

GOSFORTH MUSICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS



The Arcadians

By arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

BOOK BY
Mark Ambient
AM Thompson
Robert Courtneidge

MUSIC BY
Lionel Monckton & Howard Talbot

LYRICS BY
Arthur Wimperis



JUBILEE THEATRE

ST NICHOLAS HOSPITAL, JUBILEE RD, NE3 3XT

22ND – 24TH APRIL 7:30pm

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 5:30pm



Affiliated to the
National Operatic and
Dramatic Association

THE WELL
OF TRUTH

ADVERTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome everyone. Bless your happy faces (see if you can spot that line when it crops up in the show). This season, our 86th, Gosforth Musical Society has temporarily forsaken its first love, the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, for the tuneful Edwardian confection that is *The Arcadians*. Our longer established patrons will recall how well received *The Arcadians* was when we revived it back in 1998, and will be smacking their lips with anticipation. Our newer followers are in for a treat, as they are presented with wonderful tunes, truly dreadful jokes and more men's bare legs than they can shake a stick at. Add to that, topical references to Suffragettes and the novelty of manned flight, and what's not to like? It ain't Sondheim but its terrific fun.

Once again this year our Society has had its share of changes and has lost a few of its stalwart members to the vicissitudes of having to earn a living in an increasingly frantic working environment (how unlike Arcadia!). We are, however, delighted to have had new members joining us and it is great to have Richard Straw, Julia Neale, Grace Ridley and Hannah Fletcher swelling our ranks. We are fortunate in having retained the services of Phil Hall as Musical Director and Laurence Scott as Stage Director for this year's production, and those of you who enjoyed *The Mikado* last year will know that we're in capable hands.

Finally, I'd like to extend my usual invitation to anyone out there who can hold a tune, is free on Monday nights and who likes the company of friendly, encouraging people, to come and join us. I know it can seem a bit daunting to join a new society, but if you ask any of our new members I think they'll tell you they're glad they did. So, make yourselves comfortable, back your fancy and let GMS transport you back to where Arcady is ever young and your horse always wins.

PAUL MURPHY



MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Change can be scary, it's odd to call a hundred year old show "change", but compared with our usual G&S, it is comparatively modern! Having said this *The Arcadians* has been a musical breath of fresh air. Not to take anything away from the brilliance of Sullivan, but the combined efforts of Monckton and Talbot have created an intriguing and exciting mix of Sullivanesque grandeur and an almost Rodgers like jauntiness and melodic purity, worthy of compare with these great men. The final result is a piece that in one moment can set hairs on end and in the next can intoxicate with a foot thumping riff, the combined effect of which is a joy to hear.

I would like particularly to thank my co-conspirators Jona and Liffy, who have worked extremely hard on the music, with only limited time available. It has also been my pleasure once again to work with a talented and dedicated group on the production, particularly Laurence with his ever clear and entertaining directions, and all the excellent musicians who aid us throughout. However my final thanks must go to everyone in the cast for making rehearsals and, I hope you will agree, the Show a pleasure to watch and listen to.

PHILIP HALL

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It has been a refreshing change to be given the opportunity to direct a non Gilbert & Sullivan show this year at Gosforth, and I am pleased to say that the Society has risen to the challenge. It is not however the first time we have steered away from G & S, and we have performed *The Arcadians* before, seventeen years ago in 1998. My own first experience of the show came 36 years ago when I took part in performances, as a very young man, at the Theatre Royal Newcastle with Newcastle Operatic Society in 1979, and I have fond recollections of that time. I hope that in years to come our present company will look back to this production with similar pleasure.

The Arcadians was first performed in 1909 at the end of the Edwardian period at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, where it ran for over 800 performances, which at that time was considered a very long run. It is generally considered to be the finest example of Edwardian Musical Theatre, and it is easy to see why. A wonderfully melodic score is accompanied by a delightfully whimsical Book that harks back to the Gilbert & Sullivan era, but also uses what was then the contemporary Music Hall idiom. There is even a foreshadowing of the Ascot scene in *My Fair Lady*, written some 45 years later, with the horse race in Act 2. I hope you enjoy your trip this evening back to the world of the Edwardian Musical, somewhere we visit all too rarely these days.

