

WINCHESTER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY - 1969

“LA VIE PARISIENNE”



WINCHESTER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY



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and Dramatic Society*

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Since the formation of the Society, over £4,000 have been given to various charities.

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

The Society is anxious to acquire premises for use as a theatre workshop and possibly rehearsal rooms. All information would be gratefully received.

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 "Overdale," Twyford (Tel.: Twyford 3350)

The Society extends a cordial welcome to members of visiting Societies

THE STORY OF "LA VIE PARISIENNE"

Joie de Vie ! Never waste a single minute !
There could be sixty happy seconds in it.
That's why we live to love and love to live ;
The world has nothing more to give if you have
Joie de Vie !

Such is the magic of "La Vie Parisienne"—loosely translated it must mean "If you have happiness, you have everything," and what a wonderful philosophy that is.

Offenbach was a specialist in happiness and gaiety and his operetta "La Vie Parisienne" is a typical example of his great ability to translate moods, emotions and aspirations which to most of us are impossible to express, let alone commit to music.

The year is 1860 : The place Paris, where the first scene discloses Raoul and Bobinet somewhat disillusioned on being both jilted by Metella—a fashionable but fickle cocotte. They quickly recover, however, and decided to devote their time and attentions to the "Charms of High Society Ladies." To that end, Bobinet retires to re-win the affections of a certain little Countess, whilst Raoul evolves a highly ingenious—if hackneyed—scheme and changes identity with a hotel guide in order to pursue a Swedish Baroness due to arrive with her Baron on the next train.

Both the Baron and Baroness Gondremarck are anxious to make the most of their holiday—and the Baron, a gullible would-be "gay dog" with rather naive ideas as to how Paris should live up to its reputation of gaiety, falls an easy victim to the wiles of Raoul.

Brazil, a flamboyant Brazilian millionaire, and also on holiday, arrives amidst a veritable flurry of bank notes, and is soon involved not only with the delectable glovemaker Gabrielle but also in the plot to keep the Baron occupied during Raoul's amorous persual of the Baroness. Luncheon at Raoul's sumptuous abode on the Champs Elysees (or an annexe of the Grand Hotel as the Baron believes it to be) is an uproarious affair with Gabrielle's friends, complete with an unaccountable party of Tyroleans, roped in for the occasion.

The scene now changes to the stately Chateau Fontenue, where the domestic staff, under the direction of Pauline the housekeeper, are preparing for "Operation Baron." Bobinet assumes the role of Admiral Flagstadt with Pauline as the Admiral's lady, and the entire ensemble complete the masquerade from Porto-Rican General to Pontevedrian Plenipotentiary. The party reaches its inevitable climax of frenzied gaiety as champagne flows like the proverbial water and the Baron relapses into an oblivion of rose-coloured glasses and whirling can-can skirts.

The last scene, with Marcel Maitre d'Hotel, is the Cafe Des Anglais, a smart Parisienne rendezvous where all the characters eventually arrive, duly restored to their original state. We never discover how Raoul fared with the Baroness (which is perhaps just as well). Suffice to say that she is re-united with the Baron, and in good comic opera tradition every man conveniently and happily discovers the maid of his choice.

So ends "La Vie Parisienne." Only life is different. C'est la Vie !

N.G.K.

45th PRODUCTION

APRIL-MAY, 1969

"LA VIE PARISIENNE"

Music by Jacques Offenbach

Original Libretto by H. Meilhac and L. Halevy

Arranged and adapted by Ronald Hamner

New Books and Lyrics by Phil Park

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.

Dramatis Personae

Gabrielle (<i>a glovemaker</i>)	BARBARA DE RETUERTO
Baroness Gondremarck (<i>a visitor to Paris</i>)	PHYLLIS HAMBLIN
Metella (<i>a fashionable cocotte</i>)	AUDREY CATTERMOLLE-THOMSON
Pauline (<i>a housekeeper</i>)	KATHLEEN FISH
Julie } (<i>domestics</i>)	SUSAN HARRIS
Louise }	HEATHER HUNTER
Raoul } (<i>men about Paris</i>)	REGINALD READ
Bobinet }	GEOFFREY BURNABY
Brazil (<i>a millionaire holiday-maker</i>)	RICHARD STEEL
Baron Gondremarck (<i>a visitor to Paris</i>)	NORMAN KEMISH
Marcel (<i>Maitre d'hotel</i>)	ANDREW SIMPSON
Pierre } (<i>menservants</i>)	AUSTEN HOOKER
Jacques }	BRIAN HURST
Station Master	RICHARD TROWER
Joseph (<i>a guide</i>)	PETER BROWN
Porter	LEWIS DEVONALD
Alphonse (<i>a waiter</i>)	CECIL ROBERTS

Chorus of Parisians, Railway Staff, Tourists, Guests, Servants, etc.

