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The Pirates of Penzance

70th



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Gilbert
& Sullivan
SOCIETY

Anniversary
1949-2019

Souvenir Programme

Batley Town Hall, 10th - 13th April 2019

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Acknowledgements

Producer/Director	Jeremy Shoesmith
Musical Director	Adam Boniface
Accompanists	Andrew Bedford, Linda Hinchcliffe
Set Design	David Hall
Scenic Artist	Chris Hall
Set Construction	John Hall & Richard Hampson
Set Painters	Marilyn & Holly Cooper, Helen Carbutt, Tony Johnson, Steve Roe, Kath & Robert Thurman, Malcolm Parkinson, Jennifer Day
Stage Manager	Alan Sykes, assisted by Chris Hall and Rachael Kirkwood
Lighting	LX Stage Services Ltd
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House Manager	Margaret Hanson
Programme Designer and Editor	Robert Thurman
Librarian	Tracey Hook
Musical Score	James Newby Music
Safety Officer	Stephanie Roe

Society Officials

President: Stephanie Roe, **Secretary:** Carol Parkinson.
Treasurer: Robert Thurman
Executive Committee: Fi Baker, Simon Bray, Marilyn Cooper, Tracey Hook, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Debbie Moores, Rob Moores,

Honorary Life Members of the Society

Mrs M Harrop, Mr K Horner, Mrs S L Roe, Mrs S Stopford,
Mr C R Thurman, Mr G Weston

NODA Long Service Medal Holders

Mrs M Hanson, Mr K Horner, Mrs D Moores, Mrs C Parkinson,
Mr M G Parkinson, Mrs S Stopford, Mrs S L Roe, Mr C J Sowerby,
Mr C R Thurman, Mrs K Thurman, Mr I Townend

Invited Guests

The Auditions Panel: Pamela Thorne, Sandra Chapman, Ian Townend.
The Mayor of Kirklees, Cllr Mrs Gwen Lowe and her consort, Mr Ken Lowe
Representatives from Leeds, Halifax, Harrogate, Wakefield, Meltham and
Haworth Gilbert & Sullivan Societies, Batley Amateur Thespian Society,
Carlinghow Theatre Company, Dewsbury Arts Group,
Dewsbury Collegians, Heckmondwike Players
Mr Noel Rigg & Mrs Dorothy Rigg (NODA), Malcolm Haigh

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A message from the President

This is a very special year for the Society as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary. It's a great achievement, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you as we mark this important milestone in our history. This is the eighth time we have presented *The Pirates of Penzance* and it was previously our choice of show for our 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th anniversaries.

This year we welcome a new production team. Our Director, Jeremy Shoesmith, is no stranger to the Society and has appeared with us on numerous occasions as principal tenor, specifically as Frederic in our 1999 production of *Pirates*. For several years he has directed his home society, Heckmondwike Players, including a production of *Pirates* in 2016. It is his favourite G & S operetta and we were delighted when he had no hesitation in accepting our invitation to return and direct for Batley.

We also welcome a new Musical Director, Adam Boniface, who worked with Jeremy on *Pirates*. We knew Adam in another capacity when he was our percussionist for *The Gondoliers* in 2017 so he is no stranger to Batley either. They are an excellent team and it has been a real pleasure working with them both.

We hope you enjoy our performance as much as we have enjoyed preparing for it. We are looking forward to our trip to the seaside with maybe a spot of paddling and building sandcastles. So, come and join in the fun as we explore the beauty of Penzance, but watch out for those cheeky pirates as you never know where they may pop up! No need to worry, though, as the local constabulary can be relied to sort them out!

Once again, thank you for your continued support, without which this production would not have been possible.

Stephanie Roe

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The Pirates of Penzance

The story Act 1

On the coast of Cornwall, Frederic celebrates the completion of his twenty-first year and the end of his apprenticeship to a gentlemanly band of pirates. The pirates' maid of all work, Ruth, appears and reveals that, as Frederic's nursemaid long ago, she made a mistake "through being hard of hearing": Mishearing Frederic's father's instructions, she apprenticed him to a pirate, instead of to a ship's *pilot*.

