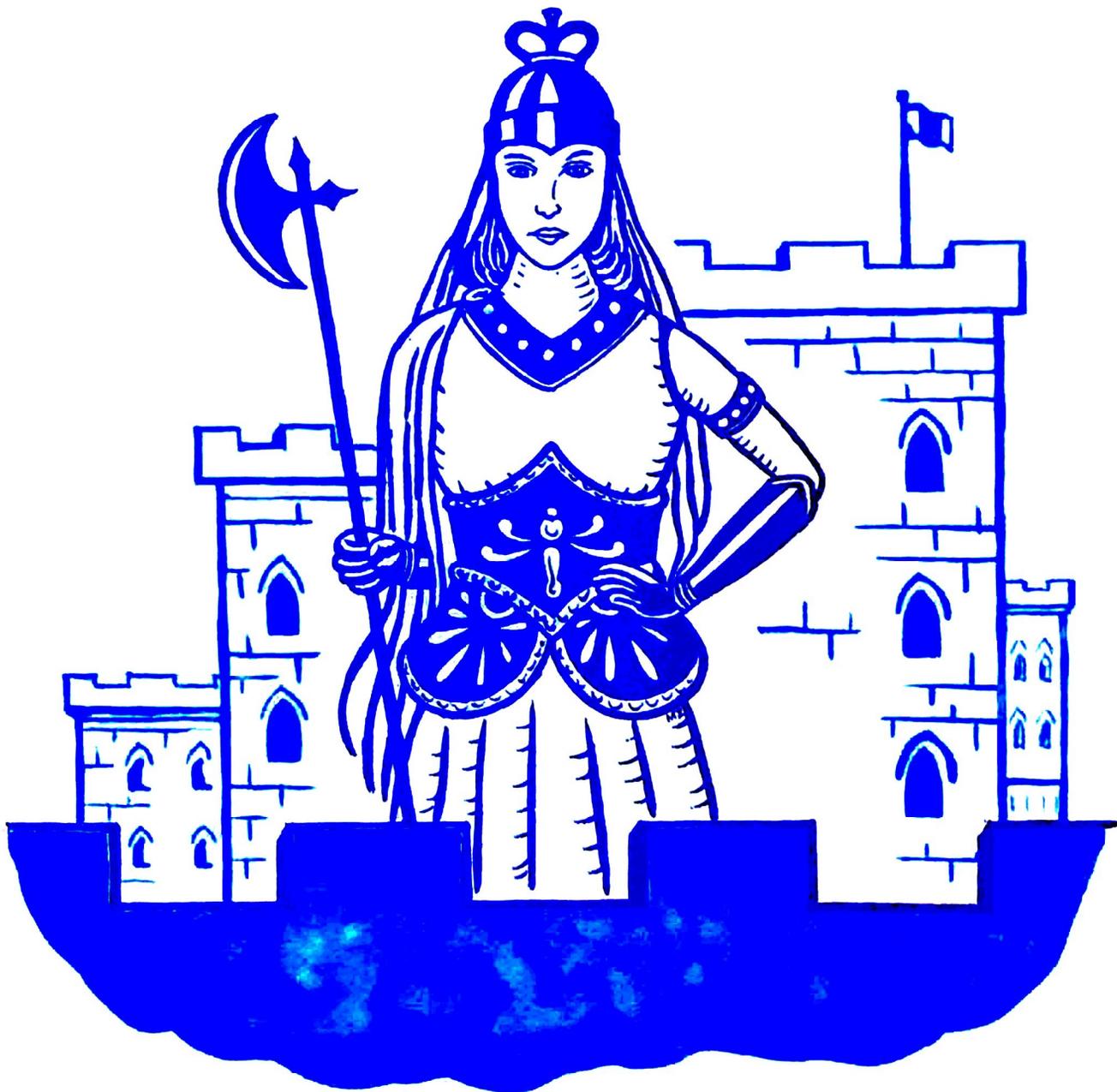


# PRINCESS IDA



W·A·O·S

# WINCHESTER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY



*Affiliated to the National Operatic  
and Dramatic Association*

*President:*

DR. RONALD GIBSON, O.B.E.

*Vice-Presidents:*

THE VERY REVEREND O. H. GIBBS-SMITH, C.B.E.

R. H. McCALL, ESQ.

LT-COL. SIR JOHN MACLURE, Bt., O.B.E.