Act I - Scene 1 - Western Railway Terminus
Scene 2 - Raoul's house in the Champs-Elysees

Act II - - - The Salon Fontenue

Act III - - - Cafe Des Anglals

Place : Paris Time : The 1860's

MARGARET ALLEN
MARGARET BARTON
VALERIE BELL
MARGARET BONE
ELIZABETH BROWN
JILL BURFORD

Ladies of the Chorus :

ELIZABETH DUFF
MURIEL FISHER
MARGARET HODSON
STELLA HOLT
JOYCE MACEY

Gentlemen of the Chorus :

REGINALD ELSON
JOHN GIBSON
RAYMOND HUTCHINS
WILLIAM JONES

JOYCE MACKERETH
PAMELA DUFF
KATHY PHILLIPS
SUSAN PRINT
RITA STOPS
CHRISTINE WINTLE

JOHN SHOOBRIDGE
GEOFFREY SMITH
RONALD STAINER

Children : SUSAN SMITH MATHEW STAINER

Can-Can Dancers : VERONICA DAVIS PAMELA DUFF SHEILA STILING KATHERINE STOCKS

Producer and Stage Director: BERTRAM DOBSON. Musical Director: RAYMOND HUMPHREY

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I.

1. OPENING (Chorus) "Gay Paree"
2. ENTRANCE OF METELLA (Metella, Raoul, Bobinet and Chorus) "Here we are"
3. LADIES OF SOCIETY (Raoul and Bobinet) "The world of fashion"
4. ENTRANCE OF BARON AND BARONESS (Baroness, Baron and Raoul) "So we arrive"
5. FINALE SCENE I (Baroness, Raoul, Brazil and Chorus) "Joi de Vie"
6. PARIS INTERLUDE
7. OPENING SCENE 2
- 7(a). "NO-NO-NO" (Gabrielle and Brazil) "Your methods amaze me"
8. "TO-NIGHT !" (Raoul, Bobinet and Brazil) "A most intriguing plot"
9. THE LETTER SONG (Metella) "Metella dear, do you recall?"
10. FINALE (Gabrielle, Baroness, Raoul, Baron and Chorus) "Here we are in time for the feast"
11. ENTR'ACTE

Act II

12. OPENING (Pauline, Louise, Julie, Pierre, Jacques and Chorus) "Here in the stately Chateau Fontenue"
13. "TRY ANYTHING ONCE" (Pauline, Louise, Julie, Pierre, Jacques and Chorus) "I knew on you I could rely"
14. "JOIE-DE-VIE !" (Bobinet, Brazil and Chorus) "Any man on vacation"
15. "LITTLE CLOUD" (Pauline and Baron) "The poets may sing"
16. "FROU-FROU, TOCK-TOCK" (Gabrielle and Chorus) "When Ma'moiselle Parisienne"
17. "YOU HAVE SPLIT YOUR JACKET" (Ensemble and Chorus) "Here comes the Admiral"
18. FINALE (Ensemble and Chorus) "Now its time to celebrate"
19. ENTR'ACTE

Act III

20. OPENING (Marcel and Chorus) "When a man's in amorous mood"
21. "THESE MAGIC HOURS" (Raoul and Metella) "Is it really true"
22. GABRIELLE AND BRAZIL (Gabrielle, Brazil and Chorus) "Imagine it — well, well!"
23. FINALE (Full Company) "Our charade now is ended"

