

NEXT PRODUCTION

THE SONG OF NORWAY

by **EDVARD GRIEG**

14th to 19th November, 1960

AT THE

PLAYHOUSE, Colchester

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

OR

THE MERRY MAN AND HIS MAID

W. S. GILBERT & ARTHUR SULLIVAN



Colchester Operatic & Dramatic Society
Moot Hall

Friday, 22nd April at 7.30 p.m.

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

or

THE MERRY MAN AND HIS MAID

Written by

W. S. GILBERT

Composed by

ARTHUR SULLIVAN

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A Concert Performance by

THE COLCHESTER OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

by kind permission of

Miss Bridget D'Oyly Carte

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Price 1s. 0d.

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

CAST

Sir Richard Cholmondeley (Lieutenant of the Tower)	Harry Turton
Colonel Fairfax	Donald Scott
Sergeant Meryll	Meilir Hughes
Leonard Meryll	John Evans
Jack Point	John Huddle
Wilfred Shadbolt	Norman Joscoelyne
First Yeoman	Horace Pearce
Second Yeoman	Albert Morison
Elsie Maynard	Judith Brown
Phoebe Meryll	Bronwen Taylor
Dame Carruthers	Margaret Hughes
Kate	Dawn Pearson

Chorus: Yeomen of the Guard, Gentlemen, Citizens, etc.

Musical Director

Dr. W. H. Swinburne

Pianists

Mona Scott and Dudley Brown

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THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

ACT 1

OVERTURE.....

INTRODUCTION & SONG (Phoebe)..... When maiden loves she sits and sighs

DOUBLE CHORUS (People and
Yeomen with SOLO, Baritone)..... Tower warders under orders

SONG WITH CHORUS (Dame
Carruthers and Yeomen)..... When our gallant Norman foes

TRIO (Phoebe, Leonard and Meryll)..... Alas I waver to and fro

BALLAD (Fairfax)..... Is life a boon?

CHORUS (Entrance of Crowd,
Elsie and Point)..... Here's a man of jollity

DUET (Elsie and Point)..... I have a song to sing, O

TRIO (Elsie, Point and Lieutenant)..... How say you maiden will you wed?

RECIT. AND SONG (Point)..... I've jibe and joke

RECIT. AND SONG (Elsie)..... 'Tis done! I am a bride

SONG (Phoebe)..... Were I thy bride

FINALE..... Oh Sergeant Meryll is it true?

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

ACT 2

CHORUS..... Night has spread her pall once more

SOLO (Dame Carruthers)..... Warders are ye?

SONG (Point)..... Oh a private buffoon
is a lighthearted loon

DUET (Point and Wilfred)..... Here upon we're both agreed

BALLAD (Fairfax)..... Free from his fetters grin

QUARTET (Kate, Dame,
Fairfax and Meryll)..... Strange adventure

SCENE (Elsie, Phoebe, Dame,
Fairfax, Point, Lieutenant,
Sergeant Meryll and CHORUS)..... Hark! What was that, Sir?

TRIO (Elsie, Phoebe
and Fairfax)..... A man who would woo a fair maid

QUARTET (Elsie, Phoebe,
Fairfax and Point)..... When a wooer goes a wooing

DUET (Dame and Sergeant)..... Rapture! Rapture!

FINALE..... Comes the pretty young bride

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

The Yeomen of the Guard is the love story of Colonel Fairfax and Elsie Maynard, a strolling player. Colonel Fairfax, having been charged with sorcery, is laying in the Tower under sentence of death. The charge has been preferred against him by a kinsman who will inherit the Fairfax estates if the Colonel dies unmarried. In order to thwart the scurvy trick of his kinsman, Fairfax begs his old friend the Lieutenant of the Tower to find him a bride, no matter who, for coming death hath made of him a true and chivalrous knight, who holds all women in such esteem that the eldest, meanest and worst favoured of them is good enough for him who hath but an hour to live, and her dower shall be an hundred crowns, no such poor dower for an hour of matrimony.

Two strolling players, Jack Point and Elsie Maynard, arrive on the scene, and the Lieutenant persuades Elsie to consent to a blindfold marriage with the condemned man, to which she consents in order to obtain help for her mother, who is sorely ill. Jack Point, deeply in love with Elsie, who is by no means old, mean or ill favoured, gives his consent only when assured that within the hour the unknown bridegroom will be beheaded and Elsie free to marry again. And so she is led out blindfold to the wedding.

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

But there is a plot afoot to secure the release of the Colonel, for Sergeant Meryll, whose life the Colonel had twice saved, and his daughter, Phoebe, cunningly contrive to secure the keys of the cell from Shadbolt, Phoebe's sour-faced lover.

Now Meryll's son, Leonard, who was to have joined the Yeomen of the Guard that day and who is quite unknown to anybody, consents to provide Yeomen's uniform, and in this disguise the Colonel, now happily released, masquerades amongst his comrades as Leonard Meryll and is one of the party detailed to bring the prisoner to execution.

Consternation prevails when it is discovered that the prisoner's cell is empty, but Fairfax enjoys his freedom undiscovered and unsuspected, and indeed, meeting his unknown bride of an hour before, falls in love with her and she with him.

A fitting sequel occurs in the arrival of a reprieve, so Fairfax is now free to disclose his identity and claim his bride. And thus matters end happily for everyone except poor Jack Point who, broken-hearted at losing his sweetheart, falls insensible at her feet as the curtain descends.