Frederic has never seen any woman other than Ruth, and he believes her to be beautiful. The pirates know better and suggest that Frederic take Ruth with him when he returns to civilisation. Frederic announces that, although it pains him, so strong is his sense of duty that, once free from his apprenticeship, he will be forced to devote himself to the pirates' extermination. He also points out that they are not successful pirates: since they are all orphans, they allow their prey to go free if they too are orphans. Frederic notes that word of this has got about, so captured ships' companies routinely claim to be orphans. Frederic invites the pirates to give up piracy and go with him, so that he need not destroy them, but the Pirate King says that, compared with respectability, piracy is comparatively honest. The pirates depart, leaving Frederic and Ruth. Frederic sees a group of beautiful young girls approaching the pirate lair, and realises that Ruth misled him about her appearance. Sending Ruth away, Frederic hides before the girls arrive.

The girls burst exuberantly upon the secluded spot. Frederic reveals himself, startling them. He appeals to them to help him reform. The girls are fascinated by him, but all reject him, except one: Mabel, who responds to his plea, chiding her sisters for their lack of charity. She offers Frederic her pity, and the two quickly fall in love. The other girls discuss whether to eavesdrop or to leave the new couple alone, deciding to "talk about the weather," although they steal glances at the affectionate couple.

Frederic warns the young ladies that his old associates will soon return, but before they can flee, the pirates arrive and capture the girls, intending to marry them. Mabel warns the pirates that the girls' father is a Major-General, who soon arrives and introduces himself. He appeals to the pirates not to take his daughters, leaving him to face his old age alone. Having heard of the famous Pirates of Penzance, he pretends that he is an orphan to elicit their sympathy. The soft-hearted pirates release the girls, making Major-General Stanley and his daughters honorary members of their band.



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Batley & Birstall Community Fund CIO

The object of the Trust is the promotion of charitable purposes for the general benefit of the residents of Batley and Birstall by supporting those organisations whose aim is to improve their health and wellbeing.

Preference is always given to organisations which are based in the town whose aims are to support and facilitate care for the poor, sick and needy; health related activities including respite care and the work of hospices; young people's health and wellbeing; care for the elderly and disabled; cultural and sporting activities; volunteering on work falling within the object of the Charity and for improvements to the public amenities of Batley and Birstall.

The Society was both grateful and delighted to receive a grant from the Trust to assist with the cost of the Orchestra for this production. Its application was made on the basis that the Society had a strong desire to continue to provide a fully orchestrated performance, for the benefit of local audiences. This would not only enhance the production but would encourage and support local musicians, both amateur and semi-professional.

Further details can be obtained from: The Secretary, Batley & Birstall Community Fund CIO

C/o Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants, 20 Owl Lane, Dewsbury WF12 7RQ

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Act 2

The Major-General sits in a ruined chapel on his estate, surrounded by his daughters. His conscience is tortured by the lie that he told the pirates, and the girls attempt to console him. The Sergeant of Police and his corps arrive to announce their readiness to arrest the pirates. The girls loudly express their admiration of the police for facing likely slaughter at the hands of fierce and merciless foes. The police are unnerved by this but finally leave.

Left alone, Frederic, who is to lead the police, reflects on his opportunity to atone for a life of piracy, at which point he encounters Ruth and the Pirate King. They have realised that Frederic's apprenticeship was worded so as to bind him to them until his twenty-first *birthday* – and, because that birthday happens to be on the 29th of February (in a leap year), it means that technically only five birthdays have passed, and he will not reach his twenty-first birthday until he is in his eighties. Frederic is convinced by this logic and agrees to rejoin the pirates. He then sees it as his duty to inform the Pirate King of the Major-General's deception. The outraged outlaw declares that the pirates' "revenge will be swift and terrible".

Frederic meets Mabel, and she pleads with him to stay, but he feels bound by his duty to the pirates until his 21st birthday – in 1940. They agree to be faithful to each other until then, though to Mabel "It seems so long". Frederic departs. Mabel steels herself and tells the police that they must go alone to face the pirates. They muse that an outlaw might be just like any other man, and it is a shame to deprive him of "that liberty which is so dear to all". The police hide on hearing the approach of the pirates, who have stolen onto the estate, intending to avenge themselves for the Major-General's lie.

At this point, Major-General Stanley appears, sleepless with guilt, and the pirates also hide, while the Major-General listens to the soothing breeze. The girls come looking for him. The pirates leap to the attack, and the police rush to the defence but the police are easily defeated, and the Pirate King urges the captured Major-General to prepare for death. The Sergeant has one stratagem left: he demands that the pirates yield "in Queen Victoria's name"; and the pirates, overcome with loyalty to their Queen, do so. Ruth appears and reveals that the pirates are "all noblemen who have gone wrong". The Major-General is impressed by this and all is forgiven. Frederic and Mabel are reunited, and the Major-General is happy to marry his daughters to the noble pirates after all.



