

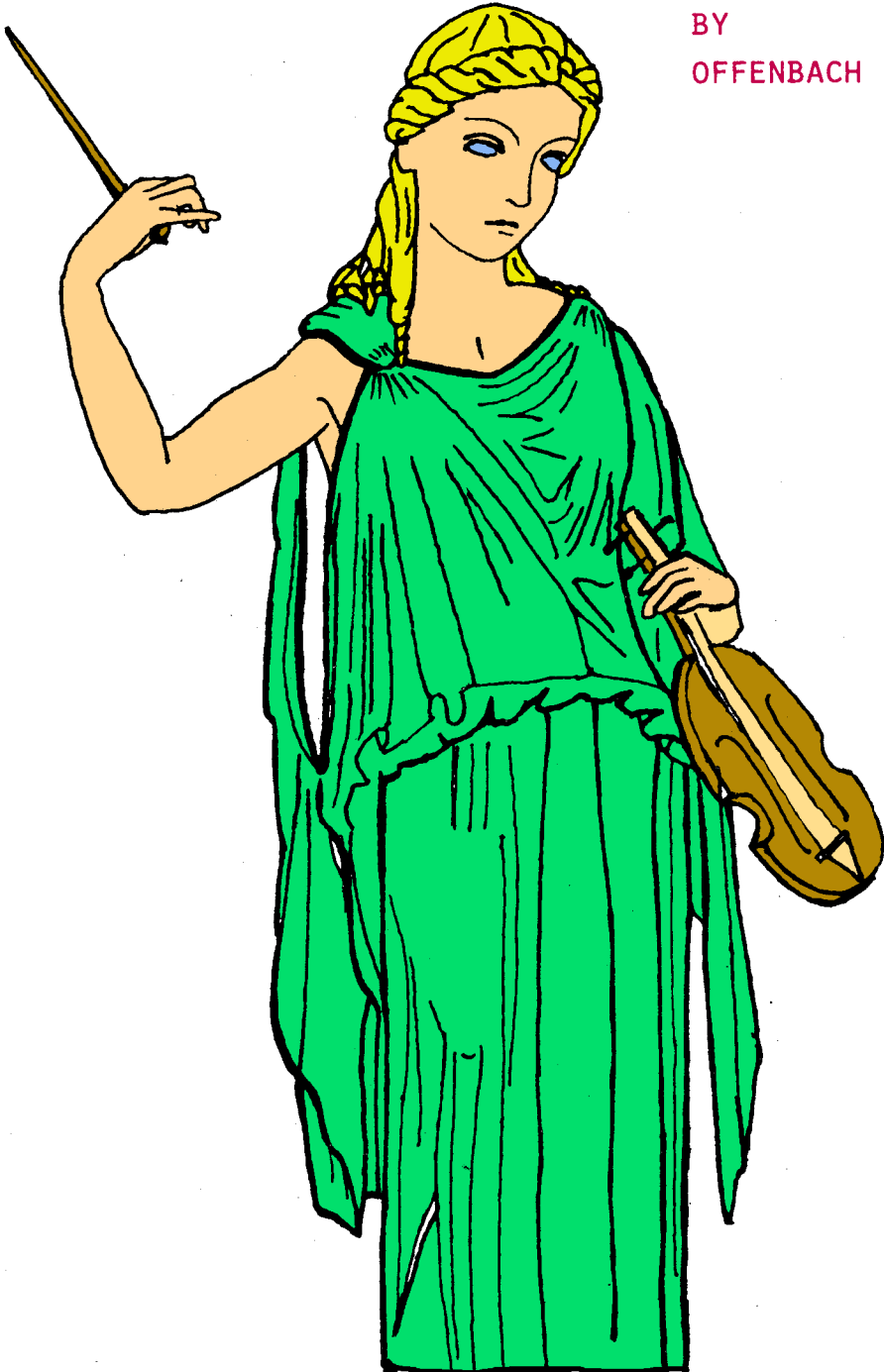
IMPERIAL COLLEGE OPERATIC SOCIETY

PRESENTS

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

BY

OFFENBACH



ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

BY OFFENBACH

Producer
Musical Director
Rehearsal Accompanist

Ian Gledhill
Michael Withers
Andrew Fairhead

THE COMMITTEE

Chairman	<i>Tim Frain</i>
Vice-Chairman	<i>Ian Morrison</i>
Secretary	<i>Mike Tripp</i>
Treasurer	<i>Steve Bodle</i>
Publicity Officer	<i>Jeff Jenkins</i>
Ticket Manager	<i>Julian Radowicz</i>
Programme Organiser	<i>Elizabeth Clark</i>
Social Secretary	<i>Edna Burrow</i>

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Jacques Offenbach (real name Wiener) was born in 1819, in Germany, but is known as a French composer. He lived in Paris for most of his life, where he earned his living as a violoncellist and later as a conductor. Gradually he became known as a composer of light and humorous operattas, *very melodious and taking*. Amongst these is *Orphee aux Enfers* or Orpheus in the underworld.

In mythology, Orpheus was the son of one of the Muses. Apollo presented him with a lyre which he played with such skill that his music enchanted all who heard it. When his wife Eurydice died he followed her to Hades and charmed the god of the Underworld into freeing her. Because he did not obey the injunction not to look back to see if she were following, he lost her again.

This parody of the legend was originally something of a *succes de scandale*, Offenbach being accused of blaspheming antiquity, and of satirising the government and prevailing social conditions.

It appears that both Orpheus and Eurydice have lost their hearts to others, and neither intends to give up their new-found love in favour of conubial bliss. Eurydice's lover is Pluto who appears on earth disguised as Aristeus, a shepherd and bee-keeper. He tells Eurydice that love for him involves transporting her to the Underworld. She says goodbye to life and leaves a note telling Orpheus she is dead. His discreet rejoicings when he finds the note are broken in upon by Public Opinion, who threatens him with scandal if he does not follow his wife to Hades.

