

OPERATIC WEEK

19TH - 24TH NOVEMBER, 1962

THE DANCING YEARS

by

IVOR NOVELLO

at

THE PLAYHOUSE

-- o --

R U D D I G O R E

or

THE WITCH'S CURSE

written by

W. S. GILBERT

composed by

ARTHUR SULLIVAN

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A Concert Performance by

THE COLCHESTER OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

in the

MOOT HALL

SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1962 at 7.30 p.m.

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Price 2/6d.

*Reviewed by
Sung by
Shirley Campbell*

RUDDIGORE

C A S T

Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd Maurice Bond
(disguised as Robin Oakapple)
Richard Dauntless (his foster-brother) Ken Ferris
Sir Despard Murgatroyd Norman Joscelyne
Old Adam Goodheart John Huddle
Rose Maybud Dawn Pearson
Mad Margaret Bronwen Taylor
Dame Hannah Margaret Hughes
Zorah Sylvia Frost
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd Harry Turton
Chorus of Officers, Ancestors, Villagers and Professional
Bridesmaids

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Musical Director

Donald Scott

Pianists

Mona Scott and Dudley Brown

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R U D D I G O R E

A C T I

OVERTURE

CHORUS OF BRIDESMAIDS
(Solo Soprano, Zorah) Fair is Rose

SONG (Hannah and Chorus) Sir Rupert Murgatroyd
his leisure

SONG (Rose) If somebody there chanced to be

DUET (Rose and Robin) I know a youth

CHORUS OF BRIDESMAIDS
AND SONG (Richard) From the briny sea

SONG (Robin) My boy, you may take it from me

DUET (Rose and Richard) The battle's roar is over

ENTRANCE OF BRIDESMAIDS If well his suit has sped

TRIO (Rose, Richard
and Robin) In sailing o'er life's ocean wide

RECIT. AND ARIA (Margaret) Cheerily carols the lark

CHORUS Welcome, gentry

SONG AND CHORUS (Sir Despard) Oh, why am I moody and sad?

DUET (Richard and
Sir Despard) You understand? I think I do

FINALE Hail the bride

R U D D I G O R E

A C T II

DUET (Sir Ruthven and Adam) I once was as meek

DUET AND CHORUS
(Rose and Richard) Happily coupled are we

SONG (Rose, with Chorus of
Bridesmaids) In Bygone days

CHORUS OF ANCESTORS (with Solos,
Sir Ruthven and Sir Roderic) Painted Emblems

SONG (Sir Roderic and Chorus) When the night wind howls

CHORUS He yields

DUET (Margaret and Despard) I once was a very

TRIO (Margaret, Sir Ruthven
and Despard) My eyes are fully open

SONG (Hannah, with
Sir Roderic) There grew a little flower

FINALE Oh, happy the lily
when kissed by the bee

R U D D I G O R E

The Cornish village of Rederring boasts a bevy of professional bridesmaids who approach Rose Maybud to coax her to choose a husband. She is in love with Robin Oakapple who is really Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd the bad baronet of Ruddigore. The family is under a curse to commit a crime a day since Sir Rupert the first baronet tortured and burned a witch. Robin has "disappeared" and his younger brother Despard is now the baronet.

Robin is in love with Rose but too shy to declare himself and enlists the help of his foster-brother Richard, a sailor. Richard falls in love with Rose himself. Rose promises to marry Richard, but when Robin hears this he overcomes his shyness and declares his love. She leaves Richard for Robin and in revenge Richard discloses the fact that Robin is really Despard's elder brother.

Despard is only too glad to relinquish the title and reform. Upon hearing this Rose refuses to marry the new baronet and after offering herself to Despard, who refuses her, falls back on Richard. Despard is determined to make amends to Mad Margaret, a poor distracted creature he has ill used, and marries her.

Robin is now installed as baronet and tortured by his ancestors when he does not commit his daily crime. With the aid of his servant Adam he abducts a girl who turns out to be, not Rose, but her Aunt Hannah. His ancestor Sir Roderic recognises Hannah as his love of other days and blames Robin for the liberty he has taken in abducting her.

Finally Robin has the brilliant idea that by refusing to commit a crime a day he will be put to death by his ancestors. By so doing he will be committing suicide which is a crime. All ends happily; Rose being convinced that Robin is no longer a bad baronet forgives him and Richard consoles himself with one of the bridesmaids.