**This page is sponsored in loving memory of Jonny Stringer
April 1983 - December 2018**

Seventy Glorious Years

I wonder if the founding members of Batley Congregational Operatic Society thought their organisation would still be actively performing the works of Gilbert & Sullivan seventy years later? In 1948, the augmented choir of Hanover Street Congregational Church decided to stage a fully-costumed Gilbert & Sullivan production in the schoolroom. As perhaps the most well-known of the operettas, *The Mikado*, perhaps the best-known of the operettas, was selected and six performances were staged from 12th - 19th March 1949. Performing rights were still in place and permission to stage the show was sought from the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, then under the control of Bridget D'Oyly Carte, the founder's granddaughter. The musical director was Mr H Mason and the 'Coach and Producer' was Councillor Will Stubbs. Music was provided by Raymond Parkinson and his Orchestra. Tickets were 3/- on weekdays and 3/6d on Saturdays. The programme included advertisements for many local companies. Hepworth & England Ltd, Electrical and Radio Retailers, invited the audience to visit their modern kitchen where washing demonstrations were given every afternoon at 2.30pm. Refrigerators, cookers and home labour-saving devices could also be seen! Permanent waving could be carried out at Maison Mitchell in Henrietta Street and one could not do better than shop at Simpsons for one's groceries and provisions in Clerk Green Street.

A second production was planned in 1950 and six performances of *Iolanthe* were successfully staged. A decision was made to formally name the organisation and at a meeting held on 18th July, the name Batley Congregational Operatic Society was selected. Officers were elected under the Presidency of the Rev John Baker, then minister at Hanover Street Church. By 1969, all thirteen of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas had been performed.

The association with Hanover Street continued until 1973, when the Church was demolished. New premises were located at Cross Bank Methodist Church, where a joint production of *HMS Pinafore* and *Trial By Jury* was staged in 1974. Two years later, a decision to change the Society's name to 'Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society' was taken, its first production being *The Mikado*.

Cross Bank remained home to the Society until the Church closed in 1981. In the absence of an alternative with both rehearsal and staging facilities, a move to St Andrew's Church Hall in Purlwell took place, with performances in the Town Hall at Batley. Despite improvements to the lighting, the back-stage facilities were far from ideal and a decision to perform in the Arts Centre in Batley Carr was taken for the 1988 production of *The Sorcerer*.

The Arts Centre proved to be an ideal venue and provided good facilities. It remained our home until 2011, when Kirklees Council closed the theatre at short notice, just before a production of *Iolanthe*. The only alternative was to return to Batley Town Hall, where all our subsequent productions have been staged.



Musical Director ~ Adam Boniface

Adam is an established Musical Director. He studied music at Oxford Brookes University, moving to Leeds in 2007 where he has worked as an MD, percussionist and singer. As a tenor he has been a member of BBC Symphony Chorus, Philharmonia Chorus, Vivace Chorus, Leeds Philharmonic Chorus and Queens College Chapel Choir, where he was a choral scholar. He was principal percussionist for both Surrey County Youth Wind Orchestra and the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain, as well as playing for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. He has also played for a variety of productions including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Our House*, *Rent*, *Made In Dagenham*, *West Side Story* and *Les Miserables*.

In Oxford he conducted university ensembles before forming his own A Capella Chamber Choir 'Concentio', which has performed all over the UK. He has worked on musicals including *Cabaret*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Carousel*, *Avenue Q*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The King And I*, *Sister Act* and *The Full Monty*. In September he will be Musical Director for a production of *9 to 5*. He has also been MD for a previous production of *Pirates of Penzance* and is looking forward to his second trip to the far end of Cornwall with Batley G&S!

Producer ~ Jeremy Shoesmith

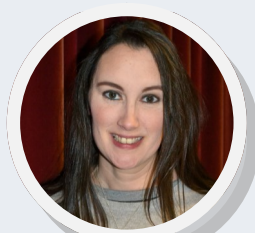
Jeremy's first show with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society was in 1993, when he played the role of Ralph Rackstraw in *HMS Pinafore*. He has been involved with the Society on and off over the past 26 years and considers it a great privilege to have been given the opportunity to direct this production of *Pirates*, his favourite Gilbert & Sullivan show.

