

Merrie England

MAY
1964

W.A.O.S.



WINCHESTER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY



*Affiliated to the National
Operatic and Dramatic Association*

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ORCHESTRA

1st Violins
NELLIE FULCHER
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PAMELA DAVIS
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Violas
HAROLD POOLEY
HILDA JEFFERY

'Cellos
FRANCIS COWAN
DOROTHY MILNER
LEONARD STARLING

Double Bass
ERNEST COTTLE

Flutes
JOAN KING
JOHN CLARKE

Oboe
ALEC ORTON

Clarinets
ROY HARWOOD
JOHN MILNER

Harp
DOROTHY CLAPP

Bassoon
JAMES BURGESS

Horns
PETER MORRIS
CHARLES JACKSON

Trumpets
STANLEY PAYNE
CHARLES RHODES

Trombones
GORDON CUTLER
BRAM TAYLOR
SIDNEY SIVYER

Timpani
WILLIAM BENNETT

Accompanist at Rehearsals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DORIS PEARCE
Stage Manager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	PHILIP KING
Stage Assistants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	EDWARD CONNOLLY LAURIE GEORGE JOHN SNOW MICHAEL VOKES
Lighting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES OFFORD
Call Boys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DAVID HEWITT WILLIAM THALLON
Prompter and Assistant to Producer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	VALERIE CAVILL
Make-up Assistants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NORRIS ELTON LAURENCE WARD MURIEL WILSON
Wardrobe Mistresses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ENID BAVERSTOCK ELLEN DAY

Costumes: B. J. SIMMONS & Co. (1941) LTD.

Make-up: JULES MARTEN

Scenery: STAGE SCENERY LTD.

Wigs Dressed by MESSRS. E. S. ATTWOOD

THE STORY OF THE OPERA

"MERRIE ENGLAND" was first produced at the home of English Comic Opera, The Savoy Theatre, in 1902. This version of Merrie England was adapted from the original by Dennis Arundell and first produced by the Sadler's Wells Opera Company at the Wells on August 10th 1960.

The story revolves round those two ill-fated courtiers, Sir Walter Raleigh and Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex and the jealousy of their Royal Mistress, Elizabeth I.

There are to be May Day Revels at Windsor, where the May Queen seeks the love of the forester, Long Tom. He, however, loves Jill-all-alone, a homeless girl, suspected of being a witch, who lives in the forest. Elizabeth arrives in state to watch the Revels and soon after they have started, the Townsfolk, incited by the May Queen, charge Jill with witchcraft. Essex produces a letter which Jill had found in the Forest and has given to him. This letter, written in loving terms, contains an acrostic spelling the name of Bessie. It is in Raleigh's hand and the Queen, at first elated, becomes bitter when Raleigh confesses that the letter was intended, not for her, but for Bessie Throckmorton. In her rage, she sentences Jill to death, Bessie to confinement in the Castle and Raleigh to banishment from the Court.

The second act tells how the trio escape their Fate. Essex, now the Queen's favourite, warns her that he suspects Dr. Lopez, her Court Physician, to be a Spanish spy, intent on her death. Elizabeth does not and will not believe these accusations. Her troubled mind causes her to visit Jill in prison, hoping to find "the Witch" possessed of magic powers. Essex's outburst makes her leave the prison in a towering rage without an answer. He confesses to Bessie Throckmorton, who has accompanied the Queen and who remains behind, that he has provoked the Queen's wrath against Raleigh and her to serve his own ends. He wishes to make amends, however, and connives at their escape when Jill suggests that this is possible via a secret tunnel she knows of from the Castle to Herne's Oak in Windsor Forest. He promises further help when they all meet in the Forest that night for the Revels, the Queen having changed her mind about the entertainment being performed in the Castle.

Later that evening, Raleigh, who with the help of Long Tom has assumed a disguise as a villager, can hardly believe his eyes when Bess and Jill appear in the Forest. Ben now adds to the plan of escape and Bess is sent off with him for another disguise. The Townsfolk arrive to prepare for the celebrations, along with Walter Wilkins, the London actor, who with his troupe of Players arrived early on the scene, that May Day morning, with great plans for a Masque of St. George and the Dragon and the Ballad of Robin Hood.

The Queen arrives and is duly entertained, although not without a slight degree of displeasure, due to Master Wilkins and his troupe.

The Masque concluded, dancing follows and Raleigh, in his disguise as Robin Hood, is able to reveal the treachery of Dr. Lopez. The Queen, though shaken, commands that the Revels proceed and at their conclusion, reveals that she has penetrated the disguises of Sir Walter and Bessie. In gratitude for her escape, she is ready to forgive all, Essex is restored to favour, having proved his accusations against Dr. Lopez and the opera ends on a note of high patriotic fervour.

