

NEXT PRODUCTION

SUMMER SONG

Lyrics by **ERIC MASCHWITZ**

Music by **ANTON DVORAK**

(By permission of Samuel French Ltd.)

November 17th to 22nd, 1958

AT THE

Playhouse, Colchester

H.M.S. PINAFORE

OR

THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR

W. S. GILBERT & ARTHUR SULLIVAN



Colchester Operatic & Dramatic Society
Moot Hall

Saturday, March 22nd at 7.30 p.m.

H. M. S.
P I N A F O R E

or

THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR

written by

W. S. GILBERT

composed by

ARTHUR SULLIVAN

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A Performance by

COLCHESTER AMATEUR OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

by kind permission of

Miss Bridget D'oyly Carte

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Price 1/-

H. M. S. PINAFORE

C A S T

Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B.	Norman Joscelyne
Captain Corcoran Maurice Bond
Ralph Rackstraw	...	...	...	... Donald Scott
Dick Deadeye	...	...	...	... Fred Smith
Boatswain's Mate	...	...	...	... Harry Weston
Carpenter's Mate John Huddle
Josephine Dawn Pearson
Hebe	Chris Marshall
Little Buttercup Jo Green

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Musical Director

Ken Ferris

Accompanists

Dudley Brown

and

R. A. Harrison

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H.M.S. PINAFORE

ACT 1

OVERTURE

OPENING CHORUS We sail the ocean blue

RECITATIVE AND SONG (Mrs. Cripps) Hail! men o' war's men

RECITATIVE (Mrs. Cripps and Boatswain) But tell me who's the youth

SCENA (Ralph and Chorus) The nightingale sighed for
the moon's bright ray

ARIA (Ralph) A maiden fair to see

RECITATIVE, SONG & CHORUS (Capt. Corcoran) My gallant crew, good-morning

RECITATIVE (Mrs. Cripps & Capt. Corcoran) Sir, you are sad

SONG (Josephine) Sorry her lot who
loves too well

CHORUS OF WOMEN (behind the scenes)... Over the bright blue sea

CHORUS OF SAILORS... .. Sir Joseph's barge is seen

(Sir Joseph Porter, Cousin Hebe,
Boatswain and Chorus) Now give three cheers

SONG (Sir Joseph Porter and Chorus)... .. When I was a lad

EXIT FOR LADIES For I hold that on the seas

TRIO AND CHORUS (Ralph, Boatswain
and Boatswain's Mate) A British tar is a
soaring soul

H.M.S. PINAFORE

ACT 1 (Contd.)

DUET (Josephine and Ralph) Refrain, audacious tar

FINALE Can I survive this
overbearing

ENTER ACTE

ACT 2

SONG (Capt. Corcoran) Fair moon, to thee I sing

DUET (Mrs. Cripps and Capt. Corcoran). Things are seldom what
they seem

SCENA (Josephine)... .. The hours creep on apace

TRIO (Josephine, Capt. Corcoran and
Sir Joseph Porter) Never mind the why and
wherefore

DUET (Capt. Corcoran and Deadeye) ... Kind Captain, I've important
information

SOLI AND CHORUS Carefully on tip-toe
stealing

OCTET AND CHORUS Farewell, my own

LEGEND (Mrs. Cripps and Chorus) A many years ago

FINALE Oh joy! Oh rapture unforeseen

H.M.S. PINAFORE
or
THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR

ACT 1

First produced at the Opera Comique in 1878, Pinafore remains even to-day one of the best known of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas.

The scene is set aboard H.M.S. Pinafore lying at anchor in Portsmouth Harbour where her crew are busily engaged about ship and singing at their work. Mrs. Cripps (Little Buttercup), a Portsmouth Bumboat woman, comes aboard to sell her wares and presently Captain Corcoran, who commands the vessel, rejoins his crew. Corcoran, well-liked by his crew, boasts that whatever the situation he never uses bad language or abuse and "never swears a big-big D..". The Captain informs his daughter, Josephine, that the First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., is coming aboard to ask her hand in marriage and Josephine reveals that her heart is already given to an ordinary sailor but that family pride will not allow her to accept that love. The man who has won her love is Able-Seaman Ralph Rackstraw, who is himself in love with Josephine but realises the hopelessness of his suit, much to the delight of Dick Deadeye, an unpleasant and misshapen member of the crew.

Sir Joseph comes aboard accompanied by a retinue of "his sisters and his cousins and his aunts", congratulates Corcoran on his crew and singles out Ralph as a fine sailor, telling him that a British tar is equal to any man. This encourages Ralph to reveal his love to Josephine and when he is rebuffed he decides to end his life. At this point Josephine overthrows family pride and confesses her love, to the delight of the crew, who plan to help the lovers leave the ship at dead of night to seek marriage ashore.

ACT 2

Act 2 opens with the Captain bemoaning the sudden turn in his fortunes; his crew no longer respect him, his daughter is rebellious and everything seems to be "at sixes or at sevens". He is consoled by Buttercup, for whom he has a warm regard, and who herself is nursing a secret which ultimately must be revealed.

Meanwhile, Sir Joseph is getting impatient and Corcoran points out that Josephine may be somewhat overawed by his rank. Thereupon the First Lord explains that "love can level ranks" and very ably pleads his rival's cause, making Josephine more determined than ever to elope that night.

Unfortunately Deadeye reveals the plot to the Captain who waits in hiding with "the merry cat o'nine tails", revealing himself to Ralph and Josephine as they are about to leave. In his anger Corcoran swears a "big-big D.." just as the Admiral appears on board, and he is immediately sent to his cabin. Sir Joseph, upon enquiry, learns that Ralph is his rival and sends him to the cells. As he is led away, Little Buttercup reveals her secret - that at an early stage in her career she had practised baby farming, and on one occasion had the misfortune to mix up two babies. One of the babies, Ralph, was of high degree, and the other was he whom they knew as Captain Corcoran. Thus Ralph is the rightful Captain of Pinafore and immediately assumes that rank, whilst Corcoran appears as a common sailor. As Josephine has now fallen considerably in the social scale Sir Joseph, feeling that he can no longer consider her a suitable bride, hands her over to Ralph and he himself is promptly captured by the faithful cousin Hebe. Weddings are promised for the morrow, and in the midst of the rejoicings Corcoran, who has all along shown affectionate leanings towards Buttercup, makes it certain that there will be "three loving pairs on the same day united".

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