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**Four Weddings and a  
Funeral: An Evening of  
Gilbert and Sullivan**

Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church  
Saturday, 25 March 2017

## Welcome

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Jorvik Gilbert and Sullivan Company are delighted to have been invited to perform here this evening.

Tonight we will take you on a musical journey through some of Gilbert and Sullivan's music, which we have set around a Four Weddings and a Funeral Theme and looks at some of the most joyful (and occasionally less joyful) aspects of their work.

The group was formed in 2007, as an inclusive amateur company dedicated to performing the works of Gilbert and Sullivan in the York area.

Since our formation, we have performed eight fully staged productions in The Joseph Rowntree Theatre: *Patience* in 2009, *The Mikado* in 2010, *Princess Ida* in 2011, *H.M.S. Pinafore* in 2012, *Ruddigore* in 2013 and *Iolanthe* in 2014; *The Sorcerer* in September 2015; and *The Pirates of Penzance* in September 2016.

2017 will see us take tonight's performance to The Joseph Rowntree Theatre, on Saturday, 13 May, before we return to The Joseph Rowntree Theatre in September, with *The Yeomen of the Guard*, Gilbert and Sullivan's most dramatic work.

We hope that you enjoy tonight's performance!

## The Company

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Musical Director – Jessica Douglas

Steve Aylmer	Trevor Godfrey	Kayleigh Oliver
Paul Blenkiron	James Hirst	Stuart Roberts
Susan Blenkiron	Wendy Jackson	Alex Schofield
Jennifer Carter-Shaw	Wendy Kent	Derek Thomson
Julia Cormack	Thomas Newby	Isobel Thomson
Lois Cross		

## Forthcoming events

### **Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard***

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017  
The Joseph Rowntree Theatre, York

*Details of all forthcoming events can be found on our website at [www.jorvikgsc.org.uk](http://www.jorvikgsc.org.uk), or leave your details to join our mailing list.*

## Ways to be involved with Jorvik

### Join Us!

Rehearsals for our fully staged production of *The Yeomen of the Guard* begin on 24 April and we are welcoming new members to join us on stage. If you would like to take part, please email [info@jorvikgsc.org.uk](mailto:info@jorvikgsc.org.uk) for more information, including details of the auditions for principal roles. **NB.** We don't audition for chorus members, as we believe anyone who wants to turn up and sing should be able to do so!

### Patron Scheme

For our 5th Anniversary, which we celebrated in 2012, we launched a 'Friends of Jorvik' patronage scheme. You can become a patron of the company and support our work for just £30 and, in return, you will receive benefits such as: your name in the programme and a free ticket (or pair of free tickets for joint patronage) and programme for our main Gilbert and Sullivan performance. For more information, please email: [info@jorvikgsc.org.uk](mailto:info@jorvikgsc.org.uk).

### Newsletter

If you would like to receive regular updates with the latest Jorvik news, visit our website and sign up for our newsletter!

### Social Media

You can, also, keep up-to-date with us on Facebook (Jorvik Gilbert and Sullivan Company) and Twitter (@JorvikGSC)

## Patience

Patience was the sixth G&S collaboration and opened on April 23, 1881 at the Opera Comique and ran for 578 performances. It moved on October 10, 1881 to D'Oyly Carte's new theatre, the Savoy, the first theatre in the world to be lit entirely by electric lights.

Patience satirizes the "aesthetic craze" of the 1870's and '80s, when the output of poets, composers, painters and designers of all kinds was indeed prolific — but, some argued, empty and self-indulgent. This artistic movement was so popular, and also so easy to ridicule as a meaningless fad, that it made Patience a big hit, although the topical nature of the story may make Patience somewhat less accessible to modern audiences.

All the well-born young ladies in the village, rapturously caught up in aestheticism, are in love with two contrasting poets, but the poets are both in love with Patience, the simple village milkmaid, who cares nothing for poetry. The girls' military suitors don't see the point to aesthetics, but they decide to give it a try to win the women's hearts. It is touch and go for awhile, but everyone ends up with a suitable partner, even if it is only a tulip or lily.

### Music

*Twenty love sick maidens we*

Lady Angela: Lois Cross; Lady Ella: Kayleigh Oliver;  
Female Chorus

### *Act I Finale*

Duke of Dunstable: Stuart Roberts; Colonel Calverley: Paul Blenkiron;  
Major Murgatoryd/Archibald Grosvenor: James Hirst;  
Reginald Bunthorne: Alex Schofield; Lady Jane: Lois Cross;  
Lady Saphir: Kayleigh Oliver; Patience: Susan Blenkiron

*All synopses are adapted from The Gilbert and Sullivan Archive*

## Act I

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### The Gondoliers

*The Gondoliers* was the twelfth opera written together by Gilbert and Sullivan. Opening on December 7, 1889 at the Savoy Theatre, *The Gondoliers* ran for 554 performances, and was the last of the G&S operas that would achieve wide popularity.