LT-COL. SIR WILLIAM MAKINS, Bt., J.P.

ADMIRAL SIR VAUGHAN MORGAN, K.B.E., C.B., M.V.O., D.L.

THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT SIMONDS

THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER

*Executive Committee:*

*Chairman,* RICHARD TROWER

BRYON CAVILL  
DOROTHY CROSBY  
BARBARA HARDING

GERALD HARDING  
IRENE HAYNE  
MERVYN HAYNE

BRIAN HURST  
NORMAN KEMISH  
PAUL TIPPLE

*Treasurer:* ROBERT DANIELL

*Assistant Treasurer:* JOHN MEAD

*Auditor:* ALGERNON ROTHMAN

*Joint Secretaries:*

ROY and VERA PORTSMOUTH

# STORY OF THE OPERA

## ACT I.

"PRINCESS IDA" was first produced on January 5th, 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 field-glasses 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 venomous 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 Women'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 hanged, 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 feet 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, with all of which they seem to heartily agree.

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

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 Melissa, 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 fresco* 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 been brought along in chains, also warn her that refusal to yield will mean death to them and incidentally to 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, rifle-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 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.

“PRINCESS IDA”

or Castle Adamant

Lyrics by Sir W. S. Gilbert

Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan

*Dramatis personae:*

King Hildebrand	AUSTEN HOOKER
Hilarion ( <i>his Son</i> )	CLIVE GAMESON
Cyril	RICHARD STEEL
Florian } ( <i>Hilarion's Friends</i> )	GEOFFREY BURNABY
King Gama	NORMAN KEMISH
Arac	WILLIAM JONES
Guron } ( <i>his Sons</i> )	BRIAN HURST
Scynthius }	RICHARD TROWER
Princess Ida ( <i>Gama's Daughter</i> )	LORNA CODRINGTON
Lady Blanche ( <i>Professor of Abstract Science</i> )	DOROTHY CROSBY
Lady Psyche ( <i>Professor of Humanities</i> )	PATRICIA HADDOCK
Melissa ( <i>Lady Blanche's Daughter</i> )	HEATHER TUFFILL
Sacharissa	MARGARET BONE
Chloe } ( <i>Girl Graduates</i> )	VALERIE BELL
Ada }	MURIEL FISHER

Chorus of Soldiers, Courtiers, "Girl Graduates," "Daughters of the Plough"

Act I.	<b>Pavilion in King Hildebrand's Palace</b>
ACT II.	<b>Gardens of Castle Adamant</b>
ACT III.	<b>Courtyard of Castle Adamant</b>

*Courtiers, "Girl Graduates," and Daughters of the Plough:*

RUBY BOXALL	JOYCE HUNTER	MARY MINTO
JOANNA BURNABY	SANDRA JOHNSON	MARJORY MONRO
JANET CRABTREE	SUSAN JONES	JENIFER REVELL
CHRISTINE GRAYSON	JOYCE MACEY	ELIZABETH STONE
PHYLLIS HAMBLIN	JOYCE MACKERETH	RITA STOPS
STELLA HOLT	FRANKIE McNAMEE	CHRISTINE WALTERS

*Courtiers and Soldiers:*

RONALD BAVERSTOCK	RICHARD DAY	REGINALD MATHEWS
JOHN BLAKE	DAVID EDWARDS	BRIAN POULTER
DAVID BRYANT	BRIAN GREEN	ROQUE REVELL
PAUL CANNING	DAVID HEWITT	ALEC SAMPSON
BRYON CAVILL	ANTHONY HUNTER	ANTHONY SMITH
LIONEL CHEW		MARIO ZOLLO

Musical Director: RAYMOND HUMPHREY Producer and Stage Director: GLADWYS STARLING

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

ACT I.

