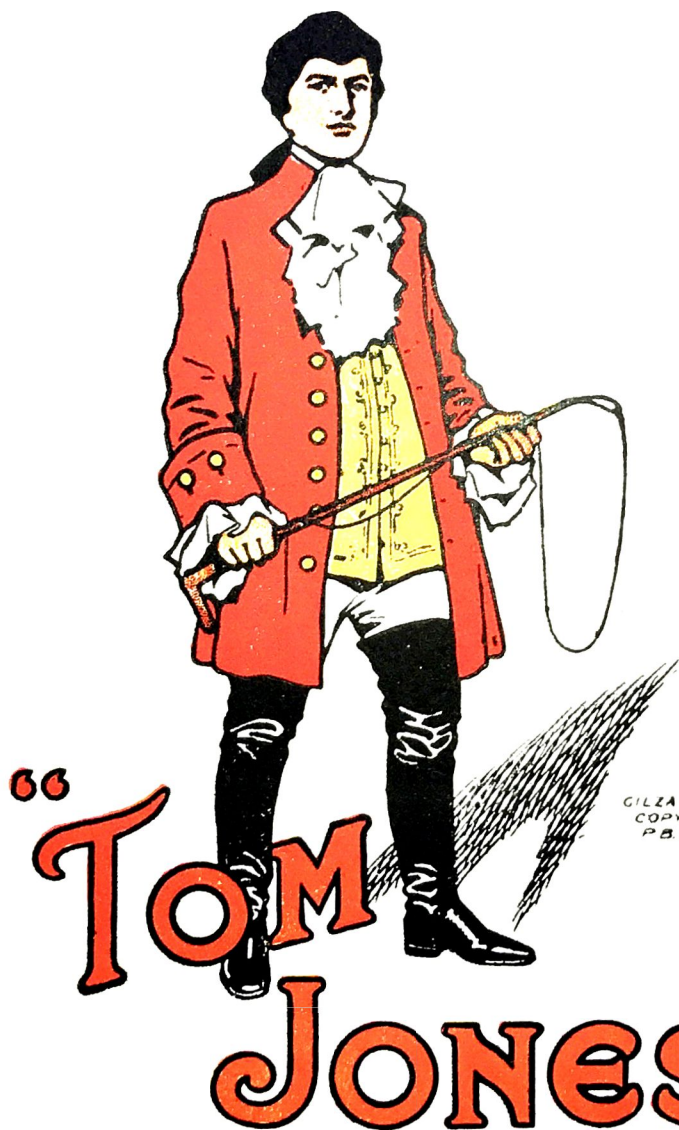


Winchester Amateur Operatic Society

21st SESSION

The Guildhall
Winchester

May 10th to 14th
1938



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County
Matinee

Wed. May 11th
at 3 p.m.

THE STORY OF THE OPERA



A BRIEF summary of the story of "Tom Jones" may help many to enjoy its presentation in operatic form, for though it follows Henry Fielding's famous classical novel in most of its essential and intriguing features, considerable latitude is taken in adapting it for stage purposes and also with due regard to present-day susceptibilities. The hero of the story, Tom Jones, enjoys the widest popularity, not only with his many friends in the hunting field, but particularly amongst the fair sex, for he is a fine upstanding young fellow, handsome and fascinating to the last degree and ever ready to deal a blow or draw the sword on behalf of those who are in dire need of help.

There is a mystery about his birth, for he is a foundling who has been adopted by a wealthy Somersetshire magistrate, Mr. Allworthy. Sophia, the beautiful daughter of Squire Western, owes her life to him, this happening in the hunting field, his gallantry earning for him a broken arm and as a consequence a month's convalescence in the Squire's house. Sophia and Tom fall madly in love with one another but her father has other designs, for a marriage has been arranged for her with the magistrate's rather despicable nephew, Mr. Blifil, whom Sophia cordially detests. Blifil's proposal of marriage leads to a terrible to-do, the irate Squire fuming and bellowing at his obdurate daughter, Tom fighting with Blifil is "cast off for ever" by his guardian, while poor Sophia, endeavouring to placate her irascible parent is taught an old English lesson in filial obedience by him. "*Be gone, ungrateful hussy, quit my sight!*" and the disobedient daughter is hurled to the floor by her enraged parent for daring to embrace the foundling Tom Jones in defiance of his wishes.