The cast will be most grateful if you will kindly refrain from smoking

ORCHESTRA

1st Violins : AUDREY DOBSON FRANCIS WELLS GLADYS HARTNELL OLIVE WALKER	'Cellos : A. BENKE OLIVE ORME ANDREA VALCO	Bassoon : JIM BURGESS
2nd Violins : MARY BARTER BARBARA NOYCE HORACE NEEDLE RITA LEIGHTON	Double Bass : RICHARD WATSON	Horns : PATRICK JORDAN KATHARINE EDMONDS
Violas : HAROLD POOLEY HILDA JEFFERY	Flutes : JOAN KING RUTH HILLIER	Trumpets : STANLEY PAYNE CHARLES RHODES
	Oboe: ALEC ORTON	Trombones: BRAM TAYLOR GORDON CUTLER
	Clarinets : ROY HARWOOD JUDITH BAILEY	Tampani : WILLIAM BENNETT

Assistant Musical Director	FELTON RAPLEY
Accompanist at Rehearsals	DORIS PEARCE
Stage Manager	EDWARD CONNOLLY
Assistant Stage Manager	JOANNA BURNABY
Stage Assistants	PHILIP BECKWITH, GEORGE STONE, LEWIS DEVONALD, DON SMALL, LAURIE GEORGE, PETER COX, PAUL WILLIAMS, TONY HUNTER, BOB NIMMO
Lighting	DAVID HARDING, BARRY ANSCOMBE, PHILLIP PETTY
Call Boys	AUBREY HARDING, GERALD HARDING
Properties	MARY MOORE
Prompter	CHRISTINE WALTERS
Make-up	NORRIS ELTON
Make-up Assistants	VALERIE CAVILL, JOYCE MACKERETH, MURIEL WILSON
Wardrobe Mistresses	ENID BAVERSTOCK, ELLEN DAY
Can-Can Choreographer	BARBARA NOBLE
Chief Steward	DAVID BELL
Scenery	CAPE SCENERY SERVICE
Selected Costumes, Wigs, Etc.	STAR COSTUME STUDIOS
Acts 1 and 2 Ladies' Chorus Costumes Designed by ANN BOWYER. Created by ANN BOWYER, assisted by JOAN KEMISH and Ladies of the Society.	

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

"The Pirates of Penzance"	1913	"Iolanthe"	1948
"The Mikado"	1914	"The Gondoliers"	1949
"Iolanthe"	1920	"Patience"	1950
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1921	"Trial by Jury" and	
"The Gondoliers"	1922	"The Pirates of Penzance"	1951
"Patience"	1923	"Princess Ida"	1952
"Ruddigore"	1924	"The Mikado"	1953
"Trial by Jury" and		"Ruddigore"	1954
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1925	"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1955
"Princess Ida"	1926	"Trial by Jury" and	
"The Mikado"	1927	"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1956
"Iolanthe"	1928	"The Gondoliers"	1957
"Merrie England"	1929	"Utopia Limited"	1958
"The Gondoliers"	1930	"Patience"	1959
"Utopia Limited"	1931	"Die Fledermaus"	1960
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1932	"The Gypsy Baron"	1961
"Cox and Box" and		"The Mikado"	1962
"The Pirates of Penzance"	1933	"Cox and Box" and	
"Ruddigore"	1934	"The Pirates of Penzance"	1963
"Princess Ida"	1935	"Merrie England"	1964
"The Mikado"	1936	"Iolanthe"	1965
"Iolanthe"	1937	"Princess Ida"	1966
"Tom Jones"	1938	"The Gondoliers"	1967
"Monsieur Beaucaire"	1939	"Ruddigore"	1968
"Merrie England" (Concert Version)	1947		

In Memoriam

The Society deeply regret the loss of
HUGH DILLON TRENCHARD
 (Honorary Treasurer of the Society for many years) who died on April 10th, 1969
 And of
NEIL PEARSON
 who died tragically on September 26th, 1968, at the early age of 24 years.

"Is life a boon?
 If so, it must befall
 That death, when'er he call
 Must call too soon."
 W. S. Gilbert

The Society gratefully acknowledges the generous help given in advertising space, distribution of leaflets, display of posters, loan of properties and in many other ways on its behalf

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Desmond Holland	

A licensed Bar and Buffet is available in The Banqueting Hall

At the Matinee, Tea will be served during the first interval

The Society is holding its

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

At the Royal Hotel, Southampton, on May 9th, 1969

Tickets may be obtained from any member of the Society.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Third Annual Concert - November, 1969