

IOLANTHE

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
OPERATIC SOCIETY



FEBRUARY
1965

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OPERATIC SOCIETY

presents

IOLANTHE

or

THE PEER AND THE PERI

Written by : W. S. Gilbert

Composed by : Arthur Sullivan

Musical Director : Bernard Jupp

Assistant Musical Director : Robin White

Producer : Michael Rawley

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION CONCERT HALL

FEBRUARY 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, 1965
at 7.30 p.m.

FOREWORD

The greatest charm of the work of Gilbert and Sullivan is undeniably its agelessness—its eternal youth. It is always fresh, it is always new; perhaps that is why it is not easy to interpret.

In this, our thirteenth year, it is fitting, therefore, that we should choose to perform afresh one of the wittiest and most tuneful of the Savoy operas.

This Society is probably unique amongst amateur societies in that we are able to draw upon both the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music for our female leads. The chorus ladies are drawn from many local colleges and all the gentlemen from Imperial College.

From the diversity of backgrounds inevitable in such a society, I feel sure that we will again achieve the ultimate aim of the whole Society—your enjoyment.

CHRIS HOCKING,
Chairman.

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LAMLEY'S

 1 Exhibition Road, S.W.7

PRODUCERS' NOTES

In my notes I have always avoided giving a synopsis of the plot—this insults both your intelligence and our production—and instead give the story of some outstanding incident connected with the original production. The rise and fall of the amazing partnership was full of such significant episodes.

Iolanthe coming, as it did, seventh out of the fourteen shows that spanned the years from 1871 to 1893, ushered in the middle period of comparatively uneventful success. It was preceded by HMS Pinafore in 1878, Pirates of Penzance 1880 and Patience 1881 and was followed by Princess Ida 1884, the Mikado 1885 and Ruddigore 1886.

One of the biggest problems of this period was the lack of sufficient copyright protection, particularly in the United States, where piracy of their operas was still depriving Gilbert, Sullivan and Carte of thousands of pounds a year. Partial protection was obtained by simultaneous British and American productions. Heading the American team were Miss Helen Lenoir, afterwards Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, and Alfred Cellier as conductor. As usual Sullivan finished the music in a rush at the last minute. So late, in fact, that he had to ask Cellier to write the overture for the American production.

As a further security precaution Iolanthe, up to the final rehearsal had been called "Perola" when it was changed back, much to the consternation of the cast who doubted their ability to remember the correct name. To overcome the difference in the number of syllables, the cast had had to sing "come Perola" at rehearsals.

On the opening night Gilbert was pacing up and down the Thames Embankment as had become his habit, while back at the Savoy theatre an expectant hush fell over the audience. The brilliant electric lights, which had been installed the previous year for the first time in any theatre, had dimmed and Sullivan came onto the rostrum. The audience cheered and another brilliant Savoy opera was launched.

Among the audience that night was the popular Captain Eyre Massey Shaw, who had turned the independent fire brigades of London, financed by the insurance companies, into London's first public fire brigade. No one was more astonished than he when the Fairy Queen, played by Alice Barnett, advanced downstage toward him and sang:

"Oh Captain Shaw
Type of true love kept under!
Could thy Brigade
With cold cascade
Quench my great love, I wonder!"

M.J.R.

IOLA

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

THE LORD CHANCELLOR HARRY EPTON
EARL OF MOUNTARARAT RICHARD AULT
EARL TOLLOLLER TONY SMYTH
PTE. WILLIS (of the Grenadier Guards) CHRIS HOCKING
STREPHON (an Arcadian Shepherd) DENIS YELL
QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES DIANA CROMPTON
IOLANTHE (a Fairy, Strephon's Mother) ANN HAY
CELIA ELIZABETH LOWRY
LEILA Fairies DOROTHY GRAY
FLETA PENNY TYSOE
PHYLLIS (an Arcadian Shepherdess and Ward in Chancery)
SUSAN BROWNE

Chorus of Fairies : Bema Aidalberry, Janet Birkin, Elisabeth Carter, Ann Collas, Mary Ferguson, Caroline Herbert, Sally Powell, Elizabeth Riach, Ann Shinar, Jean Strevens, Barbara Turpin, Judy Watts, Mary B. Williams. Christine Parkyns.

Chorus of Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts and Barons: Derek Barr, John Bass, Ivan Burgess, Edwin Colgan, John Foster, Peter Harrison, Jack Hopkins, Mike Hutton, Martyn Johnson, Trevor Laird, David Penfold, Jeremy Sammes, Stuart Watson.

Chorus Leader : Tony Mallia
Prompter : Gillian Haley

NTHE

ACT I

AN ARCADIAN LANDSCAPE

ACT II

NEW PALACE YARD, WESTMINSTER

(Coffee will be on sale during the interval)

Stage Manager TONY MARSHALLSAY
Assistant Stage Manager MIKE CLERK
Lighting Supervisor PHILIP EDWARDS
Assistant Lighting Supervisor VALERIE HUTCHINGS
Make-up SUSAN BROWNE, ROGER HARKER
Set designed and props found by CAROLINE HERBERT
Business Manager CHRIS HOCKING
Social Secretaries JANET BIRKIN, PENNY TYSOE
Sales Manager RICHARD AULT
Publicity Manager EDWIN COLGAN
Programme Manager TREVOR LAIRD

Stage Assistants: Nigel Nettleship, Herbert Strasse, Pete Cartwright, Dave Harris, Jon Shanahan, Paddy Godfrey, Walter Plinge, John Pierce, Ryhs Befan, Andy Cann, I C. Binns, Eric Thorniley.

The Society wishes to express its appreciation to the Dramatic Society for its kind co-operation.

ORCHESTRA

Leader : MYRNA FLEET

First Violin : John Middleton, Miriam Broome, Oliver Walter
Second Violin : Darshan Pandya, Chia Choon Wei, Jeffery Plenty
Viola : Lucy Mabey, Christopher Sharp
'Cello : Patricia Welch, Margaret Snowball,
Carol Thompson
Double Bass : Anne Bankofier, Robin White
Flute : Donia Stead, Chris Icham,
Oboe : Jennifer Caws
Clarinet : Josephine McHale, Peter Willan
Bassoon : Stanley Chalmers
Horn : Dorothy Brown, Fred Shaub
Trumpet : Richard Kaufmann, R. V. R. Lister
Trombone : Danny Allmark, Michael Mitchell
Percussion : Anne Stangar, John Brightwell
Hon. Accompanist : KAREN WILLIAMS

IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHOIR

Conductor : Dr. E. H. Brown

Elgar : Dream of Gerontius

THURSDAY, 18th March at 8 pm

in the Concert Hall of the
Royal College of Music

*TICKETS PRICE 5/-
obtainable from members of the choir*



HARRY EPTON
(Lord Chancellor)



ANN HAY
(Iolanthe)



MICHAEL RAWLEY
(Producer)



CHRIS HOCKING
(Pte. Willis, Chairman)



DIANA CROMPTON
(Fairy Queen)



BERNARD JUPP
(Musical Director)



DENIS YELL
(Strephon)



SUSAN BROWNE
(Phyllis)



ROBIN WHITE
(Ass. Musical Director)



RICHARD AULT
(Earl of Mountarat)



TONY SMYTH
(Earl Tolloller)



TONY MALLIA
(Chorus Leader)

