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Yeomen of the Guard



Erie Theatre, November, 1953



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To the Audience . . .

Once again we welcome you to an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan. Tonight's "Yeomen of the Guard" is one of the incomparable team's finest works, even bordering musically at times on grand opera. In line with the Schenectady Light Opera Company's policy of presenting a balanced cycle of entertainment, the spring performance — Sigmund Romberg's "The New Moon" — will be in a lighter vein. We hope that you will enjoy both productions.

You have probably noticed that "Yeomen of the Guard" will play only three performances instead of the usual four. The reason is this: As a service to the Schenectady musical audience, which for the most part is a group common to both the Civic Music Association and the Light Opera Company, we have rescheduled our opening night in order to avoid conflict with the first Civic Music concert.

This season, in addition to our regular productions and social activities, we are continuing our scholarship and workshop programs. Plans for future workshops provide for basic study in four departments: music (choral), dramatics, dance, and orchestra. The primary aim will be the training of principals, chorus, and staff; but it is also hoped that a mid-season performance of interest can be presented to our regular and special members.

We invite you to participate more actively in the work and fun of the Light Opera Company — specifically, by visiting us at rehearsals, sending talent our way, coming to our organizational meetings and tryouts, and helping us financially by special membership subscriptions. Your continued interest and support is our best assurance that you enjoy the form of entertainment presented here tonight.

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Daniel Bloom, *Asst. Chairman*
Vernon Bluhm, William Fletcher, John Gingrich, Roscoe Goodwin, Frank Hix, Arthur Hughes, Raymond Martin, Wesley Moles, Floyd Moore, Robert Phillips, William Wheeler, John Weiss, Robert White, Edwin Hilbert

Lighting..Raymond Collins, *Chairman*
James Anderson, Frank Hix

Sound...Donald Norgaard, *Chairman*
Norman Walter

Costumes

May Jones Perkins, *Designer*
Erna Hansen, Mary Frances Heffron, Janet Hensel, Eleanor Kornfeld, Betty Northup, Pat Peterson

Elsie's wedding dress in Act II
executed by Kate Smart

Properties...Minnie Baillie, *Chairman*
Audrey Briggs, Pat Elliott, Marilyn Frederick, Sue Gabel, Margaret Hamilton

Make-Up..Yolanda Gagnon, *Chairman*
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THE STORY

In the colorful days of Queen Elizabeth, a certain Colonel Fairfax is condemned to death for dealings with the devil, and is sent to the Tower of London to await his fate. The doomed man has one wish to fulfill before his execution—in order to prevent an unscrupulous cousin from inheriting his wealth, he wants to be married before he dies.

With the help of Lt. Cholmondeley (pronounced Chumley), the lieutenant of the Tower, a strolling singer named Elsie Maynard is persuaded to become Fairfax's blindfolded bride. As recompense for her imminent widowhood, Elsie has the promise of a hundred crowns—enough to provide food and comfort for her ailing mother.

While Fairfax is preparing to die, however, his friend Sergeant Meryll of the Yeomen of the Guard is plotting for his escape. Meryll's daughter Phoebe, who has fallen in love with the prisoner, abets the plot by flirting with the stupid jailor, Wilfred Shadbolt, and stealing the key to Fairfax's cell.

Fairfax escapes, and poses as Meryll's son. He immediately meets Elsie, now unblindfolded, and falls in love with her. But Elsie has another lover—her dancing partner, Jack Point, a jester and wandering player. Point resolves to do away with his rival Fairfax so that he himself can court Elsie. Therefore, he and the duped Shadbolt plan to pretend to shoot Fairfax as he is supposedly escaping by swimming across the river.

Point's plan misses fire when a reprieve for Fairfax arrives. Fairfax wants to discard his disguise as Meryll's son and claim Elsie as his wife, but Meryll is afraid that this will uncover his own part in the original scheme. So Phoebe, still in love with Fairfax, promises to marry Shadbolt to keep him quiet about the plot.