On Mount Olympus the Gods are sleeping peacefully until the sound of Diana's horn wakes Jupiter up. Diana is upset and it is soon revealed that Jupiter has caused her unhappiness. Murmurs of discontent are heard, and when Jupiter rebukes Pluto for carrying off Eurydice the Gods rebel against the intolerable domination of Jupiter - to say nothing of the monotony of their diet.

Orpheus and Public Opinion arrive and Jupiter silences the Gods so that he can hear their request. Orpheus starts to ask for the return of his wife, and the appeal of his song ensures that his demands are met. Jupiter to make amends, announces that he will go in person, to look for Eurydice.

Eurydice is being looked after by Styx, a complete fool on earth, and now charged with prison duties in Hades. Eurydice is not as happy as she thought she would be, so when Jupiter visits her, disguised as a fly, she quickly takes a liking to him.

When the next scene opens, Eurydice has been turned into a Bacchant by Jupiter. She is persuaded to sing to everyone, and it isn't long before the Gods have joined in the fun. The dancing includes, what is probably the best known piece in the whole opera, the Can-Can.

At the end of the revelry, Orpheus is warned that he must walk in front of his wife and even one glance behind will lead to revocation of his permission to take her back with him to earth. However Jupiter has one more trick up his sleeve, which delights everyone, leaving everyone in high spirits.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

ORPHEUS <i>a violinist</i>	TIM JOHNSON
EURDYDICE <i>his wife</i>	DALITH BROOK
PUBLIC OPINION	LINDSAY BOTT
PLUTO <i>God of Underworld</i>	STEVE CHAYTOW
VENUS	JANE CAPPER
CUPID	ROSANNAGH LUCAS CLEMENTS
MARS	RICHARD WILSON
JUPITER <i>King of Gods</i>	ROGER WOODWARD
JUNO	ALISON MOULD
MERCURY	ROGER NICHOLLS
DIANA	SALLY HESLOP
MINERVA	BETHAN HOWELLS
JOHN STYX	RICHARD STOCKTON
BACCHUS	CHRIS GOLD

