

NEXT PRODUCTION

THE COUNT OF LUXEMBOURG

An Operetta in three acts
by A. M. WILLNER and R. BODANSKY

music by
FRANZ LEHAR

translated and adapted by
ERIC MASCHWITZ

music adapted and arranged by
BERNARD GRUN

AT THE
A.B.C. THEATRE
NOVEMBER 18th — 23rd
(INCLUSIVELY)

CONCERT VERSION
of
MERRIE ENGLAND

written by
BASIL HOOD
Composed by
EDWARD GERMAN

A performance by
Colchester Operatic and Dramatic Society
ON

March 29th and 30th 1968

AT THE
MOOT HALL, COLCHESTER
7.30 p.m.

Programme price 6d.

MERRIE ENGLAND

A FOREWORD

PICTURE an Elizabethan setting depicting in its opening the 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-Alone 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.

Jill-all-Alone is accused of witchcraft and is condemned to death, Bessie is imprisoned, and Raleigh, as a result of Essex's activities, 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, realising that his favour with Elizabeth will be enhanced when Raleigh marries Bessie, 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 is said to appear only when the Sovereign contemplates a crime.

The subterfuge succeeds, the Queen is terrified and pardons the offenders, the play ending with a joyous representation of Robin Hood's wedding.

Musical Director: DONALD SCOTT

Hon. Accompanist: Margaret Notley

CAST

THE EARL OF ESSEX	John Huddle
SIR WALTER RALEIGH	Ralph Porter
LONG TOM	Norman Joscelyne
A BUTCHER	Dennis Rainbird
A BAKER	Leon Notley
A TINKER	Maurice Bond
A TAILOR	Derek Massey
QUEEN ELIZABETH	Ann Platten
BESSIE THROCKMORTON	Iris Bones
JILL-ALL-ALONE	Dawn Pearson

Chorus of Lords, Ladies, Townsfolk, Soldiers, etc.

MERRIE ENGLAND

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

Part I

INTRODUCTION	
1. OPENING CHORUS	"Sing adown, adown"
2. SONG (<i>Jill and Chorus</i>)	"Oh where the deer do lie"
3. SONG (<i>Raleigh and Chorus</i>)	"That every Jack"
4. QUINTET (<i>Bessie, Jill, Raleigh, Essex and Long Tom</i>)	"Love is meant to make us glad"
5. BALLAD (<i>Bessie</i>)	"She had a letter from her love"
6. SONG (<i>Essex and Chorus</i>)	"The Yeomen of England"
7. DUET (<i>Bessie and Raleigh</i>)	"Come to Arcadie"
8. MARCH AND CHORUS	"Long Live Elizabeth"
9. SONG (<i>Elizabeth with Chorus</i>)	"O peaceful England"
10. FINALE (<i>Principals and Chorus</i>)	"It is a tale of Robin Hood"

Part II

INTRODUCTION AND CHORUS	"The month of May"
11. SOLO (<i>Jill</i>)	"Cat, cat, where have you been?"
12. QUARTET (<i>Bessie, Jill, Raleigh and Essex</i>)	"In England, Merrie England"
13. QUARTET AND MALE CHORUS	"The Sun in the heaven is high"
14. DUET (<i>Jill and Raleigh</i>)	"It is the merry month of May"
15. SONG (<i>Raleigh</i>)	"The English Rose"
16. DUET (<i>Essex and Raleigh</i>) AND CHORUS	"Two merry men a'drinking"
17. WALTZ SONG (<i>Bessie</i>)	"Who shall say"
18. SONG (<i>Essex</i>) WITH TRIO (<i>Bessie, Jill and Raleigh</i>)	"When Cupid first"
19. FINALE (<i>Principals and Chorus</i>)	"Robin Hood's Wedding"