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*by Gilbert & Sullivan*



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# To the Audience . . .

With the production of *Iolanthe* the Schenectady Light Opera Company opens its twenty-fifth season as a musical and operatic organization. It is proper on this anniversary that we briefly review our past history—and tell our plans for the future.

During its first few years our organization consisted of a small group of people who presented comedy acts and short plays containing songs. The first light opera production was attempted in 1929 when *The Bells of Capristrano* was presented.

In those days each show was quickly organized and the participants disbanded after each production. The company was not organized on a permanent basis until 1947 when it became a non-profit Membership Corporation operating in accordance with New York State law. Now each show is part of a continuing program to present more and better entertainment in the field of light opera. All proceeds from our productions are used to further Light Opera in Schenectady.

Recently the old Craig School on Ballston Road was purchased, partially renovated, and renamed "The Light Opera Workshop." Many activities of our company are now carried on there. However, this building is not adequate for all of our operations, and one of our long range plans is to build a full size practice stage that will make it possible to prepare all phases of a light opera production under one roof. This will enable us to increase the scope of our activities.

We are grateful to you for the support you lend by attending our performances. You can give additional support by telling your friends about our company and encouraging them to attend our productions.

*Maurice C. Sublette*

MAURICE C. SUBLETTE  
Executive Vice-President  
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## Orchestra

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|---------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| First Violin  | ----- | Edward Rice, Fred Graziade       |
| Second Violin | ----- | Frank Glenn, Ted Mihran          |
| Viola         | ----- | Leon Kliven                      |
| Cello         | ----- | Arthur Catricala, Carlton Fry    |
| Bass          | ----- | Carl Demangate                   |
| Flute         | ----- | Gladys Lunge                     |
| Clarinet      | ----- | William Lane, Richard Carter     |
| Oboe          | ----- | Robert Simon                     |
| Trumpet       | ----- | Joseph Mirate, George Coulter    |
| Trombone      | ----- | Russell Cain                     |
| French Horn   | ----- | Richard Barnes, Shirley Phillips |
| Percussion    | ----- | Phillip Estes                    |

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Martha Best  
Rhea Del Rocco  
Eve Doherty  
Isabelle Godlewski  
Joyce Schell  
Beverly Fasake  
Sally Thomas

Alice Thomas  
Gloria Foy  
Yvonne Means  
Lynn Williams  
Olive Williams  
Sally Palmer  
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## The Story . . .

For having married a mortal and thus offended all fairy laws, Iolanthe has been banished to the bottom of a stream. When the opera opens, Iolanthe's fairy sisters have succeeded in persuading the Fairy Queen to pardon her and give her back to them.

They learn that Iolanthe has a son, Strephon, now a young man of twenty-four and an Arcadian Shepherd. He is in love with Phyllis, a ward of chancery. They wish to marry but the Lord Chancellor has denied his consent. However, they plan to be married without it.

The House of Peers enters and the Lord Chancellor follows lamenting the fact that he has to give "agreeable girls away," always to somebody else, and "never a one for himself." Phyllis is summoned before the Peers and they all fall in love with her. She refuses their advances and admits that her heart is given. Strephon appears to claim her hand, and the Lords, horror stricken, depart. Strephon and Phyllis are parted by the Lord Chancellor and Strephon goes to Iolanthe to unburden his woes. The Lords and Phyllis come upon Strephon and Iolanthe together and the Peers jeer at Strephon for saying that Iolanthe is his mother. Phyllis turns from Strephon to the Peers. The fairies seek to aid Strephon by threatening to send him into Parliament to upset all their time-honored prerogatives.

As the second act opens, Private Willis is seen in the Palace Yard singing of the oddities of politics. The fairies enter happy with the success of their plan to send Strephon into Parliament. And, they have all fallen in love with the Peers, for which the Queen chides them. Phyllis, who has fallen in love with two noblemen, cannot make up her mind which one to choose. And to add to the complexity of the situation, the Lord Chancellor has fallen in love with her and decides to grant his own application for the hand of his own ward.

Iolanthe reveals that she is the wife of the Lord Chancellor after Phyllis and Strephon find that they cannot live without each other and plead to Iolanthe for help. The Queen is about to kill Iolanthe when the fairies confess that they, too, have all married mortals—the Peers. As she cannot kill them all, The Queen decides to change the fairy law and transform the mortals into fairies. She takes Private Willis, and all the mortals fly away with the fairies to fairyland.

