

RAMSGATE AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY  
PRESENT

# IOLANTHE

BY  
GILBERT & SULLIVAN



10P

M.C. TAYLOR.



It's been marvellous  
to have you with us.  
Here's to many  
more shows  
Mr. +

With love to Sam  
from  
one of  
General Sharkey's  
daughters!  
Pirates of Penzance  
1974.

"To see him is to  
love him, and  
to love him is  
for ever -  
For nature made  
him what he is  
and never made another."

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1975 marks the centenary of the Gilbert & Sullivan partnership which gave us so many of those joyous 'Savoy' operettas. It is therefore appropriate that the Society's commemorative offering should be one of Gilberts liveliest tilts at Britain's greatest institution - Parliament. Gilbert never tired of making fun of life and nowhere did he succeed better than in 'Iolanthe'.

Gilbert could have little realised in 1882, when the Lord Chancellor and the Fairy Queen flowed from his pen and weaved their way 'through the House' that 93 years later his satire would be as virile and perhaps - even truer.

You are now about to hear what happened on that occasion when Parliament was invaded by Fairyland. I am pleased to introduce you to our new musical director, Ian Cox, who takes over from our old friend Harold Millsted. Harold has done much for the Society since 1961 and our thanks are due to him for his devotion and interest. Ian is no stranger to us; he has played in the orchestra on several occasions under Harold's baton.

We are also delighted to have Reg Brown with us again.

BRIAN R. FAGG  
Chairman.

P.S. Any resemblance between our noble Lords and any persons living or dead is purely a coincidence; we regret having not been more success '!'.

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The annual subscription for Vice Presidents is £2 and for acting members £4, payable to the Hon. Treasurer. Vice-Presidents receive priority booking facilities for all shows, and one complimentary ticket each year for the show of their choice.

Applications for Membership to Mrs. V.M. Hawes, 20 Vale Rd Broadstairs. CT10 2JQ



# RAMSGATE AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Affiliated to Thanet Arts Council

Presents

## "Iolanthe"

by

## GILBERT & SULLIVAN

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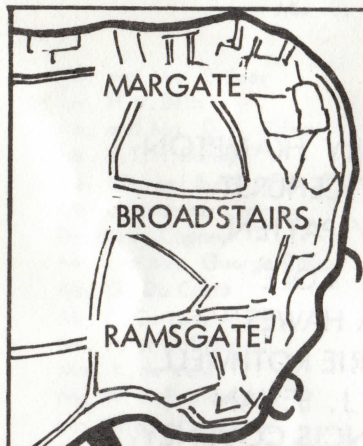
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CALAIS

## IOLANTHE

### The Story

One of the most fascinating aspects of the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership is that two such totally different temperaments should find the artistic unity which gave rise to their phenomenal success. To the enthusiast each opera has its own particular appeal; but *Iolanthe*, interesting for many aspects, is, for very special reasons, perhaps the most important piece written since their collaboration began.

Fairyland had always occupied Gilbert's imaginative fantasy world; magic potions, charms, spells and supernatural powers helped to endow improbability with a veneer of plausibility and provided the means of satirising almost anything. This practise of taking an absurd situation and persuing it to a logical conclusion is typically Gilbertian and, of course, in *Iolanthe* it is the main situation to which we are introduced and which gives rise to the complications which follow.

Strephon is the offspring of Iolanthe and the Lord Chancellor (though father and son are not aware of their relationship) and being a sin against her fairy laws to marry a mortal Iolanthe is sentenced to eternal exile. Strephon wishes to marry Phyllis, a Ward of Court, but because every Peer shares his aspirations (including his father) he is denied the opportunity. Strephon's appeal to his fairy aunts coincides with Iolanthe's reprieve and witnessing their reconciliation Phyllis, heartbroken, rejects the 'simple swain' in favour of 'Blue Blood'. In revenge the Fairy Queen imposes her influence upon the House of Lords, first by arranging for Strephon's election to Parliament (with unlimited powers) and second, by subjugation of all 'hereditary rights'. The hilarious consequences form the basis of Act II. The theme of unrequited love is extended to the Lord Chancellor whose 'nightmare-like' self analysis provides one of the most ingenious Patter songs ever written. A happy end is finally arranged by legal persuasion and Peers and Fairies are able to co-exist in happy Union.