LAURENCE SCOTT

CAST

JAMES SMITH (of Smith & Co. Caterers, London).....}	ANDREW WATSON
SIMPLICITAS (an Arcadian).....}	
SOMBRA.....}	JANE CORBITT
CHRYSEA.....}	ELIZABETH HAMER
AMARYLLIS.....}... (Arcadians).....}	RACHEL ALPIN
ASTROPHEL.....}	STEVEN AITCHISON
STREPHON.....}	TIM SIMMONS
TIME.....}	PAUL MURPHY
LADY BARCLAY.....}	GLYNDA BLACKBURN
PERCY MARSH.....}	STEVEN AITCHISON
BOBBIE.....}	MARK HINITT
JACK MEADOWS.....}	JONATHAN WOOD
SIR GEORGE PADDOCK.....}	PAUL MURPHY
EILEEN CAVANAGH.....}	JULIA NEALE
MRS SMITH.....}	ESTHER COHEN-TOVÉE
PETER DOODY (a Jockey).....}	RICHARD STRAW
COMMENTATOR.....}	FRASER CHARLTON

Chorus of Arcadians and Londoners

**HANNAH FLETCHER, DAVID HALL, LORAIN HILL, PAUL LEACH, JENNY PARKIN,
MARILYN PERCY, GRACE RIDLEY, LAURA REED, VIVIEN SCOTT, BRENDA WALLACE**

ORCHESTRA

VIOLINS: Mike Smith, Barry Walker, Ruth Pickles
 VIOLA: Simon Collier, CELLO: Philip Adamson, Paul Hutchinson
 DOUBLE BASS: Brian Tanner FLUTE: Hazel Nelson, Andrew Martin
 OBOE: Kirsty Pearson, Emma Peacock CLARINETS: Lucy Beckmann, Lindsey Cassidy
 BASSOON: Tony Hedley, HORN: Dave Milner TRUMPET: Brad Hanson
 TROMBONE: Laura Davison PERCUSSION: Rebecca Powton

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE: Arcadia

Arcadia, the land that Time forgot, is a very beautiful place whose inhabitants live in harmony with nature and always tell the truth, because what else could one tell? Until, that is, a “monster” from the other side of the world - James Smith (of Smith & Co. Caterers, London) crashes his aeroplane in Arcadia. Trying to persuade the beautiful Sombra that fellow Arcadian Astrophel no longer loves her, Smith introduces them to something terrible that they can hardly understand – the lie. In order to purge him of this repugnant character flaw the Arcadians insist on washing him in the well of Truth. Smith emerges from the well without his trousers – he has also lost his beard and wrinkles and is transformed into a young man again. He is re-named Simplicitas and warned that if he should tell another lie, his whiskers and ugliness will return. In order to save Smith’s fellow Londoners from their lying ways it is agreed that Time will transport Smith, Sombra and Chrysea to England, where they will teach the Arcadian way of life.

INTERVAL – 15 MINUTES

ACT TWO: Askwood Races

There’s nothing like a day at the races, and everyone is seeking out a tip for the main event: the Corinthian Stakes. But there is a significant problem for poor Jack Meadows – his horse “The Deuce” has thrown him, and he can no longer ride in the race. Peter Doody, the most unsuccessful jockey in history, is the only one who will agree to take his place. The favourite is Sir George Paddock’s “Bella”, and a power struggle ensues as Jack sets eyes on attractive Eileen Cavanagh and vows to marry her, not realising that her aunt Mrs Smith intends her to marry Paddock. Mrs Smith meanwhile meets her old flame, Peter Doody, and promises him a job in the restaurant she runs with her husband if he decides to retire from life as a jockey. During an unwelcome rain storm, lightning flashes and the three Arcadians suddenly appear, to the astonishment of the race-goers. Simplicitas spots his wife (Mrs Smith) among the crowd and hides, while Sombra delivers the Arcadian message. He tries to steal away but is captured by Mrs Smith who does not recognise him, and is quite taken with this “wild Arcadian boy”, especially his legs. She asks him to move into their hotel known as “Smith’s White Elephant”; Simplicitas agrees and suggests they turn the hotel restaurant into “Arcadia in London”. Jack meanwhile is courting Eileen and hopes she will accept a proposal from him if his horse wins the next race. However, “The Deuce” has savaged Doody, so now there is no-one to ride him. Sombra comes to the rescue with a failsafe plan – “The Deuce” will win the race if a friend of Sombra’s will ride him, so it is agreed that Simplicitas will do so. Jack is so grateful to Sombra that he kisses her just as Eileen appears...

