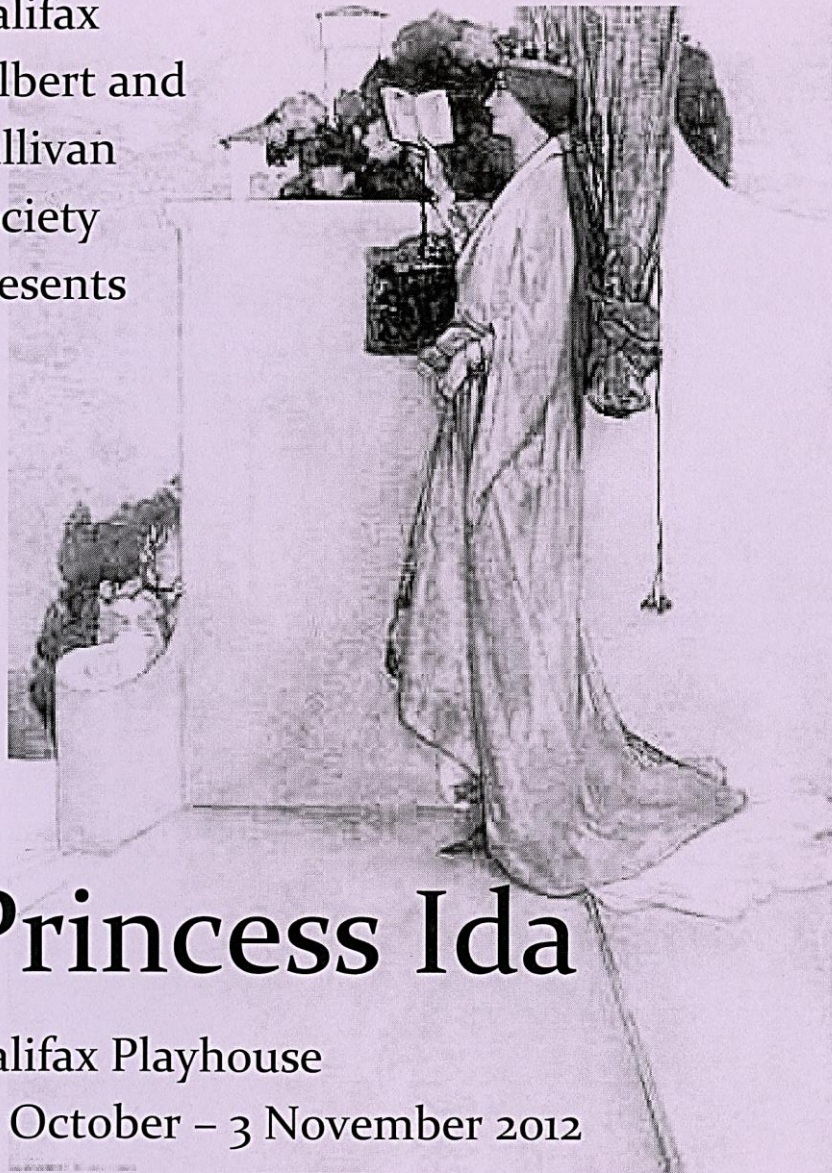


Halifax
Gilbert and
Sullivan
Society
Presents



Princess Ida

Halifax Playhouse

30 October – 3 November 2012



Programme £1.00

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I have great pleasure in again welcoming you to our annual production. This year our production is *Princess Ida*, the only G & S Opera to be written in 3 Acts and an Opera which, in my opinion, contains some of Sir Arthur Sullivan's most memorable music. The Opera was first performed at the Savoy Theatre on 5th January 1884 running for 246 performances, and was the 8th collaboration by the famous duo, following just 14 months after *Iolanthe*.

We are delighted that Richard Buxton is again both Producer and Musical Director. Richard has also been very well supported by our superb accompanist Philip Sutcliffe and together they have ensured that our rehearsals have been both enjoyable and productive.

We welcome two young members into the cast. Zoë Howe and Stuart Sellens have performed shows with Bradford University, and we are delighted that they have taken the plunge to join us here and hope that they may encourage others to do the same.

