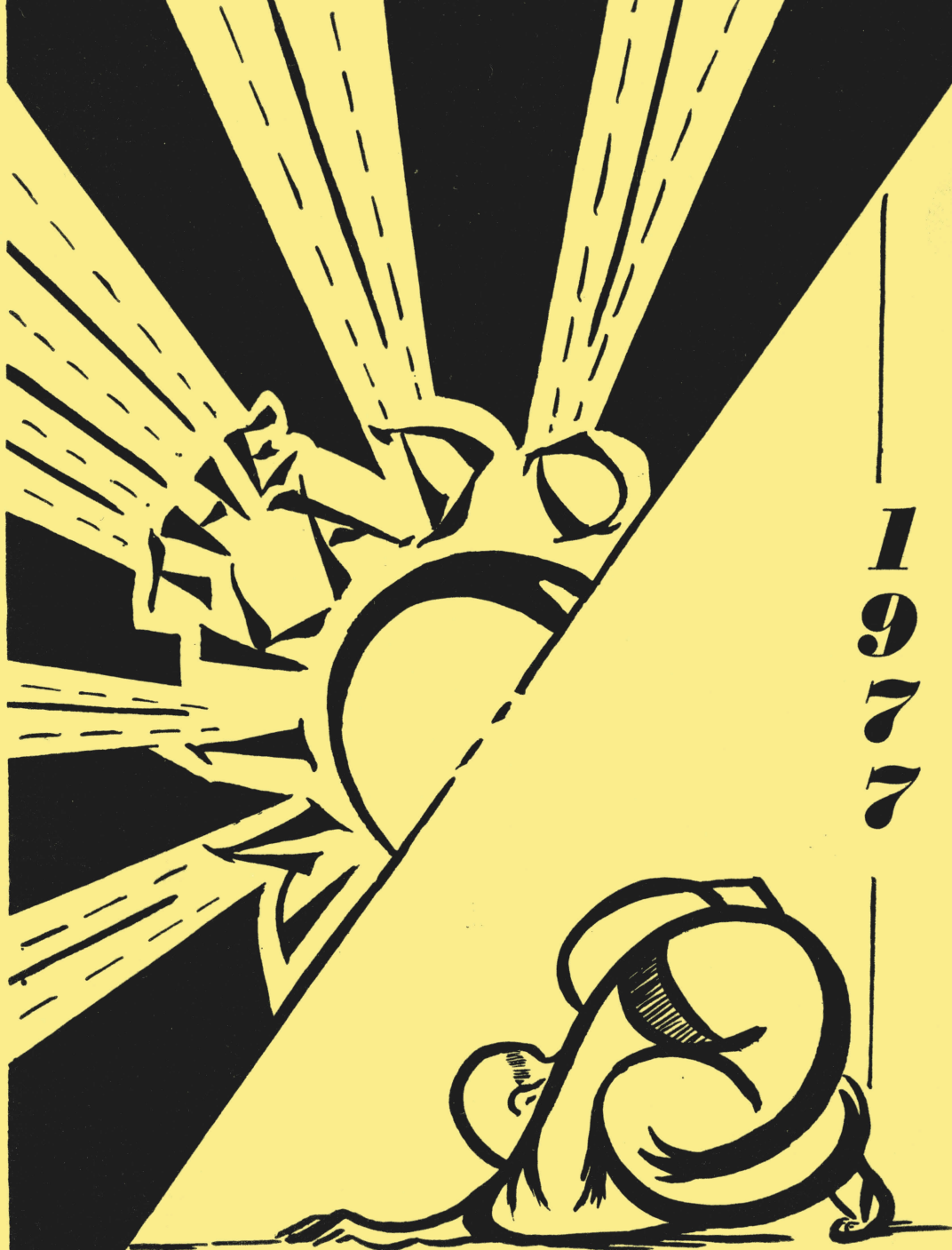


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Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year we are presenting one of the most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, "The Mikado".

The opera is packed with comical Gilbertian situations and memorable Sullivan melodies, and the Society is fortunate once more in having a numerous cast, strong in both principals and chorus.

It is my pleasure to welcome you this evening, and I am confident that it will be an evening of great enjoyment for you. As you settle in your seats and wait for the overture to commence, may I thank you for your support and express the hope that we may see you again at the Society's productions.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Pearson,

President

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THE STORY

THE MIKADO has proved to be one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operas, it was first produced on the 14th March, 1885.

Sullivan had refused to write any more operas on the lines of previous productions so Gilbert hit upon the idea of using a Japanese setting and so The Mikado sprang to life.

The Mikado is neither the wittiest nor the most pungent in satire of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and the action goes on always within measurable distance of a scaffold. What then are its special attractions? One of the most important is its inconsequential gaiety, an atmosphere of sheer fun that overlays the action to such an extent that even references to execution by either boiling oil or melted lead seem to belong to a Never Never Land in which it is impossible to take these things seriously.

The Mikado is a work brilliantly devised for the theatre, and herein lies its playability and charm. The plot, though no one takes it seriously, is so ingeniously devised that it runs as smoothly as a well oiled machine. So smoothly, indeed, that its cleverness in construction tends to be overlooked.

Pish-Tush in his song sets the scene with "Our Great Mikado" decrees that all young men who flirt or wink should forthwith be beheaded.