INTERVAL – 15 MINUTES

ACT THREE: The Arcadian Restaurant

Sombra and Chrysea are now employed in the Smiths’ restaurant and all the Londoners are in love with the idea of the Arcadian life, especially the nymphs and nectar. Chrysea is puzzled as she has taken a liking to London and has found it has its own charms. The romance between Eileen and Jack is still troubled – whenever it seems to be going well, Eileen catches Jack in another act of apparent unfaithfulness. Sombra decides to help the lovers and arranges for them to reconcile and become engaged. Meanwhile, Mrs Smith becomes suspicious of the credentials of her “Arcadian boy”, and she and Doody (now posing as Arcadian “Ganymede” in the restaurant) eventually work out his true identity. Doody finds a way to catch Simplicitas out and he tells a lie, topples into the restaurant’s replica well of Truth, and emerges restored to his original older and be-whiskered self. Sombra and Chrysea resolve to return to Arcadia, the Londoners at least have learned a *partial* lesson from them.

OFFICIALS

DIRECTOR	LAURENCE SCOTT
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	PHILIP HALL
ACCOMPANISTS	JULIAN DAWSON & ANDREW SOULSBY
PRESIDENT	PAUL MURPHY
CHAIR	ROSEMARY MENZIES
TREASURER	LAURENCE SCOTT
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ...	CHARLES FLEMING, MONICA GOLDFINCH, LORAIN HILL, LAURA REED, TIM SIMMONS, ESTHER COHEN-TOVÉE, & BRENDA WALLACE
STAGE MANAGEMENT, LIGHTING & SOUND	NEATT & STUART BAGNALL
COSTUMES SUPPLIED BY	ALAN GRAHAM OF CONSETT
SCENERY SUPPLIED BY	FIRST ACT THEATRE & CHARLES FLEMING
CHOREOGRAPHY	GLYNDA BLACKBURN
WARDROBE.....	ALICE BAKER
PROPS	MONICA GOLDFINCH & CHARLES FLEMING
TICKET SECRETARY.....	ROSEMARY MENZIES
POSTER	SEBASTIAN DAVIDSON
PROGRAMME	ESTHER COHEN-TOVÉE
MUSICAL PRODUCERS.....	ELIZABETH WOOD, JONATHAN WOOD & PHILIP HALL
LIBRETTO EDITOR.....	FRASER CHARLTON
PUBLICITY	LAURA REED, TIM SIMMONS & ESTHER COHEN-TOVÉE

SOCIETY NEWS

Our *HMS Pinafore* sing-along which took place on 3 May 2014 (International G&S day) was lots of fun and a great opportunity for friends from other Societies and potential new members to try out singing along with us! Look out for our next sing-along, which will be *Trial by Jury*, on 27 June at Trinity Church.

In November 2014 the Society produced a new and original adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Pride & Prejudice* as a G&S musical (subtitled *Several Lovesick Maidens*) by GMS member Esther Cohen-Tovée. Directed by Esther and with musical direction from Laurence Scott, its most memorable scenes included a parade of Darcys each holding a Bartholomew Dobson face mask, and the spraying of Mr Darcy’s shirt with water by Paul Murphy, just in time for his meeting with Elizabeth Bennet at Pemberley. Our performances were warmly received by audiences at Holy Trinity, Jesmond and Trinity Church, Gosforth, and we received a very positive review from NODA North East.

Having said categorically she would be writing no more Shows, Esther managed to find time (and inspiration) over Christmas to develop another: this time *The Importance of Being Earnest* gets the G&S (and Monckton) treatment, and will be our autumn 2015 production.