I trust that you, our audience, will have a very enjoyable evening and thank you for supporting us. If you already support us regularly, may you long continue to do so. If you are new to us, and have enjoyed the show please consider becoming a member or a patron and taking part in our all year round activities. You can speak to any of our Front of House staff or visit our web site at www.halifaxgands.org.uk for further information.

Trevor Roberts

Pat Castle, 1947 – 2012

We were shocked to hear of Pat's death following a sudden illness and a short spell of treatment in hospital. She had been an active member of the Society since the 1970s, both on stage and in concerts. One of her most successful parts was the title role in *Princess Ida*, which she had played in all three of the Society's productions prior to this year. Her last principal part with us was Little Buttercup in 2001, but she was giving her inimitable contribution to the chorus as recently as *The Gondoliers* in 2009.

We dedicate this production of *Princess Ida* to Pat's memory.

An arranged marriage goes off course

Twenty years ago, two royal courts which had traditionally been enemies sought to settle their differences with the marriage of their two children. Thus it was that Hilarion, two-year-old son of King Hildebrand, was married to Ida, the one-year-old daughter of King Gama. The two children returned to their respective courts with Gama undertaking to bring his daughter to Hildebrand's kingdom when she had reached the age of twenty-one.

In the meantime Hilarion has grown up with typical youthful pursuits such as riding, making music and drinking with his companions. Ida on the other hand has chosen a more serious course, and on completing her education has harboured ambitions to further the intellectual status of women. To this end she has occupied one of her father's country houses and established a women's university. What started off as an experiment has now taken an extreme form, and Castle Adamant is now a women's enclave from which men are excluded on pain of death.

When the opera begins, we see the court of Hildebrand eagerly awaiting the arrival of Gama with his daughter for the formalisation of the marriage with Hilarion. However, he is only accompanied by his three muscular but not very bright sons, and brings the news of Ida's rejection of men.

Hilarion receives this news with remarkable equanimity, and resolves to visit Castle Adamant himself to attempt to win the Princess's heart. He sets off with two of his drinking companions, while Gama and his sons are held hostage against Hilarion's safe return. The opera follows their attempts to infiltrate the Castle and how these are affected by a power struggle within the University.

In the end the essential struggle is between Ida's head and heart, and whether her feelings or her principles prevail we do not find out until the very end.

Guests of Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society

We give a warm welcome to our guests, the Mayor & Mayoress of Calderdale, Councillor & Mrs John Hardy, and also to our regular guests, representatives of local amateur dramatic societies.

In this year of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we are particularly glad to welcome Christine Harris, a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, and Mr Harris, to our Thursday performance. Mrs Harris is well known in Calderdale for her involvement in community projects, and we are delighted that she has found time in her busy schedule to spend the evening with us.

The Characters in the Story

The Court of King Hildebrand

King Hildebrand Ian Moorhouse
The Queen Irene Kennedy
Hilarion (their son) Leon Waksberg
Hilarion's friends
Cyril Steven Greenwood
Florian Stuart Sellens

The Court of King Gama

King Gama Colin Fine
His three sons
Arac Martin Whitaker
Guron Leyland Smith
Scynthus John Morgan

The University at Castle Adamant Courtiers, Students, Soldiers

Princess Ida (Gama's daughter)
Anna Trent
Lady Blanche (Professor of Abstract Science)
Penny McGoverin
Lady Psyche (Professor of Humanities)
Rachel Prosser
Melissa (Lady Blanche's daughter)
Christine Roberts

Girl students

Sacharissa Sally Roberts
Chloe Deborah Hammond
Ada Deirdre O'Shea

The location of the action is not identified in the libretto. However, during the fight in Act 3 the chorus is heard exhorting the "doughty sons of Hungary". It could be that the kingdoms of Hildebrand and Gama are separated by the wide water of Lake Balaton, and that this is the water referred to in the opening chorus. We have set our production in Hungary at a time of Ottoman rule.

Friday, December 14, 2012 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 the inside back cover)

Following the success of *Ruddigore* in 2012....
Bingley Gilbert and Sullivan Society
Presents....