40th PRODUCTION

Merrie England

By BASIL HOOD and EDWARD GERMAN

Adapted by DENNIS ARUNDELL
(By arrangement with Chappell & Co. Ltd.)

Characters in order of Appearance

The May Queen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ESTHER BRYANT
The Butcher	} <i>The Merchants of Windsor</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	WILLIAM JONES
The Baker		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AUSTEN HOOKER
The Tinker		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RICHARD TROWER
The Tailor		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	MERVYN HAYNE
Long Tom	} <i>Royal Foresters</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	THOMAS BARNARD
Big Ben		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BRIAN HURST
Jill-All-Along	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	KATHLEEN FISH
Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ROBERT DAVIS
Francis Bacon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GUY INGRAM
Sir Walter Raleigh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	REGINALD REED
Walter Wilkins, <i>A London Actor</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NORMAN KEMISH
Silas Simkins, <i>Another Actor</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BERTRAM DOBSON
Bessie Throckmorton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BARBARA DE RETUERTO
Dr. Roderigo Lopez, <i>The Queen's Physician</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	JOHN ROBINSON
Queen Elizabeth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOROTHY CROSBY

Chorus of Lords and Ladies, Windsor Townsfolk, Actors, Soldiers, etc.

VALERIE BELL	CELIA FULFORD	MARY LOWE	ANGELA STEEL
MARGARET BONE	PHYLLIS HAMBLIN	JOYCE MACKERETH	RITA STOPS
ROSALYN BOOTH	STELLA HARDING	MARILYN MORRIS	DOROTHY THORNTON
RUBY BOXALL	ANGELA HAWKINS	VERA PORTSMOUTH	MARY TOWLER
ANN COX	IRENE HAYNE	KATHERINE REED	SHEILA TUCKER
MURIEL FISHER	SUSAN JONES	ANN SHAWYER	DOREEN VEYSEY
RONALD BAVERSTOCK	RAYMOND HUTCHINS	LEONARD SHIRFIELD	
JOHN BLAKE	MICHAEL McDONNELL	GRAHAM SMITH	
PAUL CANNING	REGINALD MATTHEWS	RICHARD STEEL	
PETER CHEW	NEIL PEARSON	ANTHONY TERRIBLE	
RICHARD DAY	BRIAN POULTER	PAUL TIPPLE	
WILLIAM DAY	ERIC SALTER	FRANK WIGHTMAN	
GERALD HARDING	JAMES SAMPSON	MARIO ZOLLO	

Producer and Stage Director: GLADWYS STARLING

Musical Director: RAYMOND HUMPHREY

Dances arranged by MARY LOWE

THE CAST WILL BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU WILL KINDLY REFRAIN FROM SMOKING

MUSICAL NUMBERS

INTRODUCTION

ACT I

1. OPENING CHORUS - - - - - "Sing a down"
2. DUET (*Long Tom and Big Ben*) - - - - - "We are two proper men"
3. QUARTET AND CHORUS - - - - - "We're four men of Windsor"
4. SONG (*Jill*) - - - - - "I know that love"
5. SONG (*Essex and Chorus*) - - - - - "Who were the Yeomen"
6. SONG (*Raleigh and Chorus*) - - - - - "That every Jack should have a Jill"
7. SONG (*Wilkins with Chorus*) AND DANCE - - - - - "I do counsel"
8. GARLAND DANCE - - - - -
9. BALLAD (*Bessie*) - - - - - "She had a letter from her love"
10. DUET (*Bessie and Raleigh*) - - - - - "When true love hath found a man"
11. QUINTET - - - - - "Love is meant to make us glad"
12. SONG (*Jill and Chorus*) - - - - - "Oh! Where the deer do lie"
13. ENTRANCE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH - - - - - "God save Elizabeth"
14. SONG (*Elizabeth and Chorus*) - - - - - "O peaceful England"
15. SONG (*Wilkins and Chorus*) - - - - - "King Neptune sat on his lonely throne"
16. FINALE - - - - - "It is a tale of Robin Hood"

ACT II

17. OPENING CHORUS - - - - - "The month o' May"
18. QUARTET - - - - - "In England, Merrie England"
19. QUINTET AND CHORUS - - - - - "The sun in the heaven is high"
20. SONG (*Raleigh*) - - - - - "Dan Cupid hath a garden"
21. DUET (*Wilkins and Simkins with Chorus*) - - - - - "The Big Brass Band"
22. DUET (*Jill and Raleigh*) - - - - - "It is the merry month of May"
23. BALLAD (*Bessie*) - - - - - "She found the letter"
24. SONG (*Essex with Bessie, Jill and Raleigh*) - - - - - "When Cupid first this old world trod"
25. SONG (*Bessie*) - - - - - "O who shall say that love is cruel"
26. REPRISE (*Bessie, May Queen and Chorus*) - - - - - "Jolly Robin"
27. REPRISE (*Chorus*) - - - - - "Long live Elizabeth"
28. MASQUE OF ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON - - - - - "Egyptian Dance"
29. CHORUS WITH SOLO (*Wilkins*) - - - - - "Oh! Here's a to-do to die to-day"
30. RUSTIC DANCE - - - - -
31. ENSEMBLE - - - - - "Two merry men a-drinking"
32. FINALE - - - - - "Robin Hood's wedding"

