

Great Yarmouth Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic
Association and in association with the
D'Oyly Carte Trust



presents a
CONCERT PERFORMANCE
of the complete comic opera
Merrie England

BY
Basil Hood and Edward German
(by arrangement with Chappell & Co Ltd)

TOWN HALL - GREAT YARMOUTH

Tuesday 22nd and 29th March 1966

at 7.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME

PRICE 6d.

SYNOPSIS



Act I. *The banks of the Thames opposite Windsor*

Act II. *A Glade in Windsor Forest*

Picture an Elizabethan setting depicting May Day revels with the May Queen and her retinue. The plot is mainly concerned with the love affairs of Sir Walter Raleigh and Bessie Throckmorton, and the rivalry between Raleigh and Essex for the favour of Queen Elizabeth. Essex is engaged in plotting against Raleigh, and to this end obtains from Jill-all-Along a love letter written by Raleigh to Bessie. Bessie, to save her lover, discloses to Queen Elizabeth her love for Raleigh, and declares that Essex is jealous. The May games proceed in the presence of Queen Elizabeth; the humour being provided by Walter Wilkins, a strolling player, and his companion Silas Simpkins. Jill-all-Along is accused of witchcraft and appeals to Wilkins for protection, but this avails her little, for she is condemned to death. Bessie is imprisoned, and Raleigh, as a result of Essex's activities is banished from Court. In the second Act, Jill has retreated to the forest, where, by means of a secret passage leading from the Castle, she has aided Bessie's escape. Queen Elizabeth has arranged to meet an apothecary in the forest to procure a poisonous drug to administer to Bessie. Raleigh, disguised as a forester, overhears the plot, but the supposed apothecary turns out to be a friend in disguise. Essex now realises that his favour with Queen Elizabeth will be enhanced when Raleigh marries Bessie, and now works to obtain a pardon for the lovers and for Jill. This is achieved by the subterfuge of a supposed apparition of "Herne the Hunter", which it is said to appear only when the sovereign contemplates a crime. The subterfuge succeeds, the Queen is terrified, and pardons the offenders and the opera ends with a joyous representation of Robin Hood's wedding.



Dramatic Coach : Jeannie A. Robertson

CHARACTERS

The Earl of Essex	William Webb
Sir Walter Raleigh	William Huxley
Walter Wilkins— <i>a player in Shakespeare's Co.</i>	Harry Harvey
Silas Simpkins— <i>another player</i>	Robert Boardley
<i>Royal Foresters:</i>	
Long Tom	David Gunn
Big Benn	David Rich
A Butcher	Ivan Lilley
A Baker	Reginald Whittle
A Tinker	Thomas Sell
A Tailor	Peter Sutton
Queen Elizabeth	Kathleen Baldwin
Bessie Throckmorton	Nancy Berry
Jill-all-Along	Margaret Higgs
May Queen	Kathleen Algar
Kate	Jean Brown

Chorus of Lords, Ladies, Townsfolk, etc.

The Misses: D. Browne, A. Colby, S. Cordingley, A. Donington, C. de-Putron, O. Endersby, A. Enock, A. Fitch, H. Hacon, C. Howarth, E. Howard, E. Llewellyn, J. Mabbett, W. Parry, V. Phipps, J. Robertson, B. Saunders, C. Tadman, R. Tilbrook, C. Webb, P. Woolston, B. Wright, B. A. Wright.

The Mesdames: V. Aldred, J. Amis, H. Anderson, R. Anguish, B. Ash, J. Berridge, J. Blyth, N. Boardley, J. Boothway, J. Brown, C. Clarke, E. Dace, J. De'ath, O. Eagle, A. Flowers, R. Grand, J. Greaves, R. Hurrell, M. Laird, H. Leggett, A. Maund, J. Meale, T. Newstead, L. Poole, S. Page, R. Platt, S. Punt, R. Sadler, B. Skoyles, K. Stevens, K. Surgey, L. Sutton, B. Tooby, V. Ward, E. Whittle.

Messrs.: J. Bales, J. Bates, D. Buchan, A. Higgins, D. Houghton, I. Lilley, E. Maund, P. Newstead, W. Painter, A. Poole, E. Salter, T. Sell, P. Sutton, W. Thomas, A. Turner, R. Whittle, D. Wynne.

Accompanist

Philip R. Wills

Conductor

Bernard H. Gooch

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PAST PRESENTATIONS

1954 (<i>Formation of Society</i>)	Iolanthe	1960	The Yeomen of the Guard
	The Mikado		The Sorcerer
1955	H.M.S. Pinafore	1961	The Mikado
	The Pirates of Penzance		The Gondoliers
1956	The Mikado	1962	Princess Ida
	H.M.S. Pinafore		Patience
1957	The Gondoliers	1963	Ruddigore
	Patience		Iolanthe
1958	Iolanthe	1964	<i>Special 10th Anniversary</i>
	The Pirates of Penzance		<i>programme.</i>
			The Sorcerer
1959	Ruddigore	1965	Princess Ida
	Trial by Jury		
	H.M.S. Pinafore	1966	Merrie England