He has been involved in amateur theatre since 1986 when he made his first appearance as Fyedka in *Fiddler on the Roof* with Spenborough Amateurs. He joined the Heckmondwike Players in 1987 where he met his wife, Arran, in the *South Pacific* (also known as Heckmondwike Grammar school).

He has taken many lead roles with the *Players* and other local societies, including Sid in *Pyjama Game*, Frederic in various productions of *Pirates* and, perhaps his favourite part to date, Fagin in *Oliver*. Making his directorial debut in 2002 with *Sound of Music*, he has since directed a further three musicals for the *Players*. He has a real passion for *Pirates* and has thoroughly enjoyed working with a very talented cast over the past few months and hopes you find that this shines through in our interpretation of this timeless classic.



The Major-General's Daughters, the Pirates and Policemen



Fi Baker



Liz Blount



Simon Bray



Helen Carbutt



Marilyn Cooper



Jennifer Day



David Hall



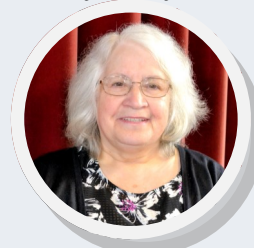
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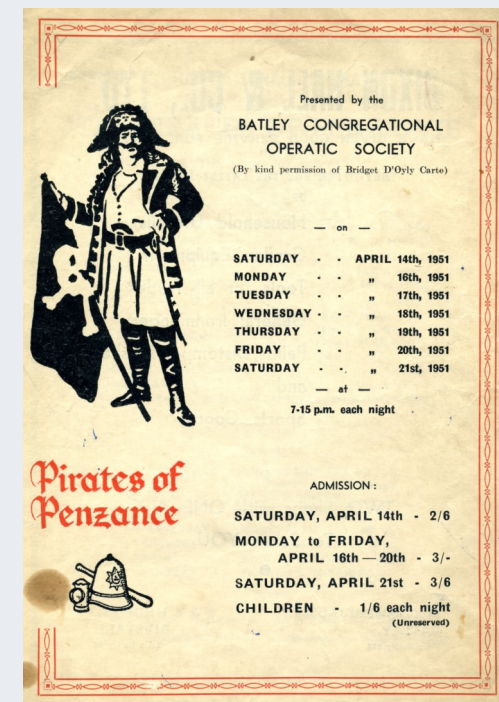


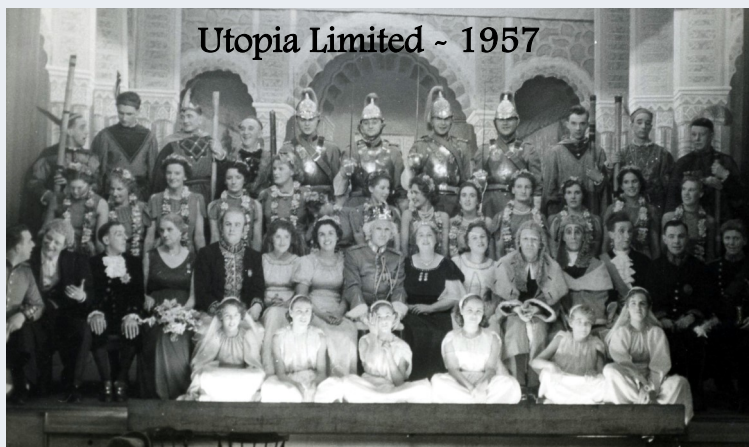
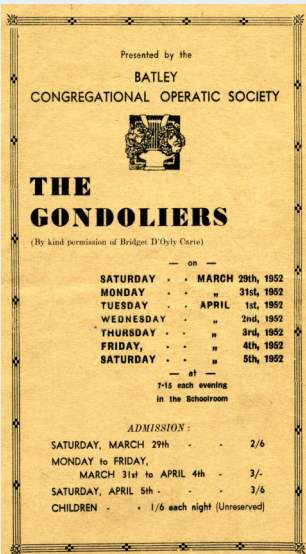
Kath Thurman

The Society has been well served by its members. We currently have eleven National Operatic & Dramatic Society long service medal holders. We have also benefited from loyal audiences who have supported us faithfully over the years. Whilst Gilbert & Sullivan operettas are clearly Victorian in origin, their longevity must surely be attributed to the timelessness of their plots and the way audiences react. Their humour seems to be adaptable to the age in which they are performed.

Seventy years have passed since our founder members joined together to perform the works of Gilbert & Sullivan in Batley. We hope to continue to provide high quality entertainment for many more years to come and thank you for your continued support..

Here is a small selection of memories from our archive illustrating just a few of the shows we have presented over the past seventy years.





Kate ~ Bex Barker

Rebekah's G&S life began in Leeds when she appeared in the chorus of *Ruddigore* and *Princess Ida*. Rebekah was fascinated with music from a very young age - her parents realised that it was going to get interesting when she began playing TV theme tunes by ear on her sister's recorder as a toddler. She trained as a classical guitarist and pianist before beginning singing lessons at 16 while studying for her A-Levels in Music and Music Technology. Since then she has enjoyed performing as a soloist and with mixed choirs across Lancashire, North and West Yorkshire.



Edith ~ Stephanie Roe

Stephanie joined the Society in 1967, appearing in *The Mikado* in 1968 and has been a member ever since. Little did she think that she would still be treading the boards some fifty plus years later and have the honour of being awarded her 50 Year NODA medal last year. This is the second time she has played Edith, having also played Mabel, Kate and Isobel in previous productions, including one in Rome. Edith is an interesting part: vocally Sullivan requires her to sing the alto line one minute and then suddenly switch to high soprano in the next few bars which can be challenging at times.



Isabel ~ Rita Jno-Baptiste

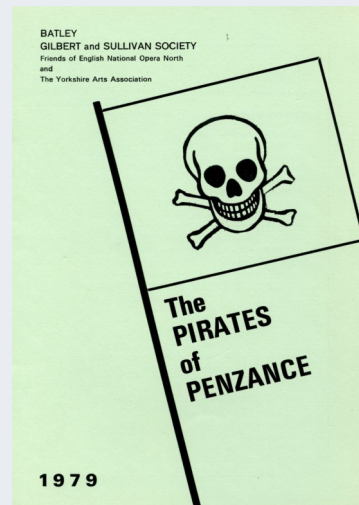
Rita joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 2005, as a member of the chorus in *The Mikado*. She has taken a number of minor roles, including Lady Ella in *Patience* and Guilia in *The Gondoliers*. One of her favourite roles was the non-speaking part of the accused's 'other woman' in a production of *Trial By Jury* in 2015. She has enjoyed preparing for her role and thanks everyone for their support,





Ruth - Ann Likeman

Ann returns to Batley to portray one of her favourite G&S characters. Ann's passion for musical theatre began when she joined Chester Operatic Society "...years and years ago" and has continued during her time with various West Yorkshire musical societies. Her favourite roles include the macabre sense of humour of Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, the resilient Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* and the lovesick Lady Jane in *Patience*. You may wish to ponder whether Ruth is maternal, lovesick, a determined pirate maid or simply hanging on to "...the remains of a fine woman...!"



Mabel - Carol Parkinson

Carol joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 1984 as a chorus member in their 1985 production of *Patience*. Studying with local singing teachers, she graduated to small parts and then leading roles. She has worked with other Gilbert & Sullivan societies and choirs in the area and is also a member of Dewsbury Arts Group. Carol is delighted to be able to join the Society's 70th anniversary celebrations by taking the role of Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, a show in which she first appeared as a chorus member while at Wheelwright Sixth Form College in 1976!



Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society - 1983

The Society would like to express its thanks to the following,
for agreeing to understudy various principal roles:

Steve Roe, Paul Richmond, Elaine Richmond, Rowena Thornton,
Anna Trent, Jennifer Day, Steven Greenwood, Sheelagh Forsyth,
Kathryn Buxton and Richard Buxton

In memory of my Dad, Desmond Aveyard (1926-1977),
whose record collection introduced me to Gilbert & Sullivan, but who didn't live
to hear me sing a solo on stage.



BATLEY GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

presents

Its 40th ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION

The Pirates of Penzance or The Slave of Duty



DEWSBURY ARTS CENTRE,
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24th April - 29th April 1989

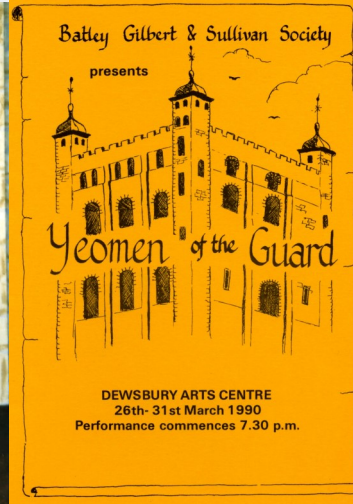


Samuel - Edwