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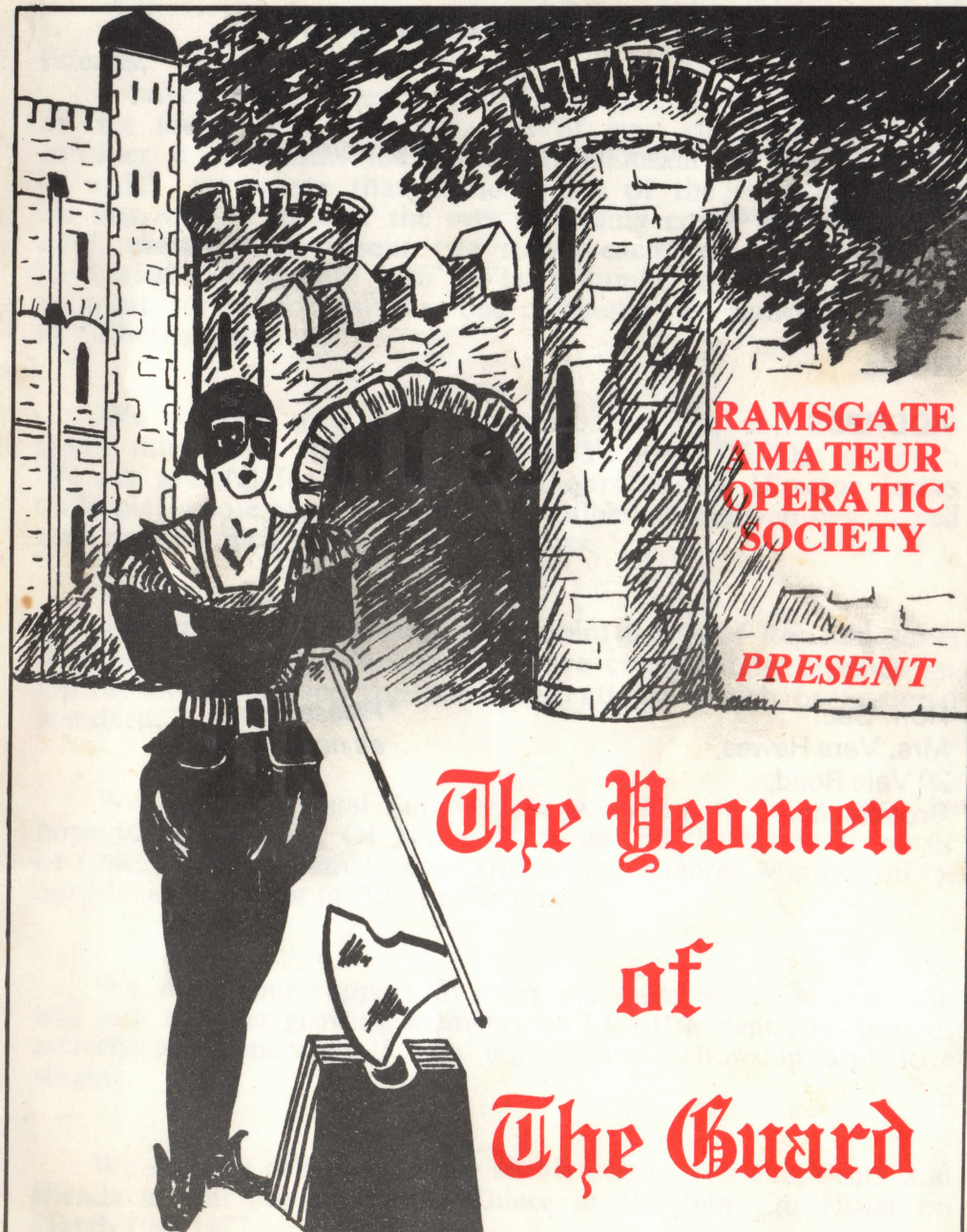
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FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to become a Vice-President*/Acting Member*

Please send details:-

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ADDRESS

Hon. Sec.
Mrs. Vera Hawes,
20 Vale Road,
Broadstairs.

**Please delete
as necessary*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Friends,

I have recently been entrusted with the duties of Chairman of this fine Society. In these days of ever changing values we consider it so worthwhile to try to maintain the good things, of which, we believe that music is one of the most important. To this end, in spite of the ever increasing costs, we have, since 1973, managed to present two shows each year. Especially we have tried to keep faith with the large number of our G & S fans amongst our supporters, that one of thoses two shows should be by Gilbert and Sullivan.

We welcome you, and hope that you will enjoy the well-loved music and spectacle of "The Yeomen Of The Guard". We are grateful for the expertise of our Musical Director James Gillespie, whose great knowledge of Gilbert & Sullivan has turned each musical rehearsal into a Master Class.

The production has been in the joint hands of Reg and Janet Brown whose experience and skill have combined to produce an Opera which we hope you will agree, attains a high professional standard.

