
The Burton-on-Trent and District Operatic Society

(Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association)

presents

“PATIENCE”

Written by W. S. Gilbert

Composed by . . . Arthur Sullivan

in

THE LITTLE THEATRE

BURTON - ON - TRENT

Monday, October 5th to Saturday, October 10th
1953

An Amateur Performance by permission of Bridget D'Oyly Carte

"PATIE OR BUNTHOR

BURTON-ON-TRENT AND DISTRICT OPERATIC SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

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HONORARY OFFICIALS

Stage Manager	John Kelly
Assistant Stage Managers	Peter Appleby, John Pumford
Property Mistress	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	May Webster
Wardrobe Mistress	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Rosamund Day
Prompter	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Alwyn Powell
Make-up	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Geoffrey Sowerby, Madeleine Sowerby Maurice Smalley
Accompanist at rehearsals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Evelyn Woodhouse, L.R.A.M.
Performance Secretary	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Joy Edwards
Secretary	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Mr. R. Brunning 83 Horninglow Road, Burton-on-Trent
Treasurer and House Manager	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Mr. H. N. Hasshill 90 Eton Road, Burton-on-Trent

The setting designed and painted by L. R. Scott

THE ACCOMPANIMENT

Pianist	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Evelyn Woodhouse, L.R.A.M.
Violinist	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	John W. Walker
Cellist	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Hayden A. Knighton
Drums	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Dennis Reynolds

NO SMOKING—The audience is requested to refrain from smoking during the performance
ICES will be available during the Interval

INCE" NE'S BRIDE!

CAST

Colonel Calverley .....	.....	} (Officers of Dragoon Guards)	John Clemes
Major Murgatroyd .....	.....		Reginald Evans
Lieut. The Duke of Dunstable .....	.....		Reginald Brunning
Reginald Bunthorne (<i>a Fleshly Poet</i>) .....	.....	.....	Geoffrey Sharp
Archibald Grosvenor (<i>an Idyllic Poet</i>) .....	.....	.....	Alan Thompson
Mr. Bunthorne's Solicitor .....	.....	.....	Hugh Tunn
The Lady Angela .....	.....	} (Rapturous Maidens)	Effie Cottrell
The Lady Saphir .....	.....		Dorothy Plowright
The Lady Ella .....	.....		Valerie Sharp
The Lady Jane .....	.....		Molly Kidger
Patience (<i>a Dairy Maid</i>) .....	.....	.....	Mabel Whiteland

Chorus of Rapturous Maidens and Officers of Dragoon Guards

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS

Doreen Barnes	Dorothy Sillita	Clifford Howse
Edith Broughton	Ivy Smith	Herbert Macey
Joy Edwards	Glenys Turner	Ralph Milnes
Ena Evans	Patricia Wright	Alan Shotton
Beryl Painter	Leonard Bowler	Richard Thomas
Annette Powell	Leonard Farley	Geoffrey Wenden

SCENE—EXTERIOR OF CASTLE BUNTHORNE

ACT I

Interval of ten minutes

ACT II

The music directed by
MARGARET SHEARDOWN, L.R.A.M.

The opera produced by
GEOFFREY SHARP

The audience is asked not to break the continuity by insisting on encores when the action and dialogue is being carried straight on by the artistes

"PATIENCE" is without doubt the most satirical of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and as a theatrical comment on aestheticism it has yet to be surpassed. Because of the highly satirical content of the libretto and lyrics, Gilbert often feared for its success and its future. He need never have worried for, as we now know, the first night at the Opera Comique on the 23rd April, 1881, was another triumph for the famous Gilbert-Sullivan-Carte trio, and the first night audience demanded eight encores: and as for its future, sufficient to remember that it has survived the changing fancies of 72 years, and is still as popular as ever.

Apart from Sullivan's delightful lyrical score, perhaps "Patience" has lost none of its popularity because its basic subject—Affectation—is always with us. When the opera was written, the "aesthetic craze" was at its peak—languid ladies in hideous costumes and affected men continually posing in ridiculous attitudes were to be seen in every fashionable salon. The craze began as a legitimate attempt to bring beauty into a drab and ugly Victorian era but got carried to undreamt of extremes. Nowadays, we are not so brave in our dress and behaviour, but who among us will dare to admit that he is free of affected mannerisms?

"Patience" contains some of Sullivan's most lovely music and the clever contrast between the languorous melodies of the aesthetics and the pompous martial notes of the Dragoons is a fine piece of theatrical writing. As in the past, simplicity has been the key-note of our production. With an ever increasing membership we constantly yearn for a larger stage to accommodate a larger Chorus, but until that day comes we trust that quality will make up for what we lack in quantity.

We sincerely hope you will be entertained by our opera this evening, and thank you for your kind support both now and in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our grateful thanks are extended to the following:

Our Patrons for their support.

The Horne Thompson Honorary Concert Direction for carrying out the booking arrangements.

The Municipal School of Speech and Drama for the use of workshops, loan of scenery, etc.

Messrs. May and Armstrong, Ltd.

Costumes and Wigs by B. J. Simmons & Co. Ltd.

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

"THE GONDOLIERS"	.....	.....	February, 1952
"THE MIKADO"	.....	.....	November, 1952

NEXT PRODUCTION

"H.M.S. PINAFORE" — MAY, 1954