The second Act finds Tom consoling himself for the time being with Lady Bellaston who, nothing loath, is only too ready to encourage him. He takes her to the Village Inn at

Upton *en route* to London. Sophia and her vivacious maid Honour, on their way to London, also arrive at the Inn and complications ensue, for Sophia believes him to be faithless—appearances are certainly against him. Benjamin Partridge, the Upton barber and quack doctor, scenting a mystery here which he can turn to his own benefit, carries out his own original investigations in true "Inspector Hornleigh style," but without much success as far as the ladies' identities are concerned, for he mixes things up rather sadly. But he does find out one tremendously important fact, and that the true relationship between Tom Jones and Mr. Allworthy, *viz.*, nephew and uncle. This is the ace he holds and means to play not only to his own advantage, but Tom and Sophia's, for he is no friend of Blifil.

The concluding Act finds its picturesque setting at Ranelagh Gardens, London, Sophia, disillusioned and heartbroken, plunging into Society and creating a furore by her unusual beauty. She is the acknowledged belle and in great demand. Tom pursues and, quaintly enough, most of the other characters, and the scene draws to a happy close, the old Squire, hearing of Tom's identity, relenting, and giving his consent to their marriage. Lady Bellaston, robbed of her 'prey,' speaks her questionably virtuous mind in far from honey'd accents, while Honour, the faithful and resourceful maid, gives notice, for she and Gregory have agreed to settle down in 'a little roadside Inn,' where *she* can bully the customers to pay for ale which *he* will drink. The scheming barber, Partridge, is the only one who has failed to make good, for he loses his anticipated bride and the remains of his hard-earned money, a penniless condition which finds its tragic climax in an empty stomach. The Opera reaches its happy ending with the joyful ringing of the wedding bells:—

"Hark! the merry marriage bells,
Ding dong, ling long!
Come you swains and damosels
Ding dong, ling long!"

A charming and altogether delightful Opera, and the Company hope that all their many patrons who have enjoyed its presentation will help in a further practical manner by urging their friends to come and see it before the Opera Week closes.

A. C.

MUSICAL NUMBERS :

ACT I.

INTRODUCTION AND CHORUS - - - "Don't you find the weather charming?"
 SONG (Squire Western) AND CHORUS - - - "On a January morning"
 SONG (Tom Jones) AND CHORUS - - - "West Country Lad"
 SONG (Sophia) - - - "To-day my spinet"
 INTERLUDE (Honour, Sophia and Tom) - - - "I gave your message"
 TRIO " " " " - - - "Wisdom says '*Festina Lente*'"
 ENSEMBLE (Honour and Gregory, with Betty, Peggy, Dobbin and Grizzle) "The Barley Mow"
 MADRIGAL (Sophia, Honour, Tom and Allworthy) - - - "Here's a paradox for lovers"
 FINALE (Sophia, Tom, Blifil, Western) AND CHORUS - - - "For aye my love"

ACT II.

OPENING CHORUS (with Hostess and Officer) - - - "Hurry bustle! hurry bustle!"
 SONG (Benjamin Partridge) AND CHORUS - - - "A person of parts"
 SONG (Sophia) - - - "Dream o'day Jill"
 SONG (Gregory) AND CHORUS - - - "Gurt Uncle Jan Tappit"
 CHORUS (Hostess) AND CHORUS - - - "My Lady's coach has been attacked"
 SONG (Honour) - - - "As all the maids"
 LAUGHING TRIO (Honour, Gregory and Partridge) - - - "You have a pretty wit"
 SONG (Tom) AND CHORUS - - - "A soldier's scarlet coat"
 SONG (Sophia) AND CHORUS - - - "Love maketh the heart a garden fair"
 FINALE (Western, Partridge, Tom, Lady Bellaston, Officer and Hostess) AND CHORUS
 "Where be my daughter?"

ACT III.

INTRODUCTION—MORRIS DANCE - - - - - Orchestra
 GAVOTTE (Chorus) - - - - - "Glass of Fashion"
 SONG (Honour) AND MALE CHORUS - - - - - "All for a green ribbon"
 SONG (Tom) - - - - - "If love's content"
 BARGAROLLE—CHORUS - - - - - "Beguile, beguile, with music sweet"
 RECIT AND WALTZ SONG (Sophia) - - - - - "Which is my own true self?"
 FINALE (Sophia, Honour, Tom) AND CHORUS - - - - - "Hark! the merry marriage bells"

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