

Batley Gilbert &  
Sullivan Society

presents



# PRINCESS IDA

(or Castle Adamant)



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CENTRE

Monday 25th to Saturday 30th April, 1994

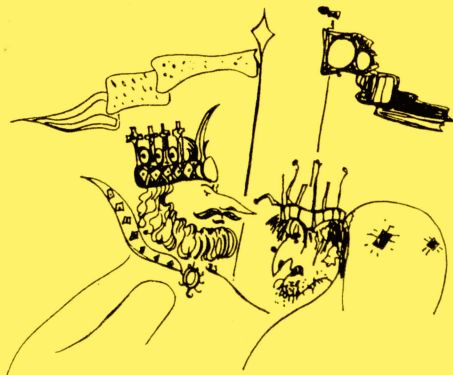
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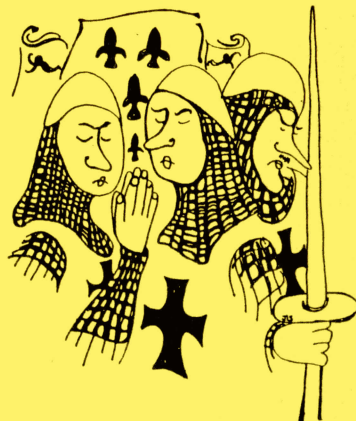
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King Hildebrand & King Gama



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## The Refinishing People



Castle Adamant



Princess Ida

### BATLEY GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association  
Member of the Yorkshire Arts Association  
presents



## PRINCESS IDA

or

## Castle Adamant

by William S. Gilbert & Arthur S. Sullivan



at

DEWSBURY ARTS CENTRE  
25th to 30th APRIL, 1994

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A warm welcome to you, our audience, this evening. Princess Ida, although not one of the most well known Gilbert & Sullivan operas, is the Society's 45th annual production.

Tonight's show would not have been possible without the hardworking efforts of many people. I would like to introduce you to our Producer - Barry Atkinson, and Musical Director - Gordon Clayton, both of whom are new to the Society this year. On behalf of the members I would like to thank Barry, Gordon and our Accompanist, Alan Rothwell for all the hard work they have put into this production. Sadly this is Alan's last show with the Society and we fully appreciate all the time and work he has put into the concerts and shows over the last six years. We wish him well in his future musical pursuits.

I would also like to thank the cast, the orchestra and those behind the scenes for all their efforts over the past year and not forgetting the house staff for their valuable assistance this week.

The Society is always pleased to welcome more members either acting or non-acting. If you feel like joining us in any capacity at all we rehearse at St. Andrew's Parochial Hall, Mount Pleasant, Batley every Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m.

Finally, may I thank you our audience for your continued support.

Alison M. Sowerby - President

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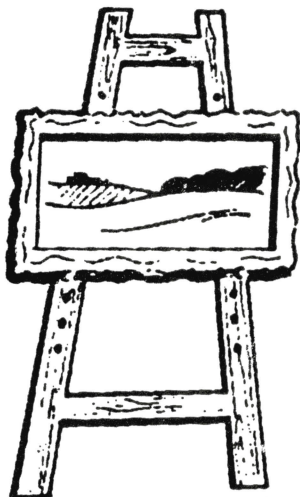
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## PRINCESS IDA or Castle Adamant

### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

KING HILDEBRAND  
HILARION (His Son)  
CYRIL (Hilarion's Friend)  
FLORIAN (Hilarion's Friend)  
KING GAMA  
ARAC  
GURON } (Gama's Sons)  
SCYNTHIUS }  
PRINCESS IDA (Gama's Daughter)  
LADY BLANCHE (Professor of Abstract Science)  
LADY PSYCHE (Professor of Humanities)  
MELISSA (Lady Blanche's Daughter)  
SACHARISSA }  
CHLOE } Girl Graduates  
ADA }

Robert Thurman  
Jeremy Shoesmith  
Ian Townend  
Kevin Hardaker  
Malcolm Parkinson  
Chris Sowerby  
Paul Child  
David Atkinson  
Carol Parkinson  
Pamela Brooke  
Joan Baldwin  
Stephanie Roe  
Alison Sowerby  
Debbie Stringer  
Janice Child

King Hildebrand's Guards:

John Berry, Paul Woodcock

CHORUS (Courtiers, "Girl Graduates", "Daughters of the Plough", etc.)

