

**Edinburgh G & S Society**  
***"The Grand Duke"***  
**14 - 18 March 2006**

Director: **Alan Borthwick**      Musical Director: **David Lyle**  
Assistant Director: **Liz Landsman**

It is seldom that we see a production of the last of the thirteen Savoy Operas, "The Grand Duke", performed by societies. But it was a pleasure to visit and view this new adaptation by Alan Borthwick and see a splendid, well drilled and beautifully sung production. The picture on curtain rise on both Acts gave us a quite stunning setting, well appreciated by the sparse but appreciative audience. Ian Lawson as the dithering Grand Duke, pranced, danced and performed his patter songs with agility. Neil French (Dummkopf) performed well alongside Scott Thomson (Ludwig) and Fiona Main (Julia Jellico). Together they made up the three main characters from the travelling opera company. The powerful singing from the chorus made the rafters ring on occasions. Sterling performances were given by Richard Bourjo as the Prince of Monte Carlo, and Pat McKerrow as his daughter. Not the best of the G & S operas, but a splendid production by the society, well enjoyed by the audience.

Gordon Blackburn