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

#### Overture

ACT ONE - An Arcadian Landscape

Interval 15 mins

ACT TWO - Palace Yard Westminster

Period : Between 1700 - 1882



# Iolanthe

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Lord Chancellor	...	JOHN DIXON
Lord Mountarat	...	BRYAN STRAW
Lord Tolloller	...	GEORGE WOODS
Private Willis	...	KEN SHARPE
Strephon	<i>Philip Carter</i>	PHILIP CARTER
Fairy Queen	<i>Marjorie Butler</i>	MARJORIE BUTLER
Iolanthe	<i>Kate Woolley</i>	KATE WOOLLEY
Richess	<i>June Holloway</i>	JUNE HOLLOWAY
Celia	<i>"Don't go!"</i>	MARGARET WARREN
Leila	<i>Margaret Warren</i>	MARGARET WARREN
Fleta	...	MARY PATTEN
Phyllis	<i>of red pit</i>	PAM MARTIN
Page Boy	...	PAUL RICKWARD

### Chorus of Fairies

Sylvia Blogg	Betty Dale	Aldwyth Humphries
Helen Bracewell	Eve Frampton	Ann Jones
<i>Delia Butterworth</i>	Gwen Fuller	Betty Perry
Vera Croot	Sylvia Greig	Jean Ramsbottom
Doris Cranney	Vera Hawes	Margaret Woods
Cecily Curwen		

### Chorus of Peers

John Baker	Eric Croot	Tim Offord
Hugh Blogg	Stanley Crust	Fred Pile
Bill Bowden	Pat Donoghue	Chris Ponder
Jim Butterworth	Brian Fagg	Ken Sharpe
John Cecil	Dennis Howdle	Bill Woolley
Dick Cook		

### Dancers

Rosemary Lehan	Valerie Tye
Sandra Webb	Beth Gilham
Deborah Keene	Sharon Williams

## THE ORCHESTRA

Conductor	Mr. Ian Cox M.A. (Cantab.), A.R.C.M.
Accompanist	Mrs. Joyce Sherwood R.A.M. (Medalist)

1st. Violins	Mr. H.M. Worden Miss Jane Franklin Mr. Richard Gore	Cellos	Mr. Raymond Banning Miss B. Warren	Clarinets	Miss Linda Milne Mrs. Susan Woan
2nd. Violins	Miss A.E. Reader Mr. C.J. Franklin	Double Bass	Mr. Gerard Martin	Horn	Mr. John Thurgood
	Mr. Phillip Gore Mr. Jeremy Woan	Flutes	Mr. Ward	Trumpet	Mr. A. Furness Mr. Lesley Hobbs
Viola	Freda Martin	Oboe	Mr. Duane Slacy	Trombone	Mr. D. Eccott Mr. Williamson
		Bassoon	MR. T. Williams	Drums	Miss Cathy Hall

*Best of Luck  
Paul Martin*

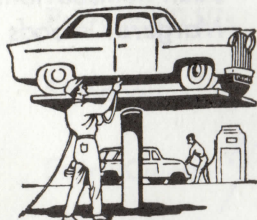


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## IAN COX

Ian Cox is a native of Kent and was educated at Chatham House School. In 1963 he won an open scholarship to St. Johns College, Cambridge, where he studied under George Guest and Philip Radcliffe. At Cambridge he participated in numerous concerts as composer, conductor and performer. Between 1967 - 1972 he was Director of Music at St. Augustines College, and his concerts included "St. Nicholas" "Mother Courage", Richard Rodney Bennett's children's opera "All the Kings Men".

Following one year lectureship at Nonington College, he took up his present appointment as Head of Music at Chatham House School where an annual choral concert, annual carol service and an annual musical ('Oliver' last year) have been instituted.

Other interests in what spare time he has; playing jazz and brass chamber music.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society would like to thank all who have helped to make this production possible: Our Vice-Presidents whose support is so encouraging: All who have displayed posters and car-stickers so willingly, especially Hastings and Thanet for their window display. The Press for the publicity and coverage which is so helpful in bringing our efforts to the notice of the Public: The Programmesellers and front of House helpers who do a really grand job: The backstage lads and lassies who help to make up one big happy team. You will have noticed our tastefully executed programme cover. We are again indebted to the artist Mike Taylor for this design, although it is possible that Mr. Gilbert would not have approved the type of Fairies depicted at the "Savoy". We thank him and all who assist us greatly by taking advertising space in the programme. A special word of thanks to Mr. 'Teddy' Bevan and the Theatre staff who really do their best to make our run at the Granville Theatre as enjoyable for the members of the Society as they do for our audience, and that is my 'cue' for thanking you, our Patrons, for supporting the Society in this our latest presentation of 'Iolanthe'. We hope you will enjoy the show and have a safe journey home. With so many staunch friends and helpers - set against the ever rising cost and difficulties in production - we hope to maintain our usual high standard of entertainment.

## RAMSGATE AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

### FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

### "CHU CHIN CHOW"

by Oscar Asche and Frederick Norton  
at the Granville Theatre, Ramsgate  
Tuesday - Saturday, 8th - 12th June, 1976  
7.30 p.m.

### PAST PRODUCTIONS

The Mikado	May 1961	Merrie England	May 1969
The Gondoliers	May 1962	The Mikado	May 1970
The Pirates of Penzance	May 1963	The Gondoliers	May 1971
Iolanthe	May 1964	La Vie Parisienne	May 1972
Trial by Jury )	May 1965	The Merry Widow	May 1973
H.M.S. Pinafore )		Patience	Nov. 1973
Ruddigore	May 1966	The Desert Song	May 1974
The Yeoman of the Guard	May 1967	Pirates of Penzance	Nov. 1974
Princess Ida	May 1968	Die Fledermaus	Jun. 1975





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