INTRODUCTION

1. CHORUS AND SOLO (*Florian*) "Search throughout the panorama"
2. SONG (*Hildebrand and Chorus*) "Now hearken to my strict command"
3. RECIT AND SONG (*Hilarion*) "To-day we meet"
4. CHORUS "From the distant panorama"
5. TRIO (*Arac, Guron and Scynthius*) "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. CHORUS OF GIRLS AND SOLOS (*Lady Psyche, Melissa and Chloe*) "Towards the empyrean heights"
9. CHORUS OF GIRLS "Mighty maiden"
10. RECIT AND ARIA (*Princess*) "Minerva! Minerva!"
11. TRIO (*Hilarion, Cyril and Florian*) "Gently, Gently"
12. TRIO (*Hilarion, Cyril and Florian*) "I am a maiden"
13. QUARTET (*Princess, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian*) "The world is but a broken toy"
14. SONG (*Lady Psyche with Hilarion, Cyril and Florian*) "A lady fair of lineage high"
15. QUINTET "The woman of the wisest wit"
16. DUET (*Melissa and Lady Blanche*) "Now wouldn't you like"
17. CHORUS OF GIRLS, SOLOS (*Blanche and Cyril*) "Merrily ring the luncheon bell"
18. SONG (*Cyril*) "Would you know the kind of maid"
19. FINALE "Oh joy our chief is saved"

ACT III.

20. CHORUS AND SOLO (*Melissa*) "Death to the invader!"
21. SONG (*King Gama*) "When'er I spoke"
22. SONG (*Princess*) "I built upon a rock"
23. CHORUS OF LADIES AND SOLDIERS "When anger spreads his wings"
24. SONG (*Arac with Scynthius, Guron and Chorus*) "This helmet I suppose"
25. CHORUS DURING THE FIGHT "This is our duty"
26. FINALE "With joy abiding"

# ORCHESTRA

1st Violins :  
NELLIE FULCHER  
AUDREY DOBSON  
FRANCIS WELLS  
GLADYS HARTNELL  
ARTHUR PUNTER

2nd Violins :  
PAMELA SAMPSON  
HELEN TAYLOR  
DENNIS BARDEN  
KENNETH CLIFT

Violas :  
HAROLD POOLEY  
HILDA JEFFERY

'Cellos :  
DOROTHY MILNER  
LEONARD STARLING  
TIMOTHY MASON

Double Bass :  
JANE COWAN

Flutes :  
JOHN CLARKE  
RUTH HILLIER

Oboe :  
ALEC ORTON

Clarinets :  
ROY HARWOOD  
JOHN MILNER

Bassoon :  
NIGEL ROWE

Horns :  
PETER MORRIS  
CHARLIE JACKSON

Trumpets :  
STANLEY PAYNE  
CHARLES RHODES

Trombones :  
GORDON CUTLER  
BRAM TAYLOR

Timpani :  
WILLIAM BENNETT

## PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

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

Accompanist at Rehearsals	DORIS PEARCE
Stage Manager	BILL THALLON
Stage Assistants	TED CONNOLLY LAURIE GEORGE LESLIE GROVES TONY HAWTHORNE DAVID HEWITT TIM MARRACK JOHN S. ROBINSON DON SMALL
Lighting	JAMES OFFORD ROBIN HOLLOWAY DAVID JAMES
Call Boys	GERALD HARDING GEORGE ROJAHN
Prompter and Assistant to Producer	VALERIE CAVILL
Make-up Assistants	NORRIS ELTON PENELOPE KIMBER LAURENCE WARD MURIEL WILSON
Wardrobe Mistresses	ENID BAVERSTOCK ELLEN DAY
Programme Cover Design	MARIO ZOLLO
Chief Steward	NEIL PEARSON
Costumes	CHARLES H. FOX LTD.
Scenery	STAGE SCENERY LTD.
Make-up	JULES MARTEN

---

**Since the formation of the Society over  
£3,750  
have 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 "Overdale," Twyford (Tel.: Twyford 3350)

*The Society extends a cordial welcome  
to members of visiting Societies*

The Society gratefully acknowledges the generous help given in newspaper advertising space and in distribution of leaflets on its behalf by the following:

Calder Cave  
Fred Croft  
Drix Products  
S. J. Hancock & Sons  
A. E. Hayne & Son  
Hollands  
Jewry Garages

Gale-Kemish & Co.  
The Minster Cafe  
Reg Parsons  
Richardson & Starling  
Hubert Smith & Son  
A. G. White  
Whitwams

---

A LICENSED BAR and BUFFET

is available in

THE BANQUETING HALL

At the Matinée, tea will be served  
during the first interval

---

The Society is holding its

**ANNUAL DINNER DANCE AT THE GUILDHALL**

**ON**

**THURSDAY - MAY 26th**

Tickets may be obtained from any member of the Committee