of it is peculiarly English. It deals with one of the most fascinating and momentous periods of English history, dating as it does back to the 16th century, and having for its background the grim old Tower of London, that picturesque and historic old fortress indissolubly connected with some of the brightest and darkest annals of England.

The Merryman, *Jack Point*, and his Maid, *Elsie Maynard*, are strolling players working their way with song and dance through the towns and villages of old England for a livelihood (and a poor one at that), and their arrival at Tower Green is fraught with peculiar significance. *Colonel Fairfax*, a gallant English gentleman, is under sentence of death for sorcery, the nefarious work of his next-of-kin, Sir Clarence Postwhistle, who will succeed to his estates providing he dies unmarried. The Colonel, moved to thwart his scheming and unscrupulous relation, asks the aid of his old friend *Sir Richard Cholmondeley*, the Lieutenant of the Tower. "Can he find him a wife ?"

A strange request, but for the sake of their old friendship the Lieutenant promises to see what can be done.

Elsie Maynard and *Point* arrive on the scene and for a consideration, namely a hundred crowns, the former, with considerable misgiving, consents to be the wife of the man who is to be executed in an hour. She is forthwith led blindfold into the Tower by the Head Jailer for this purpose.

The Colonel is expecting a reprieve, but time is terribly short and he agrees to a clever plot concocted by his old friend and brother-campaigner, *Sergeant Meryll* of the Tower Guard, to delay and if possible circumvent the execution. The Sergeant's son, *Leonard Meryll*, has just returned from the wars covered with glory, and he willingly joins in the scheme. He has been appointed to the Yeomen of the Guard, and *Fairfax*, suitably disguised, is to be substituted in his place. The aid of *Phoebe*, the pretty daughter of *Meryll*, is called in, and she, by subtle artifice and honey'd words, secures the keys of the dungeon from her dour and uncouth admirer, *Wilfred Shadbolt*, the Head Jailer.

No one has seen *Leonard* arrive, and as he lies hidden, there is a fine to-do when the mysterious disappearance of *Fairfax* is discovered just as the solemn scene is being set for the execution.

Act II shows the Housekeeper of the Tower, *Dame Carruthers*, giving the Warders the length of her tongue for their seeming neglect of duty.

Poor *Jack Point* views the escape with feelings of woe, for the girl he loves is the wife of the escaped prisoner, and his agreement with the wedding plot brings small comfort.

His ready brain is set to work, and he devises a scheme, with *Shadbolt's* aid, to bring about the supposed death of *Fairfax*, the Jailer's reward for complicity being a course of lessons in the Jester's art.

Fairfax meanwhile, as the disguised Yeoman, has fallen in love with his own wife, *Elsie Maynard*, and she with him, and he presses his suit with great ardour, especially after learning through the Housekeeper who she really is. *Elsie* is distressed, for is not her "husband" still alive ?

A shot is heard and all is confusion, the *Jailer* and *Point* giving lurid details of the "death" of the escaping *Fairfax*.

But the reprieve arrives soon after, the Colonel is able to reveal his identity and he claims his bride. All is joy and happiness, save for the poor unhappy *Jester*. There is joy and romance for others but for him only bitter despair.

A. C.

Gilbert and Sullivan's Opera

'The Yeomen of the Guard'

OR THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID

(By permission of Bridget D'Oyly Carte)

Dramatis Personae

Sir Richard Cholmondeley (*Lieutenant of the Tower*)	AUSTEN HOOKER
Colonel Fairfax (*under sentence of death*)	HARRY FORD
Sergeant Meryll (*of the Yeomen of the Guard*)	ROBERT WILTON
Leonard Meryll (*his son*)	WALTER URRY
Jack Point (*a strolling Jester*)	BERTRAM DOBSON
Wilfred Shadbolt (*Head Jailer and assistant Tormentor*)	HORACE TAYLOR
The Headsman	REGINALD PARSONS
First Yeoman	MERVYN HAYNE
Second Yeoman	ALFRED LAMBERT
First Citizen	RAYMOND HUTCHINS
Second Citizen	LIONEL CHEW
Elsie Maynard (*a strolling singer*)	PATRICIA KNIGHT
Phoebe Meryll (*Sergeant Meryll's daughter*)	ANN HILLIER
Dame Carruthers (*Housekeeper to the Tower*)	RITA OWTON
Kate (*her niece*)	MARGARET PALING

Chorus of Yeomen of the Guard, Gentlemen, Citizens, etc.