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## MUSICAL NUMBERS — ACT I

### OVERTURE

1. "Tripping Hither, Tripping Thither"----- Chorus of Fairies, Celia, Leila
2. "Invocation" ----- Iolanthe, Queen, Celia, Leila
3. "Good Morrow, Good Mother"----- Strephon, Chorus of Fairies
4. "Fare Thee Well" ----- Queen, Chorus of Fairies
- 4a. "Good Morrow, Good Lover"----- Phyllis, Strephon
5. "None Shall Part Us From Each Other"----- Phyllis, Strephon
6. "Entrance and March of Peers"----- Chorus of Peers
7. "The Law is the True Embodiment"----- Lord Chancellor, Chorus of Peers
8. "My Well Loved Lord and Guardian Dear"----- Phyllis, Earl of Tolloller, Earl of Mountararat, Chorus of Peers
9. "Nay, Tempt Me Not" ----- Phyllis, Chorus of Peers
10. "Spurn Not The Nobly Born"----- Earl of Tolloller, Chorus of Peers
11. "My Lords It May Not Be"----- Phyllis, Earl of Tolloller, Earl of Mountararat, Strephon, Lord Chancellor, Chorus of Peers
12. "When I Went To The Bar As A Very Young Man"----- Lord Chancellor
13. "When Darkly Looms The Day"----- FINALE

## MUSICAL NUMBERS — ACT II

14. "When All Night Long A Chap Remains"----- Private Willis
15. "Strephon's a Member of Parliament"----- Chorus of Fairies, Chorus of Peers
16. "When Britain Really Ruled the Waves"----- Earl of Mountararat, Chorus of Fairies, Chorus of Peers
17. "In Vain To Us You Plead"----- Leila, Celia, Earl of Tolloller, Earl of Mountararat, Chorus of Fairies, Chorus of Peers.
18. "Oh, Foolish Fay" ----- Queen, Chorus of Fairies
19. "Though, P'raps I May Incur Your Blame"----- Phyllis, Earl of Tolloller, Earl of Mountararat, Private Willis
20. "Love Requited, Robs Me of My Rest"----- Lord Chancellor
21. "He Who Shies At Such A Prize"----- Earl of Tolloller, Earl of Mountararat, Lord Chancellor
22. "If We're Weak Enough To Tarry"----- Phyllis, Strephon
23. "My Lord, A Suppliant At Your Feet"----- Iolanthe
24. "It May Not Be"----- Iolanthe, Queen, Lord Chancellor, Chorus of Fairies
25. "Soon As We May" ----- FINALE

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## "IOLANTHE"

Written by W. S. Gilbert

Composed by Arthur Sullivan

### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| LORD CHANCELLOR                          | Richard B. Babbitt  |
| EARL OF MONTARARAT                       | Dana King           |
| EARL OF TOLLOLLER                        | Theodore C. Madison |
| PRIVATE WILLIS (Of the Grenadier Guards) | Irving Amron        |
| STREPHON (An Arcadian Shepherd)          | Harold T. Eidelbus  |
| THE FAIRY QUEEN                          | Virginia Steed      |
| IOLANTHE (A Fairy, Strephon's Mother)    | Cynthia Brooks      |
| CELIA                                    | Shirley Butler      |
| LELIA                                    | Fulvia Brun         |
| FLETA                                    | Statia Sublette     |
| PHYLLIS (An Arcadian Shepherdess)        | Dorothy Koenig      |
| LORD CHANCELLOR'S TRAINBEARER            | David Smart         |

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Margaret Bakuzonis  
Virginia Coller  
Margaret DeBrino  
Florence Fritz

Kay Gempler  
Barbara Gervais  
Phyllis Gillette  
Doreen Heard

Eleanor Hoblock  
Florence Jones  
Olga Kirchmayer  
Virginia Ottman

Lois Ramsey  
Jane Saline  
Sadie Speirs  
Mair Woolcock

**Chorus of Peers . . .**

Carl Bloom  
Frank Blum  
Edward Currie  
David Davidson

Thomas Dempster  
Holton Harris  
Dan Lewis

Emerson Smith  
Stanley Szulc  
William Wheeler

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SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY  
SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

Each year the Company awards two scholarships to be used for the study of voice. One award is for \$100 and the other is for \$50. The contest is open to any voice student or any person planning voice study who is between the ages of 16 and 30 and is a resident of the Schenectady area. This year the auditions were held in June. The winners were Edith Struglia, first; and Edward Currie, second.