We make our usual Summer change when, in June 1977, we hope to stage "Song Of Norway", based on the beautiful music of Grieg, in an extremely colourful setting. George Martin will be our Musical Director for this production.

We need your support in every way and we hope that you will join the ever growing members of Vice-Presidents, or join us actively as a member if you enjoy good fellowship and love singing.

We shall be delighted to see all Members, Vice-Presidents and friends at out Annual Dinner-Dance at the San Clu Hotel on March 19th 1977.

Sincerely yours
C. Kenneth Sharpe.



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 DIRECTOR MR. REG BROWN
 ASST. DIRECTOR Mrs. JANET BROWN

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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 Road, Broadstairs. CT10 2JQ.

RAMSGATE AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Affiliated to Thanet Arts Council

presents

The Yeomen of the Guard

OR

The Merryman and his Maid

Written by
W. S. GILBERT

Composed by
ARTHUR SULLIVAN

Director REG BROWN
 Asst. Director JANET BROWN
 Musical Director JAMES GILLESPIE
 Choreographer GILLIAN PAGE

Tuesday—Saturday, 23-27th November, 1976.
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REGINALD BROWN

A man of many and varied talents, Reg has worked in drama, repertory, broadcasting, musicals and opera. Starting as Assistant Stage Manager, he has been performer, designer and lecturer and is at present Director and Administrator of the Gilbenkian Theatre, the University, Canterbury. Reg was trained at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama and is a graduate of the University of Kent.

Early this year he directed "Showboat" at the Marlowe Theatre and more recently, a full scale professional production of "The Marriage Of Figaro" at the University. He has just returned from a seven week engagement at The Northcott Theatre, Exeter, appearing in the World Premier of a new play.

JANET BROWN

Janet is a teacher of Drama and English and an experienced director of Amateur Operatic Societies. She has acquired a distinguished reputation with Gilbert and Sullivan, mostly in the London area before moving to Canterbury, where she has Directed at the University, Wye College and the Sydney Cooper Centre and is pleased to have the rare opportunity of collaborating with her husband in Ramsgate.

We are indeed privileged to have them produce for our Society.



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MONDAY-FRIDAY

THE OPERA

The idea for *The Yeomen of the Guard* came to Gilbert through a poster he saw while waiting for a train, and is the only opera to have a straight plot. It was first produced on October 3rd, 1888, and was regarded by both Gilbert and Sullivan as their finest work together. It was also their nearest approach to grand opera.

Sullivan was so puzzled by the metre of "I have a song to sing, O" that, breaking his usual rule, he asked his partner for the tune he had in mind when writing the words. Thus it was Gilbert, who knew nothing of music, for once suggested the melody.

ACT I

The scene opens with Phoebe, daughter of Sergeant Meryll of the Tower Warders, discussing the fate of Colonel Fairfax with her sour-faced admirer Wilfred Shadbolt, the Head Jailor. Fairfax, arrested on a false charge, is due to be beheaded that evening and asks the Lieutenant (an old friend) to find him a wife in order that his estates shall not pass into the hands of his accuser, who is his next of kin. This the Lieutenant promises to do.

A crowd gathers on the Green bringing with them a merryman and his maid who seek to amuse them. The Lieutenant offers the girl, Elsie Maynard, one hundred crowns and instant widowhood if she will marry an unknown man, which she accepts: Jack Point, the jester, he takes into his service. Meanwhile Phoebe and Meryll arrange for Fairfax to be accepted as her brother Leonard who is coming to join the Yeomen, Phoebe stealing the keys from Wilfred for this purpose.

The time arrives for the execution and the crowd is summoned by the bell of St. Peter's. The Headsman takes his place and Fairfax, now a Yeoman, is sent with two others to fetch the prisoner. When they bring news of his escape Wilfred is arrested and a search is ordered. Elsie, realising that her husband is still alive, falls fainting in to the arms of Fairfax.

ACT II

It is midnight on the Green and after two days the prisoner is still free. Point, bemoaning the existence of Elsie's husband, is approached by Wilfred who wants to become a jester, and strikes a bargain. He will teach Wilfred jesting if Wilfred will say he shot Fairfax while escaping. In the meantime Elsie is being nursed by Dame Carruthers, the Tower Housekeeper, in Meryll's quarters, much to the latter's discomfort since she wants to marry him.

A shot is heard and Point and Wilfred tell their story. With Fairfax dead, Elsie can marry Leonard (who is of course Fairfax) with whom she is in love. Phoebe, however, in a fit of temper unwittingly gives the plot away to Wilfred, who exacts a promise of marriage as a price of his silence. When recounting this to her father, they are overheard by Dame Carruthers who in turn neatly lands Meryll as a husband at a similar price.

Elsie appears as a bride only to learn that her husband is still alive. She prepares to meet him and finds, of course, to her joy that he is her Leonard. Meanwhile the real Leonard arrives with a reprieve for Fairfax and all are happy—save poor, broken-hearted Jack Point.

