

About Us

Welcome to the Jorvik Gilbert and Sullivan Company's concert performance of *The Sorcerer!* The group was formed in summer 2007 by Matthew Collins, Clare Greener, 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 25 regular members and has been developing a repertoire 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 are required for chorus members. If you are interested in joining us, please come to one of our rehearsals: we rehearse every Monday 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

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre Trevor Godfrey

Alexis Matt Ferguson

Dr Daly Nick Lay

Notary Alastair Pollard

John Wellington Wells Duncan Watson

Lady Sangazure Fiona Constantine

Aline Clare Greener

Mrs Partlet Judy Hodgkiss

Constance Susan Blenkiron

Page Marlene Butterfield

Chorus of Villagers

Fiona Bowman
Tony Butterfield
Jennifer Carter-Shaw
Lois Cross
Peter Drew

Christine Ferguson
Jim Harland
Karen Kitching
Helen Lay
Margaret Noblett

Belinda Phillipson
Kate Rawlings
Stuart Roberts
Derek Thomson
Joan Welsman

Plot Synopsis

Act I: MIDDAY

The villagers of Ploverleigh are preparing to celebrate the marriage of Alexis Pointdextre, son of the local baronet, to Aline Sangazure. Only Constance, a young village maiden, seems unwilling to join in the happy mood, and we learn as she tells her mother (the church pew-opener, Mrs Partlet) that she is secretly in love with the local vicar, Dr Daly. The vicar muses that he was once the subject of much admiration, but, despite Mrs Partlet's best attempts at matchmaking, he seems unable to conceive that such young girl would be interested in him.

Alexis and Aline arrive, and it soon becomes clear that their widowed parents (Sir Marmaduke and Lady Sangazure) are concealing long-held feelings for one another, which propriety demands remain hidden. The marriage contract is signed, and when left alone, Alexis reveals to his fiancée his plan for practical implementation of the principle that love should unite all classes and ranks. He engages the services of John Wellington Wells, head of a respectable firm of sorcerers, with the aim of distributing a love potion amongst the villagers. Aline has misgivings about hiring a real sorcerer, but, undeterred, Alexis instructs Wells to prepare a batch of love potion sufficient to affect the entire village with the guarantee that whoever drinks the potion will fall in love with the first person they meet who has also drunk it. The potion is mixed and added to a teapot; the villagers arrive for the wedding banquet and all drink it, save Alexis, Aline and Wells. After experiencing some hallucinations they fall unconscious.

Act II: MIDNIGHT

At midnight, Mr Wells informs Alexis and Aline that their parents and the vicar have been put to bed in order to save any embarrassment. At dawn, the villagers wake and, under influence of the potion, form unusual and somewhat inappropriate couples. However, Alexis is pleased with the results, and now asserts that he and Aline should drink the potion themselves to seal their own love. Aline is hurt by his lack of trust and refuses. Alexis is distracted by the revelation of his upper-class father having fallen for the lower-class Mrs Partlet, but he determines to make the best of this union.

Wells begins to regret the results that he has caused, especially when Sangazure fixes on him as the object of her affections. Dr Daly observes how attractive all of the maidens are, but that they are all engaged. Aline decides to yield to Alexis' persuasion and drinks the potion only to be seized by a passionate affection for the vicar. Alexis desperately appeals to Wells as to how the effects of the spell can be reversed. It turns out that it requires either Alexis or Wells to yield up his life. The villagers rally against the sorcerer; resignedly, Wells bids farewell and is swallowed up by the underworld. The spell broken, the villagers pair off according to their true feelings, and celebrate with another feast.

Musical numbers

Overture

Act I

Ring forth ye bells Chorus
Constance, my daughter Mrs. Partlet, Constance
When he is here Constance
The air is charged/Time was when love and I Dr. Daly
Sir Marmaduke Sir Marmaduke, Dr. Daly, Alexis
With heart and with voice Female chorus
My kindly friends/Oh happy young heart Aline
My child, I join in these congratulations Lady Sangazure
With heart and with voice Male chorus
Welcome joy, adieu to sadness Lady Sangazure, Sir Marmaduke
All is prepared Notary, Alexis, Aline, Chorus
Love feeds on many kinds of food Alexis
My name is John Wellington Wells Mr. Wells
Sprites of earth and air Mr. Wells, Aline, Alexis, Chorus
Finale: Now to the banquet we press All

Act II

'Tis twelve, I think Mr. Wells, Aline, Alexis, Chorus
Dear friends take pity on my lot Constance, Notary, Aline, Alexis, Chorus
It is not love Alexis
I rejoice that it's decided Alexis, Aline, Sir Marmaduke, Mrs. Partlet, Dr. Daly
I have wrought much evil with my spells Mr. Wells, Lady Sangazure
Alexis! doubt me not Aline
Oh my voice is sad and low Dr. Daly
Oh joyous boon! Aline, Dr. Daly, Alexis, Chorus
Prepare for sad surprises Alexis
Finale: Or I or he must die All



presents a concert performance of

The Sorcerer

St Helen's Church, York
Saturday 11th October 2008

United Reformed Church, Priory St
Saturday 18th October 2008

£5 - admit one

There will be a 20 minute interval between Act I and Act II