STEWARDS

AUBREY HARDING (Chief Steward)

Ian Batchelor
Arthur Bath
Cyril Beckwith
Robert Boxall
John Cave
Reginald Croft
Victor Crosby
Cyril Fish
Raymond Furmidge
Raymond Ginsburg
Michael Harding

Colin Harris
Gerald Hayne
Derek Jackson
George Jeffries
Michael King
Norman Mackereth
Stanley Marsh
John Moreton
Patrick Moreton
Reginald Parsons
Henry Pearce

Christopher Rees
Allon Renton
Barry Richardson
Wesley Savage
Anthony Smith
David Smith
Frank Smith
Geoffrey Smith
Ronald Stainer
Martin Tucker
Michael Wyard

PROGRAMMES AND ICE CREAMS

Monica Bath
Alison Bell
Gladys Bevan
Patricia Binstead
Diana Burnfred
Claire Burton
Sheila Clark
Susan Court
Joan Davey
Lynne Day
Majorie Dollin
Gillian Duffett
Sheila Duffy
Jane Edmonds
Dorothy Elkins
Marjorie Elkins
Dorothy Furmidge

Pauline Griffiths
Pamela Hampson
Mary Hancock
Mary Harris
Phyllis Jeffries
Angela Jenkins
Christine King
Deidre Lewis
Valerie Moffat
Ellen Morris
Rosemary Negus
Eveline Parsons
June Pritchard
Alice Reed
Diana Reed
Janet Richardson

Janet Ross
Violet Russell
Mary Smith
Rosemary Smith
Sonia Smith
Stella Smith
Marcelle Stainer
Pamela Stainer
Angela Steel
Elizabeth Tipple
Winifred Trower
Patricia Trueman
Anna Walker
Gwen Wightman
Wendy Wilstead
Madeline Wyard
Phyllis Yates

A LICENSED BAR and BUFFET

IS AVAILABLE IN

THE BANQUETING HALL

At the Matinee, tea will be served
during the interval

The Society is holding its Annual Dinner Dance at the

CADENA CAFE on THURSDAY, MAY 21st

TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY MEMBER
OF THE COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

"The Pirates of Penzance"	-	1913	"Tom Jones"	-	-	1938
"The Mikado"	-	-	-	-	-	1939
"Iolanthe"	-	-	-	-	-	1947
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	-	1921	"Merrie England", Concert Version	-	-	1948
"The Gondoliers"	-	-	"Iolanthe"	-	-	1949
"Patience"	-	-	"The Gondoliers"	-	-	1950
"Ruddigore"	-	-	"Patience"	-	-	1951
"Trial by Jury" and	-	-	"Trial by Jury" and	-	-	1952
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	-	-	"The Pirates of Penzance"	-	-	1953
"Princess Ida"	-	-	"Princess Ida"	-	-	1954
"The Mikado"	-	-	"The Mikado"	-	-	1955
"Iolanthe"	-	-	"Ruddigore"	-	-	1956
"Merrie England"	-	-	"The Yeomen of the Guard"	-	-	1957
"The Gondoliers"	-	-	"Trial by Jury" and	-	-	1958
"Utopia Limited"	-	-	"H.M.S. Pinafore"	-	-	1959
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	-	1932	"The Gondoliers"	-	-	1960
"Cox and Box" and	-	-	"Utopia Limited"	-	-	1961
"The Pirates of Penzance"	-	1933	"Patience"	-	-	1962
"Ruddigore"	-	-	"Die Fledermaus"	-	-	1963
"Princess Ida"	-	-	"The Gypsy Baron"	-	-	
"The Mikado"	-	-	"The Mikado"	-	-	
"Iolanthe"	-	-	"Cox and Box" and	-	-	
			"The Pirates of Penzance"	-	-	

OVER £3,700 HAS BEEN GIVEN TO VARIOUS CHARITIES

In addition to those advertised, three performances have been given to Schools.

The Secretaries are available at each performance and will be delighted to give you details of membership of the Society. Both acting and non-acting members are always welcome, and applications may be sent at any time to the Secretaries at "Overdale," Twyford (Telephone: Twyford 3350).

THE SOCIETY EXTENDS A CORDIAL WELCOME
TO MEMBERS OF VISITING SOCIETIES.