With the last obstacle overcome, Elsie and Fairfax are united and the Tower rings with the rejoicing of all. All, that is, except Phoebe, who has agreed to marry Shadbolt "in a year—or two—or three," and Point, the erstwhile merry jester, who has lost his lady-love and finds only sadness of heart.

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ABOUT THE OPERETTA

The Beefeaters—those picturesquely dressed guards of the ancient portals of the Tower of London—were the inspiration for Gilbert and Sullivan's "Yeomen of the Guard." The idea came to W. S. Gilbert when one day he saw a Beefeater pictured in an advertisement. Immediately he visualized a musical featuring a chorus of Beefeaters and set in the shadows of the Tower.

At the time they set to work on "Yeomen of the Guard," Gilbert and Sullivan were ready to do a light opera both more serious and more romantic than their earlier plays, "HMS Pinafore," "The Pirates of Penzance," and "The Mikado." Neither a parody of current British politics nor a caricature of the notable figures of the day, "Yeomen of the Guard" is the most realistic—and considered by some the best—of all the partners' collaborations. It opened in London in October 1888.

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1. When maiden loves she sits and sighs.....Phoebe
2. Tower warders under orders.....People and Yeomen
This the autumn (solo).....Second Yeoman
3. When our gallant Norman foes.....Dame Carruthers and Yeomen
4. Alas, I waver to and fro.....Phoebe, Leonard, and Meryll
5. Is life a boon?.....Fairfax
6. Here's a man of jollity.....People, Elsie, and Point
7. I have a song to sing, O.....Elsie and Point
8. How say you maiden, will you wed.....Elsie, Point, and Lieutenant
9. 'Tis done! I am a bride.....Elsie
10. Were I thy bride.....Phoebe
11. Oh Sergeant Meryll, is it true.....FINALE

ACT II

1. Night has spread her pall once more.....Chorus
Warders are ye? (solo).....Dame Carruthers
2. Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon.....Point
3. Hereupon we're both agreed.....Point and Wilfred
4. Free from his fetters grim.....Fairfax
5. Strange adventure!.....Kate, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax,
and Sergeant Meryll
6. Hark! What was that, sir?.....Elsie, Phoebe, Dame Carruthers,
Fairfax, Wilfred, Point, Lieutenant,
Sergeant Meryll, and Chorus
7. A man who would woo a fair maid.....Elsie, Phoebe, and Fairfax
8. When a wooer goes a-wooing.....Elsie, Phoebe, Fairfax, and Point
9. Comes the pretty young bride.....FINALE

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Presents

Yeomen of the Guard

or

The Merryman and His Maid

By W. S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN

CAST

(in order of appearance)

PHOEBE MERYLL, Sergeant Meryll's daughter.....	Doreen Heard
WILFRED SHADBOLT, head jailor.....	Richard B. Babbitt
DAME CARRUTHERS, housekeeper to the Tower.....	Jane Coffey
SECOND YEOMAN.....	Roger Rossi
SERGEANT MERYLL of the Yeomen of the Guard.....	Paul Best
LEONARD MERYLL, Sergeant Meryll's son.....	Benjamin Storrs
LT. HOLMONDOLEY, Lieutenant of the Tower.....	Stanley Hiltabiddle
COLONEL FAIRFAX, under sentence of death.....	Ray C. Faught, Jr.
JACK POINT, a strolling jester.....	Robert Stone
ELSIE MAYNARD, a strolling singer.....	Sylvia Horwitz
FIRST CITIZEN.....	William Krummel
FIRST YEOMAN.....	Peter Clemm
KATE CARRUTHERS, Dame Carruthers' niece.....	Margaret Hedrick

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CHORUS

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Jacqueline Collins
Jacquelyn Cone
Mariann Cygan
Kathryn Dempster
Janet Fletcher

Marilyn Jesmain
Eleanor Kornfeld
Jacqueline Kron
Lillian Krummel
Jean Liston
Jean MacKinnon

Glenna Pease
Roberta Sladeck
Winifred Storrs
Margaret Way
Doris Wilson

Donald Boink
Peter Clemm
David Davidson
Thomas Dempster
Richard Gabriel
Bradley Germain

