



presents concert performances of

Iolanthe

St Paul's Church, Heslington
Saturday 19th April 2008

Haxby Memorial Hall
Saturday 26th April 2008

£5 - *admit one*

About Us

Welcome to the Jorvik Gilbert and Sullivan Company's concert performance of *Iolanthe*! The group was formed last summer by Matthew Collins, Clare Greener and Helen and Nick Lay as an inclusive amateur theatre company dedicated to performing the 'Savoy Operas' of William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan in the York area.

The group now has over 20 regular members and has been building a repertoire of choruses and solos from the Gilbert and Sullivan canon, as well as preparing for tonight's performance. We are always pleased to welcome new members, and anyone can join us - no auditions required! If you are interested in joining us, come to our open rehearsal on Monday 12th May, at 7.30pm in Earswick Village Hall. For more information, please see our website (<http://www.jorvikgsc.org.uk>) or phone Helen or Nick on (01757) 705258.

Thank you for coming and we hope you enjoy the concert.

Matthew, Clare, Helen and Nick
Jorvik Gilbert and Sullivan Company

The Company

Musical Director - Matthew Collins

Lord Chancellor	Alex Holland	Queen of the Fairies	Tiz Bacon
Earl of Mountararat	Trevor Godfrey	Iolanthe	Fiona Bowman
Earl Tolloller	Duncan Watson	Celia	Jennifer Carter-Shaw
Private Willis	Peter Bacon	Leila	Lauren Curry
Strephon	Nick Lay	Phyllis	Clare Greener

Chorus of Fairies and Peers

Ken Beech	Karen Kitching
Susan Blenkinsop	Helen Lay
Marlene Butterfield	Margaret Noblett
Tony Butterfield	Belinda Phillipson
Peter Drew	Derek Thomson
Jim Harland	Joan Welsman

There will be a 20 minute interval between Act I and Act II during which complimentary refreshments will be served

Plot Synopsis

Act I

Iolanthe has been living in exile from fairyland for marrying a mortal (a crime which usually carries the death penalty). Twenty-five years later, the fairies succeed in persuading their Queen to pardon her. Iolanthe introduces her son, Strephon, an Arcadian shepherd.

Strephon, only half a fairy, tells of his love for the beautiful Phyllis, a Ward in Chancery. On learning that the Lord Chancellor will not give his consent to their marriage; the Queen promises to assist the couple.

The House of Peers, smitten with Phyllis, appeal to the Lord Chancellor to decide which of them will have her hand; Phyllis declares that they are wasting their time as she loves Strephon. The peers, deeply offended, feign amusement. Strephon tells the Lord Chancellor that Nature bids him marry Phyllis. The Lord Chancellor is amused, but refuses to consent to the marriage without hard evidence.

Strephon and Iolanthe share a tender conversation but they are overheard by Phyllis and the peers. Since fairies don't grow old, Iolanthe appears to be a girl of seventeen: the peers scoff at the claim that she is Strephon's mother. Phyllis angrily rejects Strephon, declaring instead that she will marry either Tolloller or Mountarat, and she doesn't care which! The fairies take revenge: Strephon shall go into parliament, and have the power to pass any bill he proposes.

Act II

Strephon is causing havoc in the House of Lords. The peers ask the fairies to stop Strephon's mischief and Mountarat explains that the House of Peers does not require "any improvement at all". The fairies refuse to stop Strephon, despite finding the peers very attractive. The Queen is horrified, as although she is also affected by manly beauty (Private Willis), she is able to suppress her feelings¹.

Phyllis cannot decide which of the two Earls she should marry, and asks them to choose. Tolloller and Mountarat discover that, for either to lay claim to Phyllis, the other must die. They decide that their friendship is more important than love and renounce their claims on Phyllis. Meanwhile, the Lord Chancellor, losing sleep over his unrequited love for Phyllis, is persuaded to make another request (to himself) for her hand. Strephon finally explains to Phyllis that his mother is a fairy. Reunited, Phyllis and Strephon ask Iolanthe to plead for the Lord Chancellor's consent to marry. Although the Lord Chancellor is her husband, she reluctantly agrees.

Despite Iolanthe's pleas, the Lord Chancellor declares that he will marry Phyllis. A desperate Iolanthe reveals herself as his long-lost wife; in doing so she is breaking fairy law, once again condemning herself to death. The rest of the fairies, however, have married the peers, and if Iolanthe must die, so must they. The Queen cannot execute all the fairies, and the Lord Chancellor suggests a solution: change the law so that "every fairy shall die who does not marry a mortal". The Queen agrees and, in order to save her life, Private Willis consents to marry her. As the House of Lords is to be recruited from persons of intelligence, the redundant peers agree to join the fairy ranks. They all sprout wings, and fly away to fairyland.

1: In her song, the Queen refers to Captain Shaw: he was the Chief of the London Fire Brigade and popular among London Society, and (conveniently) was in the audience for the première of *Iolanthe*.

Musical numbers

Overture

Act I

Tripping hither, tripping thitherFairies, Celia, Leila
Iolanthe! From your dark exileQueen, Iolanthe, Celia, Leila, Fairies
Good morrow, good motherStrephon, Fairies
Fare thee well, attractive strangerQueen, Fairies
Good morrow, good loverPhyllis, Strephon
None shall part usPhyllis, Strephon
Loudly let the trumpet brayPeers
The Law is the true embodimentLord Chancellor, Peers
My well-loved LordPhyllis, Tolloller, Mountararat, Peers
Spurn not the nobly bornTolloller, Peers
My Lords, it may not bePhyllis, Tolloller, Mountararat,
Lord Chancellor, Strephon, Peers
When I went to the BarLord Chancellor
Finale: *When darkly looms the day*All

Act II

When all night long a chap remainsSentry
Strephon's a Member of ParliamentFairies, Peers
When Britain really ruled the wavesMountararat, Chorus
In vain to us you pleadLeila, Celia, Fairies, Mountararat, Tolloller
Oh foolish fayQueen, Fairies
Tho' p'r'aps I may incur your blamePhyllis, Tolloller, Mountararat, Sentry
Love unrequited robs me of my restLord Chancellor
He who shies at such a prizeTolloller, Mountararat, Lord Chancellor
If we're weak enough to tarryStrephon, Phyllis
My Lord, a suppliant at your feetIolanthe
It may not beIolanthe, Queen, Lord Chancellor, Fairies
Finale: *Soon as we may*All