

Is life a boon ...?



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TheGilbert&SullivanSocietyofEdinburgh

presents



The Merryman and his Maid

or

Libretto by W. S. Gilbert Music by Arthur Sullivan



Director	Alan Borthwick
Musical Director	David Lyle
Assistant Director	Liz Landsman

CHARITY NUMBER: SC027486

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Welcome

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, and a warm welcome to the King's Theatre, Edinburgh and to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh's 2005 production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. After last year's magnificent achievement of staging two shows in one week the company is happily back from Fairyland and Hades! This year we are transporting you to the Tower of London in the 16th Century where the unfortunate Colonel Fairfax is awaiting his fate.

As usual the Company has been in great demand throughout the year, both within Edinburgh and beyond. Last summer we performed at the Stranraer & Dunkeld and Birnam Festivals as well as many venues within Edinburgh and the Lothians.

In November, the Society returned to the Usher Hall

where we had a successful concert performing with the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Scotland. We will once again be joining forces with the Band on Wednesday November 16th this year where the concert will be in aid of Seafarers UK. I hope you will be able to join us in what is always a rousing evening.

This year the company is delighted to accept an invitation to open the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, Derbyshire with our production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. This is a prestigious honour for the Society and we are very much looking forward to it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who give their time, talents and

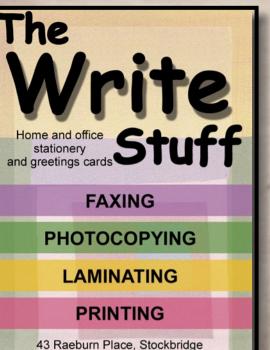
skills to ensure that we can continue to provide you with a quality production each year. I would also like to thank you, our audience, for your support. I hope you will continue to attend our shows for many years to come.

Plans for next year's show are already underway. We intend to perform Gilbert & Sullivan's last collaboration together, **The Grand Duke**. Auditions will take place at the end of May and if you are interested in taking a principal part or appearing as a member of the chorus, further information is available from Jane Smart (0131 337 1581).

Meanwhile the curtain is about to rise to take you back to the 16th Century and the Tower of London. I hope you will enjoy the show.

Andrew Crawford President





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A Bit About Us

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Edinburgh was founded in 1924 to foster the love of and appreciation for the works of W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan. As well as our annual production in the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, the Society also holds regular meetings during the year. The meetings include programmes of music, talks and social events.

Production rehearsals are held during the winter months for the annual production. The Society also provides a number of concerts for many organisations and groups throughout Edinburgh, the Lothians and beyond.

Membership of the Society is open to anyone who is interested in Gilbert & Sullivan. If you would like the opportunity to join the company on stage, wish to assist behind the scenes or would like to find out a little more about G&S, please contact the Honorary Membership Secretary, Jane Smart (Tel: 0131 337 1581) for further information.

Synopsis

T he Yeomen of The Guard is the love story of Colonel Fairfax and Elsie Maynard, a strolling player. Colonel Fairfax, having been accused of sorcery, is in the Tower under sentence of death. The charge has been preferred against him by a kinsman who will inherit the Fairfax estates if the Colonel dies unmarried. In order to thwart the scurvy trick of his kinsman, Fairfax begs his old friend the Lieutenant of the Tower to find him a bride, no matter who, as he only has an hour to live. Her dower shall be a hundred crowns — "no such poor dower for an hour of matrimony".

Two strolling players, Jack Point and Elsie Maynard, arrive on the scene, and the Lieutenant persuades Elsie to agree to a blindfold marriage with the condemned man, to which she consents, in order to obtain help for her seriously ill mother. Jack Point, deeply in love with Elsie, gives his consent only when assured that within the hour the unknown bridegroom will be beheaded and Elsie free to marry again. And so she is led out blindfolded to the wedding.

