



*Halifax Gilbert and
Sullivan Society
presents*

The



Gondoliers

by W.S Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

November 3 - 7, 2009



*Programme
50p*





A Message from the Chairman

It is my privilege to welcome you all to our 2009 production of *The Gondoliers*. This has long been one of my own favourites, and indeed was the very first G & S opera to attract me onto the stage (just a few years ago!).

This opera was the 12th collaboration of Gilbert and Sullivan and ran for 554 performances. It is probably the sunniest of the G & S operas and still pleases audiences as much today as it did in 1889.

We are very grateful to our production team of Richard Buxton, as both Producer and Musical Director; and Philip Sutcliffe, our accompanist; for the long hours of hard work which they have put in to ensure that we are ready to entertain you this week. Thanks also go to our front of house & backstage teams for all of their hard work.

A special mention must go to John Trout, the Lighting Manager for Batley G & S Society, who has stepped in at very short notice to do the stage lighting for us, we are very grateful to him. This is an example of the close links which have built up between our two societies in recent years and which we hope will long continue.

Last but certainly not least our thanks go to you, our audience, without whom we could not stage these productions. We hope that we will see you again at our 2010 production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Now - Sit back and enjoy the show.

Trevor Roberts



An Inquisitorial look at the story, or, Don Alhambra puts in his oar

The lives of two sets of people, a world apart both geographically and socially, and entwined as a result of the machinations and intrigue of a Grand Inquisitor of Spain.

Twenty years ago, in horror at the King of Barataria's conversion to Wesleyan Methodism, he abducted the heir to the throne, then aged just one and recently married to the equally young daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro. The heir was hidden away in Venice until such a time as he could safely be restored to his country and throne.

Circumstances over the years have caused his precise identity to become uncertain, and either of two staunchly Republican brothers, now operating as gondoliers, could have Royal blood circulating in him.

In the meantime, the Plaza-Toro household has become impoverished, and the Duke's sole hope lies in their daughter confirming her marriage with the wealthy King. He makes ends meet for the time being by turning himself into a limited company.

As the opera begins, the Duke and Duchess, with their daughter and one remaining retainer, have been summoned to Venice for the identification of the long-lost King. At the same time the two Republican gondoliers are celebrating their own marriage with two of the local girls.

Before the two groups can meet, however, the gondoliers are spirited away to Barataria, where they set up an unusual Republican monarchy. As a result, the Plaza-Toros have to continue a lengthy round trip to catch up with them.

Everyone finally gets together, and confusion reigns until Inez, former nursemaid to the young Prince, tells what really happened, and all is resolved, although not quite in the way that the Grand Inquisitor had expected.

This page is sponsored by the Gondoliers and their ladies



The characters in the story

From Venice

Contadine :

Gianetta	Christine Roberts
Tessa	Rachel Prosser
Fiametta	Helen Matthews
Vittoria	Sally Roberts
Giulia	Stephanie Bolton

Patricia Castle, Jean Greenwood, Deborah Hammond, Chris Hanson, Janice Roberts

Gondolieri :

Marco Palmieri	Steven Greenwood
Giuseppe Palmieri	Leon Waksberg
Antonio	Trevor Roberts
Giorgio	Peter Sugden
Francesco	Leyland Smith
Annibale	John Thompson

Harold Galley, Paul Matthews, David Prosser, Mark Waite, Kelvyn Waites

From Spain

The Duke of Plaza-Toro,
a grandee of Spain
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro
Casilda, their daughter
Luiz, their attendant
Don Alhambra del Bolero,

Grand Inquisitor of Spain
Inez, the King's foster-mother

Bobbie Greatorex
Penny McGoverin
Zena Turner
Jaijai Rider-Ekins

Colin Fine
Janice Roberts

This page is sponsored in memory of Caroline Saul



Drink and Dance in The Gondoliers

Dance a cachucha, fandango, bolero;
Xeres we'll drink, Manzanilla, Montero
(*Chorus*)

- Cachucha – An Andalusian solo dance in 3/4 time
- Fandango – A lively folk and flamenco couple-dance, usually in triple metre
- Bolero – A late 18th century Spanish dance in triple time, with a moderately slow tempo
- Xerez – a former name of Jerez de la Frontera, traditional home of sherry
- Manzanilla – A variety of fino sherry (once a bottle is opened, it should be drunk preferably in one sitting for the best results)
- Montero – A wine from the Pyrenees region of Spain

When he had Rhenish wine to drink,
It made him very sad to think
The some at junket or at jink
Must be content with toddy
(*Don Alhambra*)

- Rhenish wine – Wine from the middle region of the Rhine, mostly from the Riesling grape
- Toddy – A cheap drink of distilled spirits, mixed with water and sugar
- Grappa – An Italian grape-based brandy. OK, it's not mentioned in the script, but the men have a shot of it before they sail off to Barataria at the end of Act One.