The Musical planning is excellent, after an opening male chorus, then the wandering minstrel with tenor ballad, a song of explanation by Pish-Tush (baritone) further narration by Pooh-Bah with Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush joining in, the way is paved for the entrance of Ko-Ko preceded by a chorus of nobles "Behold the Lord High Executioner" (wittily set by Sullivan to the opening bars of "A Fine Old English Gentleman." Then after Ko-Ko and Pooh-Bah have an exchange on how to finance Ko-Ko's wedding with Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush joining in, the way is paved for the popular "Three Little Maids from School."

The second act is much shorter than the first but into it come two very striking figures the Mikado and Katisha who in many ways shows that she wears the Mikado's trousers, and although ugly tries to claim Nanki-Poo, who proves to be the Mikado's son, as her bridegroom in a very dramatic musical setting.

The Mikado remained at the Savoy in its first run for 672 evening performances. It was revived later and its progress to-day retains all the brightness of a comet without its evanescence.

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"THE MIKADO"

CAST

THE MIKADO OF JAPAN	LYNDON WILKINSON
NANKI-POO	STEVEN GREENWOOD
(his son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum)	
KO-KO	N. ALLAN HAIGH
(Lord High Executioner of Titipu)	
POOH-BAH	GEOFFREY GREENWOOD
(Lord High Everything Else)	
PISH-TUSH	CLIVE K. MOUL
(A Noble Lord)	
YUM-YUM	CLARICE WHITTAM
PITTI-SING	GLENYS BRETHERICK
PEEP-BO	PAMELA TAYLOR
(Three Sisters Wards of Ko-Ko)	
KATISHA	MARGARET GREENWOOD
(An Elderly Lady, in Love with Nanki-Poo)	

LADIES CHORUS

M. Bullock, A. Crabtree, D. Dunning, D. Exley, J. Greenwood, H. V. Heyworth, J. Haller, M. Haigh, J. Hensby, V. Moore, B. Newell, S. Roe, J. Rumbold, A. Stead, W. Stokes, J. Turner, P. Wood, Y. Whitehead.

GENTLEMEN'S CHORUS

F. Burton, G. Goldthorpe, G. Haller, K. Horner, P. Haley, M. A. Moore, A. Moore, D. Newell, B. Pearson, B. Turner, R. Thurman, E. Thompson, L. Wilkinson, J. A. Whitehead.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

SCENE 1 — COURTYARD OF KO-KO'S PALACE IN TITI-PU

SCENE 2 — KO-KO'S GARDEN

Ice Cream will be served at the back of the hall, and other refreshments will be served downstairs during the Interval.

THE MIKADO — MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1 Chorus of Men	If you want to know who we are
2 Song and Chorus (Nanki-Poo)	A Wand'ring Minstrel I
3 Song (Pish-Tush & Chorus) ...	Our Great Mikado, Virtuous Man
4 Song (Pooh-Bah with Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush)	Young, man, despair
4a Recit (Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah)	And have I journey'd for a month
5 Chorus with Solo (Ko-Ko) ...	Behold, the Lord High Executioner
5a Song (Ko-Ko — chorus of men)	As some day it may happen
6 Chorus of Girls	Comes a train of little ladies
7 Trio (Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo with chorus of girls)	Three Little maids from school are we
8 Quartet (Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah with chorus of girls)	So please you, Sir we much regret
9 Duet (Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo)	Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted
10 Trio (Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah, Pish-Tush)	I am so proud
11 Finale, Act 1	With aspect stern and gloomy stride

ACT 2

1 Solo (Pitti-Sing & chorus of girls)	Braid the raven hair
2 Song (Yum-Yum)	The sun, whose rays are all ablaze
3 Madrigal (Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Nanki-Poo & Pish-Tush) ...	Brightly dawns our wedding day
4 Trio (Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko)	Here's a how-de-do
5 Entrance of Mikado & Katisha ...	Mi-ya-sa-ma, Mi-ya-sa-ma
6 Song (Mikado and Chorus) ...	A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist
7 Trio & Chorus (Pitti-Sing, Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah & chorus)	The criminal cried as he dropped him down
8 Glee (Pitti-Sing, Katisha, Ko-Ko, Poo-Bah & Mikado)	See how the fates their gifts allot
9 Duet (Nanki-Poo & Ko-Ko with Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing and Poo-Bah)	The flowers that bloom in the spring
10 Recit and Song (Katisha)	Alone, and yet alive
11 Song (Ko-Ko)	On a tree by a river
12 Duet (Katisha & Ko-Ko)	There is beauty in the bellow of the blast
13 Finale, Act 2	For he's gone and married Yum-Yum

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Programme Compiled by	Mr. J. FARQUHARSON

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FRIDAY, 13th MAY, 1977 — Operetta for all **CONCERT** at Cleckheaton Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. This Society is supporting the Principal Singers.

SUNDAY, 6th NOVEMBER, 1977 — At Dewsbury Town Hall, 7.15 p.m. The Gilbert & Sullivan Society are in **Concert** with the **West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police Band** also **Ian Caddy** — Baritone — **BOOK NOW** for this **CONCERT**—Tickets are available now at the **BOOKING OFFICE!!**

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