John Gingrich
Ray Good
Leonard Gurzinski
Grant Hansel
Paul Howland
William Krummel

John Lavery
John Molden
Roger Rossi
E. Gary Schatz
Lee Tomlinson
John Weiss

SCENES

Setting: Elizabethan England

Prologue—Sergeant Meryll's house

Act I—Courtyard of the Tower of London—daytime

Intermission

Act II—Tower Courtyard, night time, two days later

UNDERSTUDIES FOR "YEOMEN OF THE GUARD"

Dame Carruthers.....Rose Mary Gross
Colonel Fairfax.....Benjamin Storrs

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Cello.....	Arthur Catricala, Kenneth Gerome
Bass.....	Carl Demangate
Flute.....	Sarah Besau
Oboe.....	Lenore MacGaffey
Clarinet.....	William Lane, Bruno Zimm
Bass Clarinet.....	William Armstrong
French Horn.....	Theodore Routenberg, John Adams
Trumpet.....	Joseph Mirate, George Coulter
Trombone.....	Russell Cain
Percussion.....	Harry Waters

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Joan Cooper	Barbara Hartman	Natalie Palk
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Mary Dalton	Marie Hoadley	Priscilla Rogers
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Eleanor Ann Fair	Polly House	Joyce Springer
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SYLVIA HORWITZ—Native of Bangor, Maine . . . graduate of Juilliard School of Music . . . sixth Light Opera show . . . previous appearances in "Chanticleer Hall," "Wizard of the Nile," "The Gondoliers," "The Mikado," "The Chocolate Soldier," and "Iolanthe."

RAY C. FAUGHT, JR.—First SLOC appearance . . . studied at Johns Hopkins University . . . presently a GE engineer . . . soloist at the First Reformed Church . . . formerly sang with SPEBSQSA and the Schubert Club . . . continuing his musical studies at the Schenectady Conservatory.

DOREEN HEARD—Fourth SLOC show . . . born in Auburn, N. Y. . . . graduate of Syracuse University . . . studied music and drama . . . has appeared in musicals in Syracuse and New York . . . active in the Civic Players . . . has been seen in area TV shows.

ROBERT STONE — Long-time member of Light Opera Company . . . graduate of Eastman School of Music, Rochester . . . featured on WRGB's "Rollin' with Stone" program . . . composer for SLOC's original production of Moliere's "School for Wives" . . . actor and director for Civic Players . . . directs choir of Second Reformed Church.

RICHARD B. BABBITT—Eleventh consecutive appearance in a Light Opera production . . . graduate of Hiram College, Ohio . . . soloist at the First Presbyterian Church, Troy, and cantor at the Temple Gates of Heaven . . . member of the Cleff Dwellers quartet . . . employed at GE's Malta Test Station.

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THE PLAYERS (Continued)

PAUL BEST—First SLOC show . . . previously performed with Central Jersey Operetta Guild . . . bass soloist with New Brunswick Oratorio Society and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, New Brunswick . . . now studying at Schenectady Conservatory . . . engineering degree from Rutgers . . . GE sales engineer.

STANLEY HILTABIDDLE—First Light Opera production . . . has appeared at the Cain Park Theatre in Cleveland . . . graduate of the University of Miami, Florida . . . a GE engineer.

BENJAMIN STORRS—Previous SLOC productions: "The Red Mill" and "Brigadoon" . . . soloist at Emmanuel Baptist Church . . . a methods engineer with GE.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

J COLEMAN WHITE (Producer)—Member of the Board of Directors for the past three years . . . played lead role of Alain in "School for Wives" . . . formerly member of Schubert Club . . . electrical engineering graduate of Cornell . . . an engineer with GE.

ROBERT B. COLLIER (Director-Conductor)—Previously produced "Tolanthe" and "The Red Mill" . . . extensive experience with G&S operettas . . . for two seasons member of the Arundel Opera Theatre, Kennebunk, Maine . . . also a summer with the Keene Summer Theatre, Keene, N. H. . . . technical director of "La Boheme" at Potsdam State Teachers College this past summer . . . graduate of Boston University College of Music . . . teacher of music at Washington Irving Junior High School . . . choir director of Emmanuel Baptist Church . . . will direct Schenectady County Council of Churches music festival in December.

WILLIAM GRAHAM (Dramatics Coach)—First Light Opera show . . . DePauw University graduate, major in music and theatre . . . studied at Vienna Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts . . . won dramatics award at Depauw . . . GE Business Training Course.

SHIRLEY PHILLIPS (Chorus Master)—Seventh SLOC production . . . graduate of Crane Department of Music at Potsdam State Teachers College . . . has appeared with the Arundel Opera Theatre in "Die Fledermaus" . . . formerly a member of the Dutchess County Philharmonic Orchestra and the New Paltz Symphony.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY (Continued)

GORDON HEFFRON (Production Manager)—In the chorus of "The Red Mill" and "Brigadoon" . . . a graduate of Tulane . . . M.S. in electrical engineering from Purdue . . . an analytical engineer at GE.

DONALD NICKLAS (Stage Manager)—Six years with the Light Opera Company . . . stage manager for "Brigadoon" . . . member of SLOC's Board of Directors . . . B.S. from Tufts . . . a development engineer at GE.

EMERSON SMITH (Associate Dramatics Coach)—Has worked on many past SLOC shows . . . sang the role of the Wizard in "The Wizard of the Nile" . . . performed with the Arundel Opera Theatre in "Die Fledermaus" . . . active with the Civic Players . . . formerly a member of the Hymn Singers Quartet on WGY, and currently a Cleff Dweller.

SPRING SHOW

Sigmund Romberg's "New Moon" will be the Schenectady Light Opera Company's spring show. It will be presented at the Erie Theatre May 18, 19, 20, and 21, 1954. All seats will be reserved. We suggest that you place your name on our mailing list to be assured of choice seats. Blanks for this purpose are available from the usherettes.

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Furniture in Sgt. Meryll's house.....Mr. and Mrs. Axel Frieberg
Book.....Union College Library
Spinning wheel and pewter pieces.....Schenectady Museum
Bridal bouquet.....Doris Remis Flowers
Chest.....Mrs. Robert Phillips
Cymbals.....Mont Pleasant High School

Baldwin piano — courtesy of Roberts Piano Co.

SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

For the seventh year, the Light Opera Company will award two scholarships to be used for voice training. The first award is for \$100; the other is for \$50. Any resident of Schenectady or of the area within a 50-mile radius of the city, who is between the ages of 16 and 30, is eligible. The public auditions will be held in the spring, at a time and place to be announced later. Judging and selecting the winners will be a staff composed of musically qualified residents of this area.

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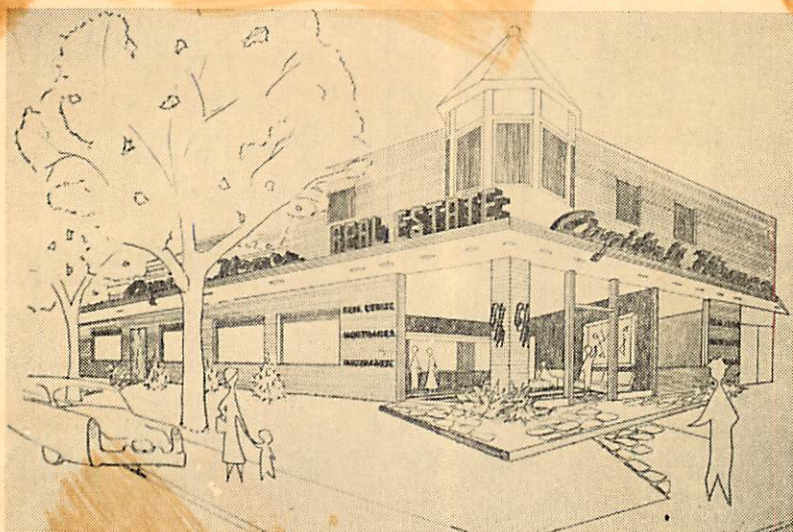
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