This page is sponsored by the Men's Chorus



Musical numbers

Act One

- List and learn (*Chorus with Fiametta*)
- Good morrow, pretty maids (*Chorus with Francesco, Antonio, Giorgio, Fiametta, Giulia, Vittoria*)
- For the merriest fellows are we (*Antonio, Chorus*)
- Buon giorno, signorine ... We're called gondolieri (*Marco, Giuseppe, Chorus*)
- And now to choose our brides (*Marco, Giuseppe, Fiametta, Vittoria, Chorus*)
- Thank you, gallant gondolieri (*Gianetta, Tessa, Chorus*)
- From the sunny Spanish shore (*Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Luiz*)
- In enterprise of martial kind (*Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Luiz*)
- O rapture, when alone together (*Casilda, Luiz*)
- There was a time (*Luiz, Casilda*)
- I stole the Prince (*Don Alhambra, Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Luiz*)
- But bless my heart, consider my position! (*Casilda, Don Alhambra*)
- Try we lifelong (*Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Luiz, Don Alhambra*)
- Bridegroom and bride ... When a merry maiden marries (*Tessa, Chorus*)
- Finale to Act One (Kind sir, you cannot have the heart ... Then one of us will be a Queen ... Now pray, what is the cause of this remarkable hilarity? ... To everyone who feels inclined ... Now Marco dear, my wishes hear ... Then away we go to an island fair)



*Hop and skip to fancy's fiddle,
Hands across and down the middle*

This page is sponsored by Colin Fine



Musical numbers

Act Two

- Of happiness the very pith (*Marco, Giuseppe, Chorus*)
- Rising early in the morning (*Giuseppe, Chorus*)
- Take a pair of sparkling eyes (*Marco*)
- Here we are at the risk of our lives (*Fiametta, Vittoria, Chorus*)
- After sailing to this island (*Tessa, Gianetta, Chorus*)
- Dance a cachucha (*Chorus*)
- There lived a King (*Don Alhambra, Marco, Giuseppe*)
- In a contemplative fashion (*Gianetta, Tessa, Marco, Giuseppe*)
- With Ducal pomp and Ducal pride (*Duke, Duchess, Chorus*)
- On the day when I was married (*Duchess*)
- To help unhappy commoners (*Duke, Duchess*)
- I am a courtier grave and serious (*Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Marco, Giuseppe*)
- Here is a case unprecedented (*Casilda, Gianetta, Tessa, Marco, Giuseppe*)
- Finale to Act Two (Now let the loyal lieges gather round ... The royal prince was by the King entrusted (*Inez's narration*) ... Once more gondolieri)



*At charity dinners
The best of speech-spinners,
I get ten per cent of the takings*

This page is sponsored by the Ladies' Chorus



Production team

MUSICAL DIRECTOR and STAGE DIRECTOR
Richard Buxton

REHEARSAL PIANISTS Philip Sutcliffe, Barbara Thompson, Catherine Warwick

Members of the WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA,
SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA and FRIENDS

STAGE MANAGER	Andrew Stopford
SET PROVIDED BY	West Yorkshire Savoyards Appreciation Society
ASSISTANCE WITH SET LIGHTING	Joseph Wood
COSTUMES	John Trout
PROPERTIES	Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes
ORCHESTRAL PARTS	Nancy Kirby
TICKET SALES	James Newby Music
FRONT OF HOUSE	Stephanie Bolton
PUBLICITY	Kathryn Buxton
FOYER DISPLAY	Peter Sugden, Paul Matthews
FOYER PHOTOGRAPHS	Kathryn Buxton
PROGRAMME	Andrew Stopford, Kelvyn Waites
	Richard Buxton

Friday, December 11, 2009 at 7.45

Christmas Pot-Pourri

At All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green
A mixture of songs, recitations and choruses with a seasonal flavour
Come along to listen or to contribute to the entertainment
Details from the Secretary (see inside back cover)

This page is sponsored by Andrew Stopford



Gondolas and Gondoliers

The gondola is propelled by a man (the gondolier) who stands facing the bow and rows with a forward stroke, followed by a compensating backward stroke. Contrary to popular belief, the gondola is never poled like a punt as the waters of Venice are too deep.

A sumptuary law of Venice required that gondolas should be painted black, and they are customarily so painted now. It is estimated that there were several thousand gondolas during the 18th century. There are several hundred today, most of which are for hire by tourists, while a few are in private ownership and use.