Sopranos: Verity Bird  
Judith Gill  
Margaret Hanson  
Karen Morton  
Sue Ralph

Contraltos: Dina Burdon  
Sally Roberts  
Kathryn Thurman  
Dorothy Whitworth

Tenors: David Hirst  
Vernon Newman

Basses: Ian Castle  
Ian Stringer

**SCENE:** Act I: Courtyard of King Hildebrand's Palace  
Act II: Gardens of Castle Adamant  
Act III: Courtyard of Castle Adamant

There will be two intervals. Ice Cream will be on sale between Act I and II. Tea and Biscuits and the Wine Bar will be available between Act II and III. The Wine Bar will be open at the end of the performance. (Persons under 18 years of age will be unable to purchase wine).

**NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY DURING THE PERFORMANCE PLEASE !**

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(a) The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and entrances and the door of such exits and entrances shall at all times be open.  
(b) All gangways, passages and staircases shall be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions.

## PRINCESS IDA - THE STORY

The first act is set in the courtyard of King Hildebrand's palace. Courtiers led by Florian, are "searching throughout the panorama" for a view of King Gama and his daughter Ida. We learn that Ida was betrothed to Hilarion, Hildebrand's son and heir, in infancy. Soon Gama and his retinue are sighted in the distance and King Hildebrand issues his instructions regarding the welcome they should receive.

The stage empties leaving Hilarion to soliloquise about his future bride. Hildebrand returns with the news that Gama has arrived but no princess. Hildebrand, not to be thwarted, promptly has Gama and his sons detained as hostages for the surrender of Ida. Hilarion meanwhile announces his intention of seeking out the University, with his two friends Cyril and Florian, and winning over the Princess. Act One ends as Hildebrand sets down his terms for the release of his hostages.

Act Two is set in the grounds of the University, known as Castle Adamant. The curtain rises to reveal the girl graduates seated around Lady Psyche who sings of their academic achievements and aspirations. When questioned about "the thing known as Man", Psyche breaks into a violent tirade culminating in the words "Man is Nature's sole mistake!". Ida arrives to bring peace upon the scene and is hailed by the girls as the "Mighty Maiden with a Mission". She sings an ardent prayer to Minerva for wisdom.

The ladies depart the stage leaving the way clear for the entry of Hilarion and his two comrades. They find some academic robes lying in the garden and proceed to disguise themselves as female students. When the princess returns, the three men introduce themselves as noblewomen wishing to join the University. Before welcoming them as students, the princess insists that they promise "never to marry any man". Ida, accompanied by the three men, sings of her renunciation of mundane pleasures in the quartet "The world is but a broken toy" after which she takes her leave of them.

Enter Lady Psyche whom Florian recognises as his sister that he has not seen for years. He decides to make himself known to her and let her into their secret which she agrees to keep. Florian protests at her renunciation of the male sex upon which she illustrates her theory about man's origin in her song "The Ape and the Lady". The proceedings have been overheard by Melissa, one of the students. She has never seen a man before and has been brought up to think them hideous and deformed. She is therefore pleasantly surprised and soon becomes besotted with Florian.

As the five are departing together, Melissa is called back by her mother, Lady Blanche, who has also noticed the sex of the three new students and who accuses her daughter of deceiving her. Melissa, however, manages to get round her mother and persuades her to keep their secret with the knowledge that if Ida leaves the University, then Blanche will succeed her as Principal. Florian returns and Melissa is about to persuade him to abscond with her when the luncheon bell is heard to herald the arrival of the girls with an open air banquet.