Two just-married Venetian gondoliers are informed by the Grand Inquisitor that one of them has just become the King of "Barataria", but only their foster mother, presently at large, knows which one. As Barataria needs a king to put down unrest in the country, they travel there to reign jointly, leaving their wives behind. It turns out that the king was wed in infancy to the beautiful daughter of the Spanish Duke of Plaza Toro, and so it seems that one of the gondoliers is an unintentional bigamist, whilst the beautiful daughter herself is in love with a common servant. No matter, when the true identity of the king is revealed all is combed out spectacularly well in the end.

### Music

*Opening chorus*

Marco: Stuart Roberts; Giuseppe: Alex Schofield;  
Gianetta: Kayleigh Oliver; Tessa: Lois Cross;  
Fiametta: Susan Blenkiron; Antonio: Paul Blenkiron;  
Giorgio: James Hirst; Male and Female Chorus

*Take a pair of sparkling eyes*

Marco: Stuart Roberts

*Bridegroom and bride*

Male and Female Chorus

*When a merry maiden marries*

Tessa: Lois Cross; Male and Female Chorus

## The Mikado

The Mikado opened at the Savoy Theatre on 14 March 1885 and ran for 672 nights. The plot came to Gilbert after a Japanese sword, which hung on the wall of his study, suddenly fell down.

Nanki-Poo, the son of the Mikado of Japan, has fled his father's imperial court to escape marriage with Katisha, an elderly lady. Disguised as a traveling musician, he met and fell in love with Yum-Yum, the young ward of Ko-Ko, a released convict and cheap tailor in the town of Titipu, who has been appointed to the post of Executioner, as part of a scheme to avoid carrying out any executions in the village. When Nanki-Poo tracks down Yum-Yum again, he finds her preparing to marry Ko-Ko and all seems lost. However, an order from The Mikado, stating that an execution must be carried out in Titipu before his arrival there, presents an opportunity.

Nanki-Poo agrees to be executed, providing Ko-Ko allows him to marry Yum-Yum. Ko-Ko agrees, but unable to carry out his terrible duty, persuades Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum to run away before telling the Mikado that he has executed Nanki-Poo. As he presents the death warrant as proof, it is revealed that Ko-Ko has inadvertently 'executed' the Mikado's son and must now take a desperate step to save himself from a lingering punishment.

### Music

*Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted*

Yum-Yum: Kayleigh Oliver; Nanki-Poo: Stuart Roberts

*On a tree by a river*

Ko-Ko: Alex Schofield

*Brightly dawns our wedding day*

Yum-Yum: Kayleigh Oliver; Nanki-Poo: Stuart Roberts;

Pitti-Sing: Lois Cross; Pish-Tush: Paul Blenkiron

*Braid the raven hair*

Pitti-Sing: Lois Cross; Female Chorus

*Act II Finale*

Pitti-Sing: Lois Cross; Ko-Ko: Alex Schofield;

Yum-Yum: Kayleigh Oliver; Nanki-Poo: Stuart Roberts;

Pish-Tush: Paul Blenkiron; Peep-Bo: Susan Blenkiron;

Male and Female Chorus

## Act II

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### The Yeomen of the Guard

*The Yeomen of the Guard* opened on 3 October 1888, at the Savoy Theatre and ran for 423 performances. It is different from the other Gilbert and Sullivan operas in that it ends with a broken-hearted main character and at least two reluctant engagements.

Colonel Fairfax, a soldier and scientist, has been sentenced to death on a false charge of sorcery. To avoid leaving his estate to his accuser (a cousin) and with the help of the Lieutenant of the Tower, he secretly marries Elsie Maynard, a strolling singer, who agrees to be blindfolded during the ceremony and expects to be a well-paid widow in an hour.

However, with the help of the Meryll family, Fairfax escapes, throwing the Tower into confusion and the astonished Elsie and her companion, the Jester, Jack Point (who is in love with her), into despair.

### Music

*A man who woo a fair maid*

Elsie Maynard: Susan Blenkiron; Phoebe Meryll: Lois Cross;

Colonel Fairfax: Paul Blenkiron

*'Tis done, I am a bride*

Elsie Maynard: Susan Blenkiron

*The prisoner comes, to meet his doom*

Elsie Maynard: Susan Blenkiron; Male and Female Chorus