ACT I - TOWER GREEN
ACT II - THE SAME
Date : 16th Century

Chorus of Citizens :

HEATHER BAKER	MURIEL FISHER	MARGARET MORGAN
JOCELYN BEECHAM	MADELINE FURMIDGE	IRIS O'GRADY
VIOLET BLAND	MARY HARRIS	BARBARA PAYNE
VALERIE CHAMBERS	IRENE HAYNE	CLARICE PORTSMOUTH
GILLIAN COWLEY	LISBETH ILLINGWORTH	DOREEN PUNTER
MARGARET ELTON	JANE MILLS	MARJORIE WILLIAMS
JOHN ELTON	LESLIE PICKETT	ERIC RICHARDSON
ALFRED MORGAN	ROY PORTSMOUTH	WILLIAM SNOW

Yeomen of the Guard :

RONALD BAVERSTOCK	COLIN HARRIS	CECIL SACREE
JACK DOUGLAS	JOHN O'GRADY	PAUL TIPPLE
GERALD HARDING		GEOFFREY WILSON

Assistant Headsmen :

TREVOR SACREE DAVID TIZZARD

Priest :

JOHN WRIGHT

Guards :

JOHN HILLIER HENRY PEARCE PETER ROBERTS RONALD WILLIAMS

Producer and Stage Director :
LAWSON MACKAY

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

MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE

ACT I

1.	INTRODUCTION AND SONG (*Phoebe*)	"When maiden loves she sits and sighs"
2.	DOUBLE CHORUS (*People and Yeomen*)	"Tower Warders under orders"
	SOLO (*2nd Yeoman*)	"This the Autumn"
3.	SONG WITH CHORUS (*Dame Carruthers and Yeomen*)	"When our gallant Norman foes"
4.	TRIO (*Phoebe, Leonard and Meryll*)	"Alas ! I waver to and fro"
5.	BALLAD (*Fairfax*)	"Is life a boon ?"
6.	CHORUS (*Entrance of Crowd, Elsie and Point*)	"Here's a man of jollity"
7.	DUET (*Elsie and Point*)	"I have a song to sing, O"
8.	TRIO (*Elsie, Point and Lieutenant*)	"How say you, maiden, will you wed ?"
9.	RECIT AND SONG (*Point*)	"I've jibe and joke and quip and crank"
10.	RECIT AND SONG (*Elsie*)	"'Tis done ! I am a bride"
11.	SONG (*Phoebe*)	"Were I thy bride"
12.	FINALE	"Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true ?"

ACT II

1.	CHORUS	"Night has spread her pall once more"
	SOLO (*Dame Carruthers*)	"Warders are ye ?"
2.	SONG (*Point*)	"Oh ! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon"
3.	DUET (*Point and Wilfred*)	"Hereupon we're both agreed"
4.	BALLAD (*Fairfax*)	"Free from his fetters grim"
5.	QUARTET (*Kate, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax and Sergeant Meryll*)	"Strange adventure"
6.	SCENE (*Elsie, Phoebe, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax, Wilfred, Point, Lieutenant, Sergeant Meryll and Chorus*)	"Hark ! What was that, sir ?"
7.	TRIO (*Elsie, Phoebe and Fairfax*)	"A man who would woo a fair maid"
8.	QUARTET (*Elsie, Phoebe, Fairfax and Point*)	"When a wooer goes a-wooing"
10.	FINALE	"Comes the pretty young bride"