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## Opera Notes . . .

### VIRGINIA STEED (THE FAIRY QUEEN)

Native of Winter Park, Florida . . . Graduate of the College of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio where she won a one thousand dollar vocal scholarship . . . Has been active in radio and TV . . . Has been a church soloist . . . First appearance with the Company.

### CYNTHIA BROOKS (IOLANTHE)

Well known to Company audiences . . . Last seen in "*The Mikado*" as Katisha . . . Does commercials over WRGB . . . Studies voice with Melva King.

### DOROTHY KOENIG (PHYLLIS)

A graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and Curtis Institute of Music . . . Appeared in "*Carmen*" with the New York City Centre Opera and Connecticut Opera . . . Has done oratorio work in New York and radio work.

### SHIRLEY BUTLER (CELIA)

Graduate of Potsdam State Teachers College . . . Active in college drama and voice groups . . . Last seen in "*The Chocolate Soldier*."

### FULVIA BRUN (LELIA)

Played the part of Katinka in "*The Chocolate Soldier*" . . . Is a member of the Company Ballet Workshop and also studied ballet under Phyllis Marmein . . . Now studying voice with Melva King.

### RICHARD BABBITT (LORD CHANCELLOR)

This his his seventh show with the Company . . . Church soloist . . . Member of the Cleff Dweller Quartet . . . Is with the Malta Test Station at General Electric.

### DANA KING (EARL OF MOUNTARARAT)

An active member of the Company . . . Last appeared in "*Chimes of Normandy*" . . . Appeared in shows in high school and college . . . Sings with a church choir.

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## Opera Notes [cont.]

THEODORE MADISON (EARL OF TOLLOLLER)

During the war sang in a quartet at Bowdoin College . . . Attended the University of Southern California . . . Member of the Cleff Dwellers . . . Last seen in "*The Mikado*".

IRVING AMRON (PRIVATE WILLIS)

First appearance with the Company . . . Native of Brooklyn . . . Graduate of New York University where he was active in the Varsity Glee Club and Chapel Choir.

HAROLD EIDELBUS (STREPHON)

Appeared as Pish-Tush in "*The Mikado*" . . . Took part in the Junior League Follies this year . . . Soloist in the First Church of Christ Scientist . . . During the war had a weekly program over the Armed Forces Radio Station in Panama.

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## Understudies

*Lord Chancellor* . . . . . Irving Amron  
*Earl of Mountararat* . . . . . Dan Lewis  
*Earl of Tolloller* . . . . . Stanley Szulc  
*Strephon* . . . . . Edward Currie  
*Queen of the Fairies* . . . . . Dorothea Hilbert  
*Iolanthe* . . . . . Kay Gempler  
*Celia* . . . . . Florence Fritz  
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## Who's Who in the Company . . .

### ROBERT COLLER (PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR)

Graduate of Boston University College of Music . . . Member of Arundel Opera Company of Kennebunk, Maine, summer of 1950 . . . Keene Summer Theater, Keene, N. H. summer of 1951 . . . Has appeared in many Gilbert and Sullivan operas . . . Sang the role of Ko-Ko in our own production of "*The Mikado*" . . . Was associate producer of "*The Chocolate Soldier*" . . . Private voice teacher.

### ELIZABETH COE (ASSOCIATE PRODUCER)

Majored in Drama at Vassar College . . . Has appeared in several SLOC productions . . . Last seen in "*Wizard of the Nile*" . . . Last spring "Peggie" attended Fred Waring's Choral Workshop . . . Was vice president of the Company last year.

### BETTY ANN BROWN (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

Is serving her third term as technical director for the Company. A native of Kansas City, Missouri she came to Schenectady in 1942 . . . Until this fall she was head of the general engineering laboratory library at General Electric.

### EDWIN FINLEY (STAGE MANAGER)

Was assistant stage manager of "*The Chocolate Soldier*" . . . Graduate of the University of Nebraska . . . Is a chemist at General Electric.