Finally, at the point of going to press we were very sad to hear of the death of Margaret Fleming, at the remarkable age of 101. Margaret has been a stalwart supporter of the Society, a former President, life member and current Vice President. We offer our sincere condolences to her son Charles and all her family.



DIARY DATES

Gosforth Musical Society presents:

27 June 2015: **Cox and Box** followed by
Trial by Jury Sing-along, Trinity Church, Gosforth

20 - 21 November 2015: **The Importance of Being Earnest**
or A Tale of Two Brothers - a mostly G&S Musical! Trinity Church, Gosforth

20 - 23 April 2016: **Utopia Ltd.**, Jubilee Theatre, Gosforth

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1929	HMS Pinafore	1955	Princess Ida	1975	The Yeomen of the Guard	1995	The Sorcerer
1930	The Mikado	1956	The Yeomen of the Guard	1976	The Mikado	1996	Iolanthe
1931	The Yeomen of the Guard	1957	The Sorcerer	1977	Iolanthe	1997	Patience
1932	The Gondoliers	1958	Trial by Jury & Pirates of Penzance	1978	Patience	1998	The Arcadians
1933	Iolanthe	1959	The Nautch Girl	1979	Trial by Jury & Pirates of Penzance	1999	Pirates of Penzance
1934	Patience	1960	Iolanthe	1980	HMS Pinafore	2000	The Geisha
1935	Ruddigore	1961	The Gondoliers	1981	Ruddigore	2001	The Mikado
1936	Princess Ida	1962	The Mikado	1982	The Gondoliers	2002	The Grand Duke
1937	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1963	Ruddigore	1983	The Yeomen of the Guard	2003	The Quaker Girl
1938	Pirates of Penzance	1964	Patience	1984	Utopia Limited	2004	HMS Pinafore
1939	Utopia Limited	1965	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1985	Iolanthe	2005	Iolanthe
1945	The Yeomen of the Guard	1966	The Mikado	1986	The Sorcerer	2006	Orpheus in the Underworld
1946	The Gondoliers	1967	Iolanthe	1987	The Mikado	2007	Ruddigore
1947	The Sorcerer	1968	The Yeomen of the Guard	1988	Patience	2008	The Sorcerer
1948	Ruddigore	1969	Trial by Jury & Pirates of Penzance	1989	Pirates of Penzance	2009	Pirates of Penzance
1949	The Grand Duke	1970	The Gondoliers	1990	Ruddigore	2010	Princess Ida
1950	The Mikado	1971	Patience	1991	The Yeomen of the Guard	2011	The Yeomen of the Guard
1951	The Rose of Persia	1972	Ruddigore	1992	The Gondoliers	2012	The Gondoliers
1952	Utopia Limited	1973	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1993	Princess Ida	2013	Patience
1953	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1974	Princess Ida	1994	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	2014	The Mikado
1954	Merrie England						

VICE PRESIDENTS

Miss J Faulkner, Mr C Fleming, Dr M Fleming, Mr & Mrs A Grummet, Miss S More,
Mr J Nelson, Dr M Smith, Mrs E Smith, Mr & Mrs G Tye, Mr G Wallace,
Mr & Mrs I Ward, Mrs A Whiteoak

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs A M Baker, Mrs M Clark, Mr H Crozier, Miss M Goldfinch,
Mr D McKay, Mrs M McKay, Mrs A Morton, Mr I Morton, Mrs J Parkin,
Mrs M Place, Mr L Scott, Mrs J Tait, Mrs B Wallace, Mrs V Ward

The Society welcomes new members aged 16 and over. Rehearsals are from 7.30pm-9.30pm at the Trinity Christian Community Centre, Freeman Road, South Gosforth, on Monday nights from September – April, with a break over the summer. We put on a smaller-scale show in the autumn and a fully-staged show with orchestra in late spring. Come along to a rehearsal, or for further details contact monica.goldfinch@btinternet.com

NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION

NODA was founded in 1899 and is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK.

NODA's aims are:

- To give a shared voice to amateur theatre,
- To help societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance,
- To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

You can find further information about NODA at www.noda.org.uk



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