ORCHESTRA

1st Violins :
MR. E. TRIGG
MRS. G. HARTNELL
MISS N. COMLEY
MRS. B. C. DOBSON
MRS. M. M. PAYNE

2nd Violins :
MRS. A. WRIGHT
MISS G. FIELDER
MISS H. TAYLOR
MR. A. E. PUNTER

Violas :
MISS A. HARRIS
MISS O. HAYWARD

'Cellos :
MR. L. DE L. MARGUERIE
MR. J. GWILT

Double Bass :
MR. E. COTTLE

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

Oboe :
MR. A. H. ORTON

Clarinets :
MR. H. LEAR
MR. A. J. E. COOTER

Bassoons :
MR. E. PARSONS
MR. N. W. ST. G. ROWE

Horns :
MR. P. MORRIS
MR. C. JACKSON

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

Trombones :
MR. D. B. WHEELER
MR. T. COXON
MR. S. SIVYER

Percussion :
MR. W. DUNN
MISS J. NICHOLAS

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

The Society is holding its Dinner and Dance at the Guildhall on Monday, May 23rd, and a cordial welcome is extended to all friends who would like to be present.

Tickets for same (price 15*s*.) may be obtained from any member of the Committee or from the Chief Steward.

PAST PRODUCTIONS

"The Pirates of Penzance"	1913	"The Pirates of Penzance"	1933
"The Mikado"	1914	"Ruddigore"	1934
"Iolanthe"	1920	"Princess Ida"	1935
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1921	"The Mikado"	1936
"The Gondoliers"	1922	"Iolanthe"	1937
"Patience"	1923	"Tom Jones"	1938
"Ruddigore"	1924	"Monsieur Beaucaire"	1939
"Trial by Jury" and		"Merrie England", Concert Version	1947
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1925	"Iolanthe"	1948
"Princess Ida"	1926	"Gondoliers"	1949
"The Mikado"	1927	"Patience"	1950
"Iolanthe"	1928	"Trial by Jury" and	
"Merrie England"	1929	"The Pirates of Penzance"	1951
"The Gondoliers"	1930	"Princess Ida"	1952
"Utopia"	1931	"The Mikado"	1953
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1932	"Ruddigore"	1954

Chief Steward : AUBREY J. HARDING

Stewards :

C. A. BATH
J. W. CAVE
W. F. COOPER
V. N. CROSBY
A. R. EDMONDS
G. J. EMMENCE
A. G. N. FINCH
R. S. FURMIDGE
B. HILLIER
D. H. HUTCHINGS
R. M. KING
G. I. KINGDON
C. J. H. MANN
J. C. MORETON
P. C. MORETON
R. N. PARSONS
W. W. POWELL
A. B. RENTON
A. V. SMALL
A. C. SMITH
F. T. SMITH
G. G. SMITH
C. SPIKINS
H. G. STAINER
W. D. R. WELLER
H. W. WHITEHEAD

Programme and Ice Cream Sellers :

MISS M. BANKS
MRS. C. A. BATH
MISS M. A. BINSTEAD
MISS Q. F. BIRD
MISS D. BOGHURST
MISS M. H. BONE
MRS. L. J. L. CHEW
MRS. R. COOKE
MRS. W. F. COOPER
MRS. R. G. CROFT
MRS. E. M. DAY
MISS J. DAVEY
MRS. R. ELKINS
MISS J. EMERY
MRS. G. J. EMMENCE
MRS. E. FRANCIS
MISS J. E. FRANCIS
MISS W. GOSLING
MISS K. A. GUNN
MRS. B. HANCOCK
MRS. A. M. HOOKER
MRS. D. H. HUTCHINGS
MISS M. A. HUTCHINGS
MISS P. V. LOVELL
MRS. C. J. H. MANN
MISS S. M. E. MORT
MISS G. M. NORTH
MISS G. PAGE
MRS. R. N. PARSONS
MISS T. M. PARSONS
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MISS J. R. PRITCHARD
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MISS S. K. ROBERTS
MISS V. A. M. RUSSELL
MISS D. SLAPE
MRS. G. G. SMITH
MISS S. SPICER
MRS. A. E. STRANGE
MRS. G. WARD
MRS. W. D. R. WELLER
MRS. N. M. WESTGARTH
MRS. G. H. WICKENS
MRS. M. E. WRIGHT

A Licensed Bar and Buffet

IN THE BANQUETING HALL

will be available to patrons during the Intervals

and Tea will be served at the Matinee

Warren & Son, Limited, Winchester.