VIOLIN PUPILS

Ann Alderson

Joanna Bentley

Elizabeth Clark

Catherine Fetherston

Janet Ody

Jane Turner

CHORUS

*Christine Barson
Edna Burrow
Caroline Broderick
Angela Fairhead
Lucille McAllister*

Cecily Woods

*Andrew Bell
Steve Bodle
Tim Carter
Alan Crewe
Tim Frain
Jeff Jenkins*

*Cecilia Neville
Pat Nuttall
Anne Otworowoki
Kathryn Ruby
Barbara Tansey*

*Keith McClurey
Ian McLean
Tony Moreby
Ian Morrison
Julian Radowicz
Mike Tripp*

PROGRAMME

ACT I Countryside outside Thebes
ACT II Mount Olympus
ACT III Underworld

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts

Refreshments will be on sale

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*New members are always welcome to join the Society.
Rehearsals are at 7.30 p.m. every Tuesday evening at
53, Prince's Gate. If you are interested, come along
to any rehearsal.*

ORCHESTRA

LEADER: *David Greed*

VIOLINS

Fiona Love
Gregory Warren-Wilson
Lynda Bill
Catherine Hamer
David Juritz
Annabel Jones
Phillipa Jones
Theresa Smith
Alison Ruddy
Jenny Hoskison

VIOLAS

Anthony Ruston
Eugenie Kunst

CELLOS

Jane Coe
Joanna Green

BASS

Ian Davidson

FLUTES

Rosemary Rathbone
Jonathan Heitler

OBOES

Ian Craig
Susan O'Neill

CLARINETS

Susan Friend
Alison MacBride

BASSOONS

Steve Cooper
Martin Frynn

HORNS

Fred Shaub
Shona Getty

TRUMPETS

Sue Coates
Norma Whitson

TROMBONES

Richard Fairhead
Bill Todd
Hilary East

PERCUSSION

Brian Steel
Andrew Fairhead
Nick Woodfine

ORCHESTRA ARRANGERS

Christine Barson
David Greed

FOR THE COMPANY

Stage Manager
Set Designer
Deputy Stage Manager
Lighting Designer
Electricians

Effects Manager
Stage Assistants

Wardrobe Mistress

House Manager

*Andy Potter
Ian Gledhill
Paul Jarvis
Duncan Turner
Richard Hovey
Robert Holland
Neil Pielou
Ian Lacey
Nigel Stevens
Steven (Fred) Cann
Andy Middleton
Ken Haley
Harvey Cobbold
Walter Plinge & Others
Lindsay Bott
Ann Alderson
Paul Leonard*

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The Translation

The only translation in print was in a rather camp style, so we 'commissioned' a close translation, of the original two act version, from two ICOS members, Cathy Fetherston and Rosannagh Lucas-Clements. It remains faithful to the original in spirit and content but has been made more relevant to today's audience.

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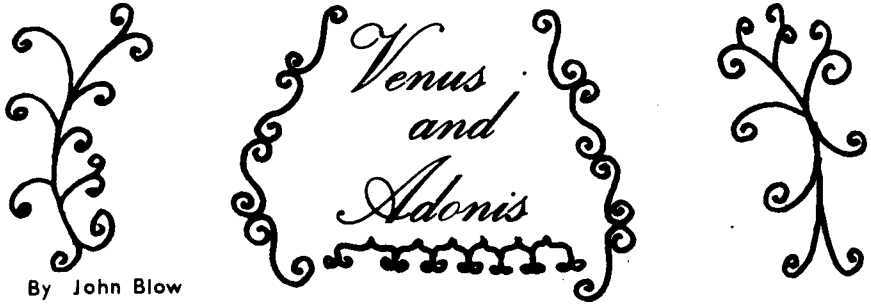
The Society extends its thanks to I.C. Dramatic Society for their invaluable help in the staging of this production.

Poster Design
Cover Design

*Ian Gledhill
Robert Burden*



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION:-



By John Blow

at 1:00 pm in the Great hall on Thursday,
24th March.

ALSO ON THIS SUMMERS TOUR TO BUDLIEGH SALTERTON

We PRESENT

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

by GILBERT AND SULLIVAN