But there is a plot afoot to secure the release of the Colonel! Sergeant Meryll, whose life the Colonel has twice saved, and his daughter Phoebe cunningly contrive to secure the keys of the cell from Shadbolt, Phoebe's sour-faced lover and Head Jailer to the Tower.

Now Meryll's son Leonard, who was to have joined the Yeomen of the Guard that very day and who is quite unknown to anybody, consents to provide a Yeoman's uniform. In this disguise the Colonel, now happily released, masquerades amongst his comrades as Leonard Meryll and is one of the party detailed to bring the prisoner to execution.

Consternation prevails when it is discovered that the prisoner's cell is empty, but Fairfax enjoys his freedom undiscovered and unsuspected. Indeed, on meeting his unknown bride, he falls in love with her and she with him.

A fitting sequel occurs in the form of a reprieve, so Fairfax is now free to disclose his identity and claim his bride. And thus, matters end happily for everyone - with one exception.

Alan Borthwick Director

The Opera

Thank heavens for the Tower Furnishing Company and its advertising policy of 1887! By this date most of the Gilbert & Sullivan operas had been written and the partnership was in serious trouble. Sir Arthur Sullivan had always considered himself to be a composer worthy of higher goals than the writing of comic operas and had tired of working with William Gilbert. The immense success of his oratorio, "The Golden Legend", first performed in 1886, and the relative failure of the partnership's recent opera **Ruddigore**, had persuaded him that he should abandon comic opera for loftier aims. Unfortunately, his bank balance and social lifestyle decreed otherwise and an ultimatum was issued to Gilbert. If he was to write a libretto with plenty of "human interest" then the composer would be prepared to set it to music.

W. S. Gilbert was the more realistic and business-like of the two collaborators. He recognised the worth, both aesthetic and monetary, of their joint work and he wanted the partnership to continue. At the same time, he was unsure of the advisability of producing a serious opera at the Savoy Theatre. History proved him right when, in 1898, Sullivan's opera, *The Beauty Stone* was presented there and ran for only fifty performances. Gilbert toyed with many ideas, and the press releases of the day speculated on various subjects for the next opera, including "a piece based on Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show" — just think, Gilbert & Sullivan's *Annie Get Your Gun*! It is at this stage that the Tower Furnishing Company enters our story. In October 1887, while waiting for a train in Uxbridge station, Gilbert noticed the advertisement that features a beefeater and the Tower of London. His imagination was fired and the result was the opera we present to you tonight.

Sullivan, relishing the musical opportunities afforded by Gilbert's libretto, recorded in his diary a punishing schedule of work. Considering his almost perpetual ill health, and his musical commitments other than those to the Savoy, it is all the more remarkable that the quality of his music is so high. His use of rhythm, melody, word setting, harmony and orchestration all combine to produce a score of great power and feeling. Sullivan never reverts to a mere orchestral "accompaniment". The orchestral part-writing works alongside Gilbert's lyrics as an equal partner, underpinning the action and complementing the characters and their emotions. The martial, fanfare-like, opening to the overture, for example, is used in the manner of a motif, reappearing with great effect in Carruther's atmospheric song, "When our gallant Norman foes", and again at the beginning of the Act I finale. The sombre brass and wind resonance convey great dignity to the music, with brilliant string passages, as in the overture, providing bursts of colour. The Tudor feel of the plot brought out Sullivan's love for the "Old English" manner, as the exquisite quartet, "Strange Adventure", beautifully demonstrates. Likewise, the drone accompaniment to the duet, "I have a song to sing, O" in Act I, and the modal, Slavonic quality of the entrance of the strolling players, impart an antique flavour. These are merely a few items plucked from a score that brims with writing of a consistently inspired quality in which Sullivan demonstrates his complete mastery of the genre.