During lunch Hilarion is bringing Ida up to date with news of the court of King Hildebrand when Cyril, now quite drunk, proceeds to sing one of the prince's favourite kissing-songs. Hilarion trying to bring him to his senses strikes him and at this point Ida realises the truth of the situation. In her confusion she falls into the stream but Hilarion dives in and rescues her. The girls beg her to show clemency to Hilarion but she is implacable and has the three men marched off as prisoners. But vengeance is at hand as Melissa announces that an army stands before the castle gates demanding admittance for Hildebrand. The men break through and Hildebrand informs Ida that if she does not surrender herself to Hilarion, he will level Castle Adamant to the ground. He has brought with him Ida's three brothers, still handcuffed. The princess remains firm in her refusal to yield despite the fact that she places the lives of her brothers at risk. She is given until the next afternoon to reconsider her decision.

We now move to the battlements of Castle Adamant where we find the girls armed with axes and swords. Melissa is the first to admit that they are far from happy. In fact they are quite alarmed at the prospect of having to handle fire-arms or to deal with the wounded. Ida soon realises that she will have to confront the invader alone. King Gama arrives with a message from Hildebrand that he would prefer not to wage war on women and has therefore suggested a combat between Ida's brothers and Hilarion, Cyril and Florian. Gama complains bitterly to Ida about his treatment as Hildebrand's prisoner - he has had absolutely nothing to grumble about. When finally left alone, Ida admits bitterly that she has been failed in her hour of need and has no alternative but to agree to Hildebrand's proposition. The castle gates are opened to admit the soldiers. The fight ensues between the sextet resulting in defeat for Gama's sons who now lay wounded on the ground. Ida realises she must yield to Hilarion but declares that had she been allowed to put her ideas into practice, posterity would have had reason to be grateful to her. Hildebrand, however, points out that posterity cannot be provided for if all women abjure tyrannic man. The princess has apparently never thought of this, and since Lady Blanche cannot provide a satisfactory answer, she admits the error of her views and yields herself to Hilarion and all ends happily ever after!

### HISTORICAL NOTES

Princess Ida, first performed at the Savoy Theatre on 5th January, 1884, is the only Savoy opera to have three acts and to be written in blank verse. Gilbert lifted nearly all of the dialogue from his earlier play, *The Princess*, which was based on Alfred, Lord Tennyson's long poem *The Princess*, which had first appeared in 1847.

Princess Ida is a much more serious work than any of its predecessors. Although it lacks the rich characterization and enduring humour of most of the other Savoy operas, it contains some of the finest music which Sullivan ever wrote ranging from the poignant delicacy of "The World is but a Broken Toy" to the Handelian martial splendour of "This Helmet I suppose". In the work Gilbert takes his opportunity to gently poke fun at the movement for women's education which had gained momentum in the 1870's with the founding of Girton and Newnham colleges at Cambridge and Somerville and Lady Margaret Hall at Oxford.

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## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT I

1. CHORUS AND SOLO (Florian) - "Search throughout the Panorama"
2. SONG (Hildebrand and Chorus) - "Now Hearken to my Strict Command"
3. RECITATIVE AND SONG (Hilarion) - "Today We Meet"
4. CHORUS - "From the Distant Panorama"
5. TRIO (Arac, Guron and Scynthus and Chorus) - "We are Warriors Three"
6. SONG (Gama) - "If you give me your Attention"
7. FINALE (Gama, Hildebrand, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian and Chorus)  
- "Perhaps if you Address the Lady"

### ACT II

8. CHORUS OF GIRLS AND SOLOS (Melissa, Lady Psyche, Sacharissa)  
- "Towards the Emyrean Heights"
9. CHORUS OF GIRLS - "Mighty Maiden with a Mission"
10. RECITATIVE AND ARIA (Princess) - "Minerva! Oh Hear Me"
- 10a. EXEUNT FOR PRINCESS IDA AND GIRLS  
- "And thus to Emyrean Heights"
11. SONG (Blanche) - "Come Mighty Must!"
12. TRIO (Cyril, Hilarion and Florian) - "Gently, Gently"
13. TRIO (Cyril, Hilarion and Florian) - "I am a Maiden"
14. QUARTET (Princess, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)  
- "The World is but a Broken Toy"
15. SONG (Lady Psyche with Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)  
- "A Lady Fair of Lineage High"
16. QUINTET (Psyche, Melissa, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)  
- "The Woman of the Wisest Wit"
17. DUET (Melissa and Lady Blanche) - "Now Wouldn't You Like ?"
18. CHORUS OF GIRLS AND SOLOS (Blanche and Cyril)  
- "Merrily Ring the Luncheon Bell"
19. SONG (Cyril) - "Would you know the Kind of Maid"
20. FINALE ACT II (Princess, Hildebrand, Melissa, Lady Psyche, Blanche, Cyril,  
Hilarion, Florian, Arac, Guron, Scynthus and Chorus of Girls and Men)  
- "Oh Joy! Our Chief is Saved"