H.M.S PINAFORE & TRIAL BY JURY



At Bingley Arts Centre
22nd - 27th April 2013

For tickets call

01274 409466

01535 680692

Production team

MUSICAL DIRECTOR and STAGE DIRECTOR Richard Buxton

ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Philip Sutcliffe

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

STAGE CREW

Andrew Stopford (Stage Manager), Paul
Matthews

SET PROVIDED BY

West Yorkshire Savoyards Appreciation Society

LIGHTING

Karl Eaton

COSTUMES

Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes, Berenice
Costumes

PROPERTIES

Nancy Kirby

ORCHESTRAL PARTS

James Newby Music

TICKET SALES

Stephanie Bolton

FRONT OF HOUSE

Kathryn Buxton

PUBLICITY

Peter Sugden

FOYER DISPLAY

Kathryn Buxton

PROGRAMME

Richard Buxton

Musical Numbers

Act One

- Search throughout the panorama (Chorus, with Florian)
- Now hearken to my strict command (Hildebrand, Chorus)
- Today we meet, my baby bride and I ... Ida was a twelvemonth old (Hilarion)
- From the distant panorama ... We are warriors three (Chorus, Arac, Guron, Scynthus)
- If you give me your attention I will tell you what I am (Gama, Chorus)
- Finale to Act One : P'raps if you address the lady ... Come Cyril, Florian ... Expressive glances shall be our lances ... For a month to dwell in a dungeon cell

Act Two

- Towards the empyrean heights (Ladies' Chorus, with Melissa, Psyche, Sacharissa)
- Mighty maiden with a mission (Ladies' Chorus)
- Minerva! ... Oh, goddess wise (Ida)
- And thus to empyrean heights (Ladies' Chorus)
- Come, mighty must! (Blanche)
- Gently, gently, evidently we are safe so far (Cyril, Hilarion, Florian)
- I am a maiden (Cyril, Hilarion, Florian)
- The world is but a broken toy (Ida, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian)
- A lady fair, of lineage high (Psyche, with Cyril, Hilarion, Florian)
- The woman of the wisest wit (Psyche, Melissa, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian)
- Now wouldn't you like to rule the roast (Melissa, Blanche)
- Merrily ring the luncheon bell (Ladies' Chorus, with Blanche, Cyril)
- Would you know the kind of maid (Cyril)
- Finale to Act Two : Oh, joy! our chief is saved ... Stand forth, ye three ... Whom thou hast chained must wear his chains ... Madam, without the castle walls ... Walls and fences scaling, promptly we appear ... Audacious tyrant ... Some years ago, no doubt you know ... We may remark, though nothing can dismay us ... Be reassured, nor fear his anger blind ... To yield at once to such a foe with shame were rife

Act Three

- Death to the invader (Ladies' Chorus, with Melissa)
- Whene'er I spoke sarcastic joke (Gama, Ladies' Chorus)

- I built upon a rock (Ida)
- When anger spreads his wing (Chorus)
- This helmet, I suppose (Arac, Chorus)
- This is our duty plain towards our princess all immaculate (Chorus)
- Finale to Act Three : With joy abiding, together gliding

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), Colin Fine (Vice-Chairman), Kathryn Buxton (Secretary), Richard Buxton (Treasurer), Stephanie Bolton, Deborah Hammond, Paul Matthews, Christine Noble-Doyle, Peter Sugden, Kelvyn Waites.

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Towns Women Guild Dramatic
Production of

A Christmas Carol

by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr.

Directed by Veronica Moran

Tuesday 4 December to Saturday 8 December, 7:30 pm

In a festive mood, the ladies mount another assault on the classics with their stage version of A Christmas Carol. They enthusiastically portray a dizzying array of characters from the Dickensian favourite (and a few which aren't), engineer some novel audience participation while bravely contending with an intrusive PA system and a real Farndale first, wrap their vocal cords and feet around two original, show stopping songs.



A Halifax Thespians production
Box Office 01422 365998

Coming soon locally :

Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

The Mikado

Haworth West Lane
Baptist Chapel

November 12 – 17 at 7.30 p.m.
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£10.00. Children £5.00.
Over 60s £8.00 on Monday

Bookings : 01535 643425

Meltham Parish Church G & S

The Gondoliers

Church Hall
Meltham

November 20 – 24 at 7.30 p.m.
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£9.00. Children £5.00.
Concessions £7.00 on matinee

Bookings : 01484 349037