### STATIA SUBLETTE (DANCE DIRECTOR)

Director of the Company Ballet Workshop . . . Ballet training with Ethel Sager Fabrey, Phyllis Marmein, Tudor and Craske of Metropolitan Opera Ballet at Jacobs Pillow . . . Modern dance with Jose Limon and Myra Kinch . . . Coach in dramatic action for "*Wizard of Nile*," "*Mikado*," "*Chocolate Soldier*." Plays the role of Fleta.

### DOROTHEA HILBERT (DRAMATICS DIRECTOR)

Formerly on the staff of WGY-WBFM . . . Taught speech and dramatics in Yonkers, N. Y. and New Haven, Conn. . . Was three years with the Morningside Players at Columbia University . . . Has sung in and directed church choirs . . . For four years she was with the Washington Square Repertory Players.

### EUNICE WHITTLESEY (ASSISTANT DRAMATICS DIRECTOR)

Worked with State College productions in Albany and New Hartford, N. Y. . . . Taught dramatics and speech in New Hartford . . . Was assistant dramatics director for "*The Mikado*."

### FRED HERBERT (CHOREOGRAPHER)

Has been associated with the Company thirteen years . . . Assistant to Irene Castle in 1951, when she was guest artist at the Dance Masters' Convention in New York . . . Studied with Anton Dolan, Lola Montez and Tokin . . . Has his own studio.

### MELVA KING (MUSIC DIRECTOR)

With the Company since 1943 . . . Served as musical director for "*Wizard of the Nile*," "*Chimes of Normandy*" and "*The Mikado*" . . . Graduate of Westminster Choir College in New Jersey . . . She is a teacher of voice and piano . . . Is minister of music and organist at Eastern Parkway Methodist Church.



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### Historical Notes . . .

"*Iolanthe*," or the "*Peer and the Peri*," first saw the light of day at the Savoy Theatre, built by Richard D'Oyly Carte expressly for the Gilbert and Sullivan productions. The first "*Iolanthe*" was shown simultaneously to delighted London and New York audiences, November 25, 1882.

The same secrecy was preserved during the rehearsing of "*Iolanthe*" that had marked its predecessors, and London was agog to find out what particular class of the community would become the victim of Gilbert's humor. The House of Lords was just then the subject of bitter controversy. Peers were out of season and unpopular, at least with the people. The Parliament Act had not even been drafted, and "down with the Lords" was the cry of the hour.

So Gilbert chose what at the time would be a popular theme. The peers should be brought on the stage to speak for themselves, to try to persuade their critics that "high rank involves no shame" and that even a Lord Chancellor is as susceptible to the tender passion as a denizen of the slums.

Only a Gilbert would have dared tackle so delicate a subject without fear of giving offence. The peers themselves went to see "*Iolanthe*" and laughed with the rest of England.

Conspicuous in the audience at the premiere was the well-known form of Captain (afterward Sir Eyre Massey) Shaw, the renowned and popular Chief of the London Fire Brigade. To him the Fairy Queen, with arms outstretched across the footlights appealed in the second verse of her song "O Foolish Fay!"

For the first time on any stage electric lamps ornamented the actors—each fairy had a fairy star in her hair and another at the point of her wand, and the novel effect was greeted by round after round of applause.

Seldom had any more brilliant spectacle been witnessed in a theatre than the Procession of Peers in their full regalia. When these "—peers of highest station, Paragons of legislation, Pillars of the British nation" entered, so thunderous was the applause that encore after encore was forced.

"*Iolanthe*" has lost very little of its freshness, and its satire is as understandable today as it was when it was written sixty-nine years ago.

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## Spring Show

The Spring show will be "School for Wives" by our own Barbara Gervais and Robert Stone. This production will be presented at the Erie Theater on May 13, 14, 15, and 16, 1952. All seats will be reserved. We suggest that you order tickets now to be assured of choice seats.

Ticket order blanks are now available from the Usherettes.

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## Calendar of Events

(as registered by the Chamber of Commerce)

Dec. 1 — Glen Evans Marionettes . . . . . Scotia High School  
Dec. 3-8 — Civic Players . . . . . Playhouse  
Dec. 4 — Schenectady Youth Orchestra . . . . . Erie Theater  
Dec. 11 — Schubert Club . . . . . Union College, Memorial Chapel  
Dec. 14 — Cambrian Male Chorus . . . Union College, Memorial Chapel  
Dec. 18 — All City Choir and Orchestra . . . Nott Terrace High School

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