Gwen Fuller

CAST

Bill Woolley

Sir Richard CholmondeleyBILL WOOLLEY
(Lieutenant of the Tower)
Colonel Fairfax (under sentence of death)PHILIP CARTER
Sergeant MeryllJAMES BUTTERWORTH
(of the Yeomen of the Guard)
Leonard Meryll (his son)TIM OFFORD
Jack Point (Strolling Pester)JOHN DIXON
Wilfred ShadboltWILLIAM BOWDEN
(Head Jailor and Assistant Tormentor)
The HeadsmanDICK COOK
First YeomanKEN SHARPE
Second YeomanDAVID GORE
Elsie Maynard (a Strolling Singer)PAM MARTIN
Phoebe Meryll (Sergeant Meryll's Daughter)JUNE HOLLOWAY
Dame CarruthersMARJORIE BUTLER
(Housekeeper to the Tower)
Kate (her Niece)ANGELA FRIEND

Chorus of Yeomen of the Guard, Gentlemen, Citizens, etc.

John Baker
Hugh Blogg
John Cecil
Eric Croot

David Gore
Peter Hall
Geoffrey Harris
Paul Hodge
Dennis Howdle

Tim Offord
Fred Pile
Bill Renwick
Ken Sharpe

Ladies of the Chorus:

Sylvia Blogg
Delia Butterworth
Jean Cranney
Vera Croot
Cecily Curwen
Betty Dale

Audrey Foster
Eve Frampton
Gwen Fuller
Margaret Gee
Vera Hawes
Aldwyth Humphries

Elizabeth Jarrett
Mary Patten
Betty Perry
Jean Ramsbottom
Margaret Warren
Kate Woolley

Dancers:

Fiona Gibbon

Gillian Page
Beth Gilham
Peter Hall

Sharon Williams

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I Scene Tower Green.

ACT II — The Same. Two days later.

Time — 16th Century.



Mistress Kate

THE ORCHESTRA

1st Violins
Mr. M. Memmott
(Leader)
Mr. H. W. Worden
Mr. A. Alexander

2nd Violins
Miss A. E. Reader
Mr. O. Franklyn

Viola
Mrs. F. Martin

'Cellos
Miss B. Warren
Mr. F. Bravery

Double Bass
Mr. G. Martin

Flutes
Mr. E. Ward
Mr. Sampson-Runting

Oboe
Mrs. L. Andrews

Clarinets
Mr. D. Woodcock
Miss L. Milne

Bassoon
Mr. T. Williams

Horn
Mr. J. Thurgood

Cornets
Mr. A. Nichols
Mr. B. Lambourne

Trombone
Mr. T. Wallace

Percussion
Mr. W. A. Burton

Accompanist: Joyce Sherwood, R.A.M. Medalist

Conductor and Musical Director
James Gillespie, B.Mus.

The Opera is Directed by
Reg Brown

Asst. Director Janet Brown

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JAMES GILLESPIE, B.Mus.

Once again the Society are privileged in having James Gillespie as our Musical Director. His enthusiasm for "G & S" is outstanding and this is evident in his many productions over the years, of operas performed by the boys of the Junior School of St. Lawrence College where he has held the position of Director of Music for over twenty years.

He conducts the Sandwich Choral Society and is closely associated with the Thanet Festival Choir of Margate, and is always an energetic supporter of the Thanet Music Festival.

Through his enterprising research into the original version of "The Yeomen Of the Guard" the cast have fully co-operated with James in interpreting the Opera according to his direction, to add to your enjoyment.

Footnote from James:

Over the years, several alterations have been made to the text and music of "The Yeomen Of The Guard".

In this production we have tried where possible, to restore the original version, and the original intentions of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Sullivan's manuscript score is in the library of the Royal College of Music, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Librarian for allowing me to study this score in detail.

Keen-eared members of our audience may notice several places where our authentic version differs from that usually performed.



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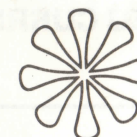
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GILLIAN PAGE

Gillian Page was originally trained in Art, and spent two years as a fabric designer in the London Studio of British Celanese, but had danced with local dancing schools as a child. She began to dance again as an experiment after a serious illness, at the age of 26, and a year later was accepted as a part time Student of the London College of Dance and Drama, later she was given a Mature Students award by Kent Education Committee to study full time at the Arts Educational Trust and London College. Here she studied for the Fellowship of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing in Ballet, National, and Stage Dance, and for the Professional Examinations of the Royal Academy of Dancing. She is now the Principal tutor of the Trust for Education in Dance at Hilderstone.

This is the 6th production with the Company with students from the Trust.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this, our latest production, “The Yeomen Of The Guard”.

We depend so much on our many friends in their kindness in displaying posters, selling tickets and programmes and generally assisting behind the scenes in so many ways.

Once again we are indebted to the Hastings & Thanet Building Society for Booking Facilities and Window Display and our grateful thanks also to Dawn Morgan for the loan of her antique spinning wheel.

PAST PRODUCTIONS

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