During their heyday as a means of public transports, teams of 4 men; 3 oarsmen and a 4th person, primarily shore-based and responsible for the administration of the gondola (Il Rosso Riserva), would share ownership of a gondola. However as the gondolas became more of a tourist attraction than a mode of public transport all but one of these cooperatives and their offices have closed. The category is now protected by the Institution for the Protection and Conservation of Gondolas and Gondoliers, headquartered in the historical center of Venice.

The left side of the gondola is made longer than the right side. This asymmetry causes the gondola to resist the tendency to turn toward the left at the forward stroke. It is a common misconception that the gondola is a paddled vessel when the correct term is rowed i.e. "I rowed my gondola to work".

The profession of Gondolier is controlled by a Guild, which issues a limited number of licenses granted after periods of training and apprenticeship, and a major comprehensive exam which tests knowledge of Venetian history and landmarks, foreign language skills, and practical skills in handling the Gondola typically necessary in the tight spaces of Venetian canals. In 2009 a woman, Giorgia Boscolo, daughter of a gondolier, passed the first test to be admitted to the official course of training for substitute gondoliers; if she were to pass all the future tests, she would become the first female gondolier.

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Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society's previous productions

1971	H M S Pinafore	1990	The Gondoliers
1972	Iolanthe	1991	The Yeomen of the Guard
1973	The Sorcerer	1992	The Zoo and H M S Pinafore
1974	The Pirates of Penzance	1993	The Sorcerer
1975	The Gondoliers	1994	Iolanthe
1976	Princess Ida	1995	The Mikado
1977	The Mikado	1996	Patience
1978	Ruddigore	1997	The Pirates of Penzance
1979	The Yeomen of the Guard	1998	The Gondoliers
1980	Patience	1999	Princess Ida
1981	Trial by Jury and H M S Pinafore	2000	The Yeomen of the Guard
1982	The Sorcerer	2001	H M S Pinafore
1983	The Gondoliers	2002	Ruddigore
1984	Iolanthe	2003	The Mikado
1985	The Mikado	2004	Iolanthe
1986	Princess Ida	2005	The Grand Duke
1987	Cox and Box and The Pirates of Penzance	2006	The Zoo, Cox and Box and Trial by Jury
1988	Ruddigore	2007	The Pirates of Penzance
1989	Utopia Limited	2008	The Sorcerer

*I stole the prince
and I brought him here*



This page is sponsored by the Roberts family



Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was formed in 1968, and gave its first public full-dress performance three years later at Halifax Playhouse. The annual production in the late autumn, still at the Playhouse, remains the Society's major public appearance, but we also offer a series of public concerts in the spring, usually between February and April. We are always pleased to perform at new venues in and around Halifax or further afield, and anyone wishing to organise a concert should contact the Secretary (see below).

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green, Halifax. Three or four of these Friday evenings during the year are given over to informal concerts and Club Nights, where we will sing through a complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera, or perhaps another piece from the same period, with the audience providing the chorus. Members of the public are always welcome to join us (and sing with us, although that's not compulsory) on these occasions.

If you would like to sing with or support the Society yourself, you are very welcome to turn up at the rehearsal room on a Friday evening (7.45 onwards). Alternatively you may contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, 34 Fir Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4JE (01484-301291). If you don't sing yourself, but can perhaps offer organisational or other practical skills, you will be equally welcome. We look forward to seeing you in the future!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.halifaxgands.org.uk

THE COMMITTEE

Andrew Stopford (*President*), Trevor Roberts (*Chairman*), Sheila Simpson (*Vice-Chairman*), Kathryn Buxton (*Secretary*), Richard Buxton (*Treasurer*), Stephanie Bolton, Colin Fine, Christine Johnson, Paul Matthews, Peter Sugden, Kelvyn Waites.

Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Thurman

Saturday 5th December to Saturday 12th December, 7:30 pm

Saturday Matinee on the 12th - 2:30 pm

(No performance Sunday or Wednesday)

Shakespeare's romantic comedy of mistaken identity,
trickery and drunken reveling, infatuation and broken hearts

If music be the food of love, play on ...



A Halifax Thespians production
Box Office 01422 365998

Coming soon locally :

Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

The Gondoliers

Haworth West Lane
Baptist Chapel

November 16 – 21 at 7.30 p.m.
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£8.00. Children £5.00.
Over 60s £6.00 on Monday

Bookings : 01535 643425

Meltham Parish Church G & S

The Yeomen Of The Guard

Church Hall
Meltham

November 24 – 28 at 7.30 p.m.
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£8.00. Children £4.00.
Concessions £7.00 Tues, Wed,
Sat Mat.

Bookings : 01484 349037

