

NEXT PRODUCTION

THE MERRY WIDOW

by FRANZ LEHAR

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November 16th to 21st, 1959

AT THE

Playhouse, Colchester

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

OR

THE SLAVE OF DUTY

W. S. GILBERT & ARTHUR SULLIVAN



Colchester Operatic & Dramatic Society
Moot Hall

Saturday, April 18th, at 7.30 p.m.

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THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

OR

THE SLAVE OF DUTY

Written by

W. S. GILBERT

Composed by

ARTHUR SULLIVAN

— O —

A Concert Performance by

THE COLCHESTER OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

by kind permission of

Miss Bridget D'Oyly Carte

— O —

Price 1/-

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

CAST

Major-General Stanley Maurice Bond

The Pirate King (Friday) John Huddle
..... (Saturday) Meilir Hughes

Samuel Harry Turton

Frederic Donald Scott

Sergeant of Police Norman Joscelyne

Mabel Dawn Pearson

Edith Bronwen Taylor

Kate Christine Marshall

Ruth Margaret Hughes

Chorus of Pirates, Police and General Stanley's Daughters

Musical Director

Dr. W. H. Swinburne

Pianists

Mona Scott and Dudley Brown

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

A C T 1

OVERTURE.....
OPENING CHORUS OF PIRATES & SOLO..... Pour, oh pour, the pirate sherry
SONG (Ruth)..... When Fred'ric was a little lad
SONG (Pirate King and Chorus)..... Oh, better far to live and die
RECITATIVE & DUET (Ruth & Frederic)..... Oh! false one, you have deceived me
CHORUS OF GIRLS..... Climbing over rocky mountain
RECITATIVE (Edith, Kate, Frederic and Chorus)..... Stop, ladies, pray!
ARIA (Frederic & Chorus of Girls)..... Oh! is there not one maiden breast
AIR (Mabel and Chorus)..... Poor wand'ring one
(Edith, Kate & Chorus of Girls)..... What ought we to do?
gentle sisters, say!
DUET (Mabel and Frederic, and Chorus of Girls)..... How beautifully blue the sky
(Frederic & Chorus of Girls & Pirates) Stay we must not lose our senses
RECITATIVE (Mabel, Major-General, Samuel, & Chorus)..... Hold, monsters!
SONG (Major-General & Chorus)..... I am the very pattern of
a modern Major-General
FINALE - ACT I (Mabel, Edith, Kate, Frederic, Samuel, King, Major-General, Ruth, and Chorus)..... Oh! men of dark and dismal fate

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

A C T 2

INTRODUCTION. SOLO (Mabel and Chorus)..... Oh! dry the glist'ning tear
RECITATIVE (Frederic and Major-General)..... Now, Frederic, let your
escort lion-hearted
CHORUS, WITH SOLOS (for Mabel, Edith, and Sergeant)..... When the foeman bares his steel
RECITATIVE AND TRIO..... Now for the pirates' lair!
TRIO (Ruth, Frederic, and King)..... When you had left our pirate fold
TRIO (Ruth, Frederic, and King)..... Away, away, my heart's on fire!
RECITATIVE AND DUET (Mabel and Frederic)..... All is prepared! your
gallant crew await you!
DUET (Mabel and Frederic)..... Stay, Fred'ric, stay!
RECITATIVE (Mabel, &c., Chorus of Police)..... No, I'll be brave!
Oh, family descent
SONG (Sergeant and Chorus)..... When a felon's not engaged
in his employment
SOLO (Sergeant and Chorus of Pirates and Police)..... A rollicking band of pirates we
SOLO (Samuel & Chorus of Pirates)..... With cat-like tread
(Frederic, King, Major-General, Police, and Pirates)..... Hush! Hush! not a word
SONG (Major-General & Chorus of Pirates and Police) AND FINALE..... Sighing softly to the river

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

was first produced at the Opera
Comique, London, in April, 1880

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When Ruth, a nursemaid, was told to apprentice her young charge, Frederic, to a Pilot, she misheard and took him to a Pirate. Realising her mistake, she dared not return, so joined the Pirate Band herself as a Maid-of-all-Work. When the Play opens she is forty-seven and her erstwhile charge is celebrating his majority. He warns the Pirates that, his duty to them having expired, he must now devote himself to their extermination. Ruth implores him to marry her and take her with him. He feels he must see the World, and a few of its female inhabitants, before he makes any promises, and at this moment fate introduces the family of General Stanley, a score or so of young maidens. Frederic reveals himself and begs for their pity on his plight, and one of them, Mabel, shows that pity is akin to love. They are interrupted by the Pirates who propose to add matrimony to their other adventures. General Stanley, however, arrives and to rescue his family pleads untruthfully that he is an orphan - on which the tender-hearted Pirates reluctantly release his family.

The Second Act opens in a ruined Chapel to which the General is wont to retire to brood over his falsehood. Frederic, to cheer him, announces that he will shortly exterminate the Pirates by means of a band of policemen who are introduced, led by their Sergeant. When they retire, leaving Frederic alone, the Pirate King and Ruth enter and explain to Frederic an amusing paradox; that as he was born on February 29th in a Leap-Year his apprenticeship, which expires on his Twenty-first Birthday, has still many years to run. His duty now being to the Pirates he, with great unwillingness, tells them of General Stanley's falsehood. The King fetches his band to exact vengeance and they attack and overcome the police whose Sergeant, however, calls on them to yield in Queen Victoria's name. Their loyalty now makes them pause. Ruth then divulges that they are all not vulgar Pirates but Noblemen who have gone wrong. That makes a difference, of course, and the Opera closes by their being accepted by the General's daughters, on their repentance, as eligible suitors.

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