

THE SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

PRESENTS



EDWARD J. HATFIELD, JR., Director



Mont Pleasant High School
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8:30 P. M.

Thurs., Fri., Sat.

May 19, 20, 21, 1949

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To the Audience



"The Gondoliers" is the most ambitious presentation yet attempted by the Schenectady Light Opera Company. Each of our members, over a hundred and twenty now, gave, without compensation, over six hours a week, on the average, for three months for this production. Many put in more than twice this time. This is an aggregate effort seldom equaled by non-professional groups of any type. There must be a reason why all this work is worthwhile.

The reason is to be found in the personal satisfaction of participating in a cultural activity of professional caliber and in observing the impact on the community. This message concerns the latter.

The Company, like a young animal responding to stimulating nourishment, has grown too large for its cage. To continue to bring to Schenectady audiences the very best productions of light opera, to continue our educational workshops for scenery production, choral singing and staging and to expand the activities of the orchestra, unusual facilities are required.

In short, it is time to ask the people of music-conscious Schenectady for a home. By this is not meant an "opera house" in the customary sense of an auditorium, although this is the real need for the city's manifold cultural enterprises, but rather a headquarters, a large old house suitably remodeled to yield rehearsal rooms, a full size stage, space for construction, painting and storage of our magnificent sets, space for our increasing wardrobe and other properties.

Although the Company makes a slight profit on each production the treasury balance is not growing as fast as the Company requirements. To meet the present emergency we are creating a new membership, the Contributing Membership, an opportunity for individuals or firms to give at least one-hundred dollars to "leaven the loaf" and allow this civic organization to fulfill its highest aspirations.

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	Set Design-----Paul Krauss

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Excerpts from Our Past . . .

Organized in 1926 under the name of the Bellevue Chorus, the group was made up of Van Corlaer and Draper School alumnae, and was directed by Mrs. Etta Moore. In those days the group confined its efforts to the presentation of short plays in which groups of songs and comedy acts appeared. We are told by a member from the "old days" that a small committee thought nothing of building scenery, painting it, making costumes, organizing the cast and directing the chorus and orchestra. Each person was "jack of all trades."

In 1936 the group reorganized as the Schenectady Light Opera Company. Robert Stone presented the group with his own operetta, "Chanticleer Hall," with Mrs. Moore as musical director and Arthur J. Sherburne as director of dramatics.

In 1941 they disbanded because of the male shortage for the chorus but resumed operations in the fall of 1946 with "H.M.S. Pinafore." Also in 1946 the director, Mr. Edgar Moulton, moved to California. Mr. Edward J. Hatfield, Jr., who had just returned from the Army, was asked to be the new director. Under his guidance the Company was completely reorganized and soon become a membership corporation registered in the state of New York.

The policies of the Company are set by the Board of Directors the members of which are elected by the organization.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

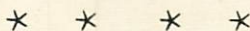


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We wish also to acknowledge the generosity of Mr. Benjamin Lasdon of the General Electrical Service firm of 1515 State Street. Were it not for his immediate response to our appeal for adequate workspace in which to construct and paint scenery you would be looking at rented "tired old drapes."

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Bass Viol

James Jewett

Flute

James Moyer

Piano

Bella Hatfield, Jean Reid

Oboe

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STORY

Twenty years before the opening of the action, when Casilda was yet a baby, she and the infant heir to the throne of Barataria were married. Shortly thereafter he disappeared, supposedly abducted to Venice by the Grand Inquisitor, Don Alhambra, and there brought up. At length, as the result of insurrection, the throne of Barataria became vacant and Casilda's father, the somewhat moth-eaten Duke of Plaza-Toro, wished to establish his daughter as Queen. He accordingly went to Venice, accompanied by his wife, daughter, and Luiz, his drummer, in search of his daughter's missing husband.

As the curtain rises, a chorus of contadine (peasant girls) are waiting for the two leading gondoliers, Giuseppe and Marco, to come and choose their brides from among them. By a sort of blind man's buff, the two men choose Tessa and Gianetta and they all dance off to the altar.

The Duke of Plaza-Toro and suite meanwhile arrive in Venice. The Duke tells Casilda about her childhood marriage. Luiz and Casilda (who, unknown to her parents, are in love with each other) accordingly renounce their love. Don Alhambra appears and tells them that the person they are seeking is either Giuseppe or Marco, he is not sure which. He will send for the nurse who took care of the infant prince and when she arrives, she will be able to tell them which one it is. Meanwhile, Giuseppe and Marco are to go to Barataria at once and rule jointly until the matter is straightened out.

Giuseppe and Marco are overjoyed at the prospect and, with plans for instituting an ideal state in Barataria, they set sail. Tessa and Gianetta must remain behind, with the vague promise from Don Alhambra that they may later join their husbands with the idea that one of them will be Queen.

Act II is set in Barataria, where Giuseppe and Marco, with the gondoliers, have established their extremely limited monarchy. Everything seems to be going well, except for the fact that they miss their wives. Suddenly Tessa, Gianetta and the girls appear, having become impatient and made the trip to Barataria in spite of Don Alhambra's injunction. General happiness now reigns and all dance a cachucha.

A slight cloud appears on the horizon when Don Alhambra enters and points out the weaknesses of Giuseppe's and Marco's system of government. When he learns that Tessa and Gianetta are there, he is somewhat disturbed and tells them about the prince's infant marriage. This revelation is a heavy blow to the hopes of Tessa and Gianetta, for not only is neither of them to be Queen, but also one of them is not married at all. The Duke of Plaza-Toro enters and further criticizes Giuseppe's and Marco's court and attempts to teach the joint rulers some court etiquette.

At length, Inez, who had been the nurse of the baby prince when he was married to Casilda, arrives and discloses that neither Giuseppe nor Marco is the rightful heir, but Luiz. Thus Casilda is united with the man she loves, and Giuseppe and Marco return to their wives and gondolas.

Stanley Costa

PHOTOGRAPHY

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE ----- Orchestra

ACT I

1. LIST AND LEARN ----- Chorus of Girls with solos
2. FROM THE SUNNY SPANISH SHORE ----- Casilda, Duchess, Luiz and Duke
3. IN ENTERPRISE OF MARTIAL KIND ----- Duke with Casilda, Duchess and Luiz
4. WHEN ALONE TOGETHER ----- Casilda and Luiz
5. THERE WAS A TIME ----- Casilda and Luiz
6. NO POSSIBLE DOUBT WHATEVER ----- Don Alhambra with Casilda, Luiz, Duke and Duchess
7. RECITATIVE ----- Casilda and Don Alhambra
8. TAKE LIFE AS IT COMES ----- Casilda, Duchess, Luiz, Duke and Don Alhambra
9. BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE ----- Chorus
10. WHEN A MERRY MAIDEN MARRIES ----- Tessa and Chorus
- FINALE ----- Ensemble

ACT II

1. OF HAPPINESS THE VERY PITH ----- Marco and Giuseppe with Men's Chorus
2. RISING EARLY IN THE MORNING ----- Giuseppe with Chorus
3. TAKE A PAIR OF SPARKLING EYES ----- Marco
4. HERE WE ARE AT THE RISK OF OUR LIVES ----- Fiametta, Vittoria, Tessa, Gianetta with Chorus
5. DANCE A CACHUCHA ----- Chorus
6. THERE LIVED A KING ----- Don Alhambra with Marco and Giuseppe
7. IN A CONTEMPLATIVE FASHION ----- Gianetta, Tessa, Marco and Giuseppe
8. WITH DUCAL POMP and DUCAL PRIDE ----- Duke and Duchess, with Men's Chorus
9. ON THE DAY WHEN I WAS WEDDED ----- Duchess
10. RECITATIVE AND DUET ----- Duke and Duchess
11. GAVOTTE ----- Marco, Giuseppe, Duke, Duchess and Casilda
12. QUINTET ----- Casilda, Gianetta, Tessa, Marco and Giuseppe
- FINALE ----- Ensemble

ACT I—THE PIAZZETTA, VENICE

ACT II—PAVILION IN THE PALACE OF BARATARIA

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or THE KING OF BARATARIA

by W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

VENETIAN GONDOLIERS

Marco Palmieri ----- Henry Nelson
Giuseppe Palmieri ----- Harold Eidelbus

CONTADINE

Gianetta ----- Jean McCaffrey
Tessa ----- Cynthia Brooks

* * * *

The Duke of Plazo-Toro ----- Robert Stone
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro ----- Irma Kroman

Casilda, their daughter ----- Carla Balhouse

Luiz, their attendant ----- Roger Powell

Don Alhambra, the Grand

Inquisitor ----- David Kroman

Inez ----- Sarah Burchardt

Pages ----- Barbara Ann Bullis
Priscilla Proxmire

Drummer Boy ----- Teddy Suksdorf

CHORUS OF CONTADINE:

Fiametta, Gwen Owens; Vittoria, Betty Langenwaller; Giulia, Florence Jones. Others: Marjorie Babcock, Lenore Coplon, Ruth Cotton, Patricia Deery, Julia Goldman, Sylvia Horwitz, Estelle Innis, Dawne Kilcullen, Wanda Ruskowski, Evelyn Russ, Lucyllen Schell, Mary Smith, Jane Sprenger, Marge Turpen.

CHORUS OF GONDOLIERS:

Antonio, Richard Babbitt; Francesco, William Wernecke; Giorgio, Dana King; Annibale, Emerson Smith. Others: Edward Currie, Scott Harvey, Charles McCombie, Edward Maynard, John Jankowski, Ted Madison, Eben Van Patten, Edward Heller, George Pillmore, David Roykoff, Wesley Moles.

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SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

OPERA NOTES

Giuseppe is being portrayed by HAROLD EIDELBUS, who is a graduate of Bentley's School of Accounting and Finance in Boston, and is employed as an accountant at the General Electric Company. While stationed in Panama with the U. S. Army, Hal had a weekly radio program over the Armed Forces radio station. He appeared on WRGB and his varied musical career also includes experience as a soloist with the Cambrian Male Chorus. He studied with Edgar Schofield at the Schenectady Conservatory of Music and with William Arthur Jones of this City.

HENRY NELSON, who is a familiar figure in the Company, is cast as Marco. He hails from Troy and R.P.I. and has studied voice with John Lloyd. He is active with the Schenectady Civic Players and has appeared many times on WRGB. Henry will be remembered by theater goers for his leading part in Robin Hood, his excellent portrayal of Geoffrey Wilder in "Chanticleer Hall" and as Alexis in "The Sorcerer." He is a chemist at the General Electric Company.

CYNTHIA BROOKS, who plays Tessa, is a graduate of Pittsfield Secretarial School. She has sung in the chorus in previous Company productions. Cynthia's outstanding experience in her career took place in 1944 as one of the finalists for the Phil Spitalny Hour of Charm contest. As a result of this, she received several offers to appear as guest artist on WTIC in Hartford. She was a church soloist for three years.

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OPERA NOTES (continued)

Our Gianetta, **JEAN McCAFFREY**, is a graduate of Johnstown schools and also attended the School of Fine Arts at Syracuse University. Jean studied under Carmella Ponselle of the Metropolitan Opera Company, has appeared on WRGB and has also done concert work. She was also active in the New York Central Railroad Company's review "All Points West."

DAVID KROMAN, playing Don Alhambra, the Grand Inquisitor, has portrayed this particular part five times previously. He played the title role in "The Sorcerer." Dave has appeared in many Civic Player productions, the last being "Arsenic and Old Lace." To the radio audience he may be better known as David Brooks on the morning program "Breakfast with the Brooks." You may also hear him on "FBI In Action."

IRMA KROMAN, cast as the Duchess, is just as active as her husband, David. You may recognize her as Martha Brooks on "Breakfast with the Brooks" over WGY. She played the part of Mrs. Partlett in "The Sorcerer"; has appeared at the Saratoga Spa Playhouse in "The Man Who Came To Dinner," which starred Monty Woolley. She also played in "The Late George Apley," starring Grant Mitchell. She has been active in the Civic Playhouse and writes for and acts in the WGY radio program "FBI In Action."

The Duke of Plaza-Toro, **BOB STONE**, is well known to all who are acquainted with the Schenectady Light Opera Company as the composer of the last production "Chanticleer Hall." As a member for six years he has been active in many productions. You'll remember him as Little John in "Robin Hood" and Sir Marmaduke in "The Sorcerer." Bob has sung with

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OPERA NOTES (continued)

the Rochester Light Opera Company and was with the Opera Department of the Eastman School of Music. His regular position is senior producer at television station WRGB.

Casilda is played by CARLA BALHOUSE. Carla was with the American Savoy Light Opera Company this past year. She has been featured in two Columbia Studio pictures and while in Hollywood she had her own radio program. Carla is also a concert pianist starting her career at the early age of nine.

This is the first production for ROGER POWELL who is cast as Luiz. Roger has sung with the Arlington (Mass.) Philharmonic Choir, also with the Pitts Glee Club and with the Harvard Glee Club. He has sung with many church and civic organizations.

Understudies

We owe a great deal to those who, in addition to their chorus work, have learned the principals' roles and are ready to assume them at a moment's notice.

SYLVIA HORWITZ	-----	Gianetta
EDWARD CURRIE	-----	Marco
LENORE COPLON	-----	Tessa
MARGE TURPEN	-----	Duchess
RICHARD BABBITT	-----	Giuseppe
EDWARD HELLER	-----	The Duke
EMERSON SMITH	-----	Don Alhambra
CHARLES McCOMBIE	-----	Luiz

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Personalities

JIM MOYER, *President*, joined the Company a year ago, playing the flute in the orchestra. In February 1949 he succeeded Harper North as president of our organization. Jim is a physicist in the G. E. Atomic Power Laboratory, plays flute in the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and has been active in musical groups in Ithaca College, Cornell University, Rutgers University and in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

ED HATFIELD, *Director* of the Light Opera Company since the operetta "Pirates of Penzance," which was produced in February 1947, is very active in Schenectady musical circles. In his full time job, Ed is an engineer in the General Engineering and Consulting Laboratory at the General Electric Company. His many interests include photography, painting and skiing.

BELLA HATFIELD, *Pianist*, wife of director Ed, is our official accompanist. She studied at the Schenectady Conservatory with Joseph Derrick, later at the Juilliard Graduate School with Sacha Gorodnitzki, and still later with the late Mischa Levitsky. Bella, who also teaches, has appeared twice as soloist with the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra.

MILES MARTIN, *Dramatics Director*, recently directed "Life With Father" for the Civic Players. He also played a leading role in "Our Town." Miles is also an expert photographer and his work has been displayed in Schenectady. This is his first year with the Light Opera Company. He is a physicist with the General Electric Research Laboratory and formerly taught at the University of Wisconsin.

DICK HOTALING, *Ticket Manager*, is one of the oldest members of this organization. He became a member in 1931 and has been active in every production since. He has held many offices including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Business Manager and Stage Manager.

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Personalities

PAT SUBLETTE, *Business Manager*, has been with the Company through five previous performances. For three of these performances he was a member of the chorus and for the last two has been our Business Manager. At G.E. Pat is an application engineer in the Industrial Engineering Divisions.

JANE CARLSON, *Secretary*, has effectively doubled in many phases of this production. A modest housewife, she has worked since last December planning the advance ticket sale and was responsible for the application of many square feet of scenery paint. The attractive Light Opera Company display at the recent Hobby Show was also Jane's brain-child.

FLOYD BULLIS, *Stage Manager*, has been a sustaining member for nine years. This is his first year as an active member. Floyd is a supervisor at the General Engineering and Consulting Laboratory, and at one time was an advertising agent for various road shows. Besides the Light Opera Company, Floyd has recently developed a new hobby, that of making ceramic pieces which he plans to display in the near future.

JOHN YOUNGBLOOD, *Orchestra Manager*, has been a member for two years. He played violin with the Hastings College Orchestra and also with the Civic Symphony in Hastings. John is a physicist in the G.E. Research Laboratory. His interest in the Light Opera Company was started by his wife, MARION YOUNGBLOOD, *Costume Mistress*, who has been with the Company through two performances. She was a teacher of physical education and taught at Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama and at Kansas State Teachers College. Previous to Marion's organization of the costume committee all costumes had to be rented.

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Don't miss the Schenectady Symphony POPS Concert Saturday, June 4, 8:00 P.M. at Alexander Field, Union College Campus. The Concert will be outdoors and tables and refreshments will be available.

Watch for the first fall performance of the Choral Society, the Civic Players, and the Schenectady Symphony.