### ACT III

21. CHORUS AND SOLO (Melissa) - "Death to the Invader!"
22. SONG (Princess) - "I Built upon a Rock"
23. SONG (King Gama with Chorus of Girls) - "Whene'er I Spoke" 1/2
24. CHORUS OF LADIES AND SOLDIERS - "When Anger Spreads His Wing"
25. SONG (Arac with Guron, Scynthus and Chorus) - "This Helmet I Suppose"
26. CHORUS DURING FIGHT - "This is our Duty"
27. FINALE (Princess, Hilarion and Chorus) - "With Joy Abiding"

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Sillery: A very high-class sparkling wine, produced in and around the village of Sillery in Champagne.
- Triplet: A stanza of eight lines constructed on two rhymes, in which the first line is repeated as the fourth and seventh, and the second as the eighth.
- Empyrean Heights: The highest heaven, the abode of God and the angels.
- Helicon: The home of the Muses, a part of Parnassus which contained the fountains of Aganippe and Hippocrene.
- Anacreon: A Greek lyric poet, born c. 570 B.C., who wrote chiefly in praise of women and wine.
- Ovid's Metamorphoses: **The Metamorphoses**, a collection of poems which ran to 15 books by the Latin poet Publius Ovidius Naso (43 B.C. - A.D. 18).
- Aristophanes: The great Greek comic dramatist whose famous croaking chorus from **The Frogs** is known to Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance*.
- Juvenal: A Roman satirist whose work included a strong attack on women.
- Bowdlerized: Cleaned of any passages which might be calculated to bring a blush of shame to a modest maiden's cheek. The term derives from Thomas Bowdler.
- Minerva: A Roman goddess, identified with the Greek Athena, who was patroness of the arts and goddess of memory and warfare.
- Neophytes: New converts, novices.
- Circe: A sorceress in Greek mythology who lived on the island of Aea. When Ulysses landed there, she turned his companions into swine.
- Trepan: Ensnare or catch in a trap.
- Sizars/Servitors: Students who received their board and lodging free in return for performing duties of the kind that would normally be done by servants. (Sizars - Cambridge, Servitors - Oxford).
- Tufts: Gold tassels worn on the caps of peers' sons at Oxford.
- Hipparchus: The first systematic astronomer and the inventor of trigonometry.
- Asphodel: Lilies - in Greek mythology the everlasting flowers that carpeted the Elysian fields.
- Booby: A fool or a dunce.
- Beard a maiden in her lair: To defy someone directly and face to face.
- Paynim: Pagan or heathen. The word was originally applied to the Saracens who fought the Crusaders.
- Lath: A thin, narrow piece of wood.
- Unanneal: Steel is annealed or toughened by being exposed to continuous and gradually diminishing heat.
- Popinjays: An old name for a parrot, figuratively applied to people to suggest vanity and empty conceit.
- Jack-a-dandy: Smart, foppish, pert or conceited.
- Cuirass: A piece of armour reaching down to the waist and consisting of a breast-plate and back-plate fastened together. (Sometimes used for the breast-plate alone.)
- Brassets: Armour for the upper arm.
- Virago: A man-like or heroic woman; an Amazon.
- Termagant: An impudent or quarrelsome woman, a shrew.



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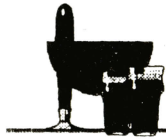
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The members of the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Gordon Clayton:

1st Violin:	Brian Lee	Clarinet:	Joanne Elliott
2nd Violin:	Rebecca Crowther	Flute:	Elyse Greenwood
Viola:	Robert Cousins	Trumpet:	Andrew Whitaker
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