Gilbert worked hard to please his partner by ensuring that the libretto was filled with the requested "human interest", but at the same time he wisely retained the essence of his previous works — patter songs, comedy duets and some tongue-twisting dialogue. Audiences hailed the piece as another triumph for its talented creators and all the critics praised Sullivan's contribution as being of the very highest quality. Ironically, after all his efforts, Gilbert's book was not as universally praised, and many critics pointed out its similarity to the plot of *Maritana*, a popular opera of the time.

And so to the production you will see tonight. In the early revivals of this work, indeed until relatively recent times, certain of the lighter musical numbers — namely the duet "Rapture, Rapture" for Carruthers and Meryll, plus a section of the finale to the first act — were deleted from professional performances, presumably so as not to interfere with the prevailing serious mood. These items are reinstated here and we are convinced that the flow of the opera gains as a result. On the other

hand, recent professional productions reinstated a splendid song for Meryll entitled, "A laughing boy", and there is also in existence a song for Shadbolt. The latter song was never performed in the original production, and the former caused Gilbert such concern that he wrote to Sullivan expressing his conviction that, unless the song was cut, he could not guarantee the success of the piece. The song was duly cut, by mutual agreement. Neither of these songs is included tonight!

Both Gilbert and Sullivan considered **The Yeomen** of the Guard to be their best work, and who are we to disagree. We trust that our performances will help you to appreciate a work that is one of the true masterpieces of British musical theatre.

Alan Borthwick & David Lyle Directors



Alan Borthwick Director

lan Borthwick has sung leading tenor roles in operas ranging from Poulenc to Puccini as guest artiste for companies throughout Scotland. He is probably the only singer ever to have performed all the tenor roles in Sullivan operas - including those written without Gilbert - and he has recorded many of these roles for leading record companies. His recent recording of Haddon Hall was awarded a rosette and three stars in the Penguin Guide to Compact Discs. Alan recently completed nineteen consecutive summer seasons hosting and singing in Hail Caledonia, a Scottish entertainment designed to give Edinburgh tourists a taste of the best of Scottish hospitality.

Alan is now in great demand as a professional director and last week he was in this very theatre directing Jerry Herman's *Hello, Dolly!* for the Bohemians. Last December his own company presented Sigmund Romberg's glorious operetta *The Student Prince* in the Church Hill Theatre, playing to splendid houses and raising £1000 for charity.

Alan holds a first-class honours degree in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy and his full-time job is Development Officer for East Lothian Council working in the Department of Education and Children's Services. In his "spare" time he lectures in Mathematics for the Open University and in this role he has recorded a series of mathematical videos with the BBC.



David Lyle Musical Director

Director to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh. He has led them in concerts in and outwith Scotland, including gala evenings with the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines in Edinburgh's Usher Hall, and invitation concerts at the Buxton, Stranraer and Dunkeld Festivals.

His specialist field is the music of Sullivan and he has now conducted on commercial recordings of all the composer's non-Gilbert works, including the first-ever of Sullivan's only grand opera, *Ivanhoe*. His performance, in Edinburgh, of Sullivan's cantata, *The Golden Legend*, won first prize in the Choral Music for the Millennium competition, organized by the British Music Association. There are still a few Sullivan works he hasn't conducted, and he plans to rectify that in future concerts.



Musical Numbers

Overture

..... The Orchestra

Act I

When maiden loves she sits and sighs	Phoebe
Tower warders under orders	Citizens and Yeomen
This the autumn of our life	
When our gallant Norman foes	Dame Carruthers and Yeomen
Alas! I waver to and fro	Phoebe, Leonard & Sergeant Meryll
Is life a boon?	Fairfax
Here's a man of jollity	Crowd, Elsie & Jack Point
I have a song to sing, O	Elsie & Jack Point
How say you, maiden, will you wed	Elsie, Point & Sir Richard
I've jibe and joke and quip and crank	Jack Point
Tis done! I am a bride	Elsie
Were I thy bride	Phoebe
Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true	Ensemble

Act II

Night has spread her pall once more	Chorus
Warders are ye?	Dame Carruthers & Chorus
Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon	Jack Point
Hereupon we're both agreed	Jack Point & Wilfred
Free from his fetters grim	Fairfax
Strange adventure! Kate, Dame	Carruthers, Fairfax & Sergeant Meryll
Hark! What was that sir?	Ensemble
A man who would woo a fair maid	Elsie, Phoebe & Fairfax
When a wooer goes a-wooing	Elsie, Phoebe, Fairfax & Jack Point
Rapture! Rapture!	Dame Carruthers & Sergeant Meryll
Comes the pretty young bride	Ensemble

Dramatis

Personae

Sir Richard

Se Els

Pho

Dam

Kate.

Cholmondeley	George McHollan
Colonel Fairfax	Neil French
Sergeant Meryll	David McBair
Leonard Meryll	Lyle Kenned
Jack Point	Scott Thomson
Wilfred Shadbolt	lan Lawsor
First Yeoman	Alan Dickinson
Second Yeoman	Andrew Crawford
Third Yeoman	Ross Main
Fourth Yeoman	Charles Laing
First Citizen	
econd Citizen	Gareth Jacobs
ie Maynard	
ebe Meryll	Fiona Main
e Carruthers	Liz Hutchings
	Pat McKerrow

Understudies

Sir Richard Cholmondeley	Charles Laing
Elsie	Jane Sutton
Phoebe Meryll	Ruth McLaren
Dame Carruthers	Liz Landsman
Kate	Caroline Kerr

Ladies of the Chorus

Judith Anderson Joyce Boyd Maggie Cormack Alison Crichton-Cook Kate Duffield Alicia Glasgow Dorothy Harding Anne Laing Norma Macdonald Ruth McLaren Maggie Pringle Jane Smart Jane Sutton Liz Thomson

Katharine Barbour Jacquie Bruce Wendy Crawford Sally Crighton Hannah Francis Shirley Glynn Caroline Kerr Liz Landsman Evelyn McHollan Pauline More Susan Ross Jinty Smart Gillian Tait Mickey York

Gentlemen of the Chorus

Chris Allan Peter Casebow Hugh Craig Adam Cuerden Michael Head Ron House Gareth Jacobs Charles Laing Ross Main Craig Robertson John Skelly Nick Temperley Roland York Brian Caddow Stewart Coghill Andrew Crawford Alan Dickinson Alan Hogg Philip Howe Lyle Kennedy David Lamb Harry Payne Ken Robinson Maxwell Smart Ritchie Turnbull



Scott Thomson as Jack Point

The Yeomen of The Guard is Scott's fourth year with the Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society and the first time he has tackled a principal role. Playing *Jack Point* is quite a thrill for him, having made his first stage appearance at the age of 13 playing the assistant headsman in the same show.

Since then, Scott has been working his way through the ranks at school shows and with various amateur companies. This has included being part of the stage crew, playing violin in the orchestra, singing in the chorus and in minor principal roles for a number of shows including the lofty heights of the title role in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

When he's not jesting, Scott works as a software architect in Fife.





N eil French first took to the stage at the age of six, as a *Munchkin* in a school production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The pointy blue hat is long gone, but his enthusiasm for singing (not to say silly costumes) has never waned, and since then he has taken part in a wide variety of productions and performances of all kinds. After a stint in Dunfermline's Carnegie Youth Theatre, several eccentric student rock bands and three years with the Scottish Chamber Choir, he joined the ranks (quite literally) of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh in 2000, as *Ralph Rackstraw* in *HMS Pinafore*.

Since then, he has played a variety of nice and not-so-nice characters, including Nanki-Poo (The Mikado), Hilarion (Princess Ida), Robin Oakapple (Ruddygore) and most recently Orpheus in 2004's production of Orpheus in the Underworld. This year, he's delighted to be taking on the role (and the fake beard) of the heroic, but heartless, Colonel Fairfax.

Neil works as a Software QA Engineer. He is married, and lives in Fife.



Barbara Brodie as Elsie Maynard

Barbara has played a variety of Gilbert & Sullivan principal roles since she made her debut. long years ago, as Lady Ella in a school production of **Patience** in Hamilton Town Hall. Since then she has gone on to take part in many other G&S productions, including The Mikado. The Pirates of Penzance. HMS Pinafore and lolanthe. as well as operas including Carmen, La Traviata, and Eugene Onegin. She has sung with a wide range of vocal groups, in concerts, opera and oratorio, including the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, Glasgow Grand Opera, Scottish Opera Chorus, and Opera on a Shoestring. This is her third show with the Society and she is delighted to be playing Elsie for the first time.

Jan Lawson

as

Wilfred Shadbolt

an has appeared with

the Society in all but two

shows over the past 22

vears. Since schooldavs.

he has played 22 different

principal roles in all the 13

extant G&S operas, includ-

ing Jack Point and Fairfax

in Yeomen, and sung cho-

rus in six of them. Wilfred

Shadbolt, in this produc-

tion will be his 23rd role.

lan now combines his day

iob as Director of Com-

mercial Operations for the

Scottish Bible Society with

a variety of musical inter-

ests and concert engage-

ments, most recently with

the Edinburgh Palm Court

lan celebrates 25 years

of happy marriage to the

great grand-daughter of

Gilbert's next-door neigh-

bour. They have two rath-

er grown-up daughters,

one of whom was in the

Edinburgh Savoy's Gon-

doliers last month.

This year,

Orchestra.



Fiona Main as Phoebe Meryll

n her ninth year with the Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Fiona is delighted to be plaving the role of Phoebe. After braving a trip to hell as the 'man-eating' Eurydice in last year's Orpheus in the Underworld, it's a relief to return to the slightly more sedate world of Tudor England. However, the sparky character of Phoebe is still providing a few challenges, not least of which is singing whilst using a spinning wheel and trying to keep both in time with the music! Previous roles with the Society include Rose Maybud in Ruddygore, Princess Ida, Yum-Yum in The Mikado, Josephine in HMS Pinafore. Rowena in Ivanhoe. Aline in The Sorcerer and Casilda in The Gondoliers.





David McBain as Sergeant Meryll

Ithough this is David's Afirst principal role with The Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society, he is in a way, returning to his roots. His very first musical role on stage was as Lord Mountararat in a school production of *lolanthe*. No stranger to the King's, David has played 43 successive seasons with Southern Light Opera - 41 of those being principal roles. Now having "rediscovered" the genius of Gilbert and Sullivan, he has fallen in love with the genre all over again and is enjoying the "remarriage" immensely. He wonders why he ever allowed such a long "separation".



Li3 Hutchings as Dame Carruthers

iz Hutchings wishes L to make it known that in real life she is not an old battleaxe (though her family might disagree!) Returning for Dame Carruthers after playing Calliope in **Orpheus** she is occasionally envious of those sweet soprano roles forever out of reach! Liz has performed with a number of amateur opera and musical societies in her hometown of Portsmouth and more recently in Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy. Roles range from Meg in Brigadoon to Carmen in Carmen. With Dunfermline's G&S Society she has played Peep Bo, Kate, and Lady Angela, Valencienne in The Merry Widow and Metella in La Vie Parisienne. In her day job as a pharmacist, Liz can be heard humming in the dispensary at Boots, Kirkcaldy!

George McHollan as Sir Richard Cholmondeley

George has been a member of the Society since 1984 and has previously sung principal roles in The Mikado. Princess Ida. The Gondoliers and lolanthe. He has also in the past sung with Edinburgh Grand Opera. George is delighted to be playing the part of Sir Richard Cholmondeley in this year's production of The Yeomen of the Guard after a nine year period "out of action" due to working in Inverness. George is now semi-retired and lives in Edinburgh with his wife Evelyn, who is a member of the chorus (I know the value of a kindly chorus!), and who can be seen behind the second floor window on the left!





Lyle Kennedy as Leonard Meryll

This is Lyle's first principal role for the G&S having been in the chorus in recent years for The Mikado. Princess Ida and last year's productions of Orpheus and lolanthe. He has been involved in various other shows produced by Alan Borthwick and despite being hanged in Princess Ida has kept coming back for more! Most recently he appeared as Von Asterberg in The Student Prince. Away from the shows, Lyle has competed in solo and choral competitions at the Royal National Mod since 1993 and won the Silver Pendant for Gaelic learners in 1999. He now competes in the Gold medal and so far has been fourth and third. Lyle lives in Bonnybridge, is married and has a 6 month old baby daughter.

Pat Mckerrow

as

Kate

Pat returns to the G&S stage after a 4-year

absence. Previously she

has performed in all the

G&S operas bar one

(Princess Ida), appeared

regularly with the Society's

concert party, and sang

the role of Nance in the

Prince Consort's record-

ing of Haddon Hall. Roles

outwith the Society include

Pitti-Sing (Mikado), Tessa

(Gondoliers), Patience,

Angelina (Trial By Jury),

Carrie (Carousel), and

most recently, Mrs Higgins

(My Fair Lady). Pat also

sings regularly for Church

groups, residential homes,

etc. - new bookings are

always very welcome!

Aside from singing (and

the day job!), Pat is an

award-winning wildlife

photographer.



Andrew Crawford as Second Yeoman

Andrew has been with Athe Society for over 10 years. After performing as Mars in last year's production of Orpheus in the Underworld he is delighted to have another principle role, this year without a motorbike! No stranger to performing, he first appeared on the King's stage at the age of 12 in The Edinburgh Gang Show, which also saw him appearing at the world famous London Palladium. He has performed in the King's at least once each year ever since. Andrew is now in his second term as President of the Society. When time allows he is a keen golfer, tuba player, train enthusiast & rugby supporter. Andrew is married to Wendy who is one of Alan & Jane Borthwick's daughters. During the day, Andrew is a Manager with The Bank of Scotland.

The Orchestra

VIOLIN Alison Rushworth (Leader) Gillian Akhtar Salyen Latter Jonathan Law Caroline Marshall Susan Matasovska Fiona Morison Andrew Rushworth

VIOLA Hilary Turbayne Susan Donlevy CELLO George Reid Heather Coates

BASS Fiona Donaldson

> FLUTE David Morrow David Leslie

OBOE Charles Dodds

CLARINET Katherine Taylor Hilary Saunders BASSOON Rainer Thonnes Alison Bardgett

HORN David Rimer Marian Kirton

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TROMBONE Neil Short Daniel Richards John Adam PERCUSSION Jake Perry

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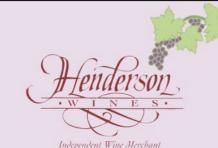
or send an email to: secretary@edgas.org

6&S Concert Party

Once again "The Society" have been in great demand and as "The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh" travelled to Stranraer to open their festival, then north to Dunkeld and Birnam to close theirs, finishing off in the Usher Hall with The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. As the Concert Party, we had unforgettable evenings in Greenbank Church and The Royal Scots Club, not forgetting our visit to the Zoo in aid of Erskine Home and a marvellous afternoon raising funds for Tor Nursing Home. The Concert Party does not exist only for fund raising - we have sung at some nine other venues including church guilds and nursing homes such as Strachan and Balmwell Houses. Funny to say, these are the places we as singers, get most out of when we hear audiences singing, crying and laughing with us. My thanks go to all who have sung or compèred with us, and especially Margaret Donaldson and David Lyle for "tinkling the ivories". We have three engagements after this show, and on September 14th, we are appearing at the Peebles Festival in their magnificent new theatre. If you read this and would like entertained or know of someone who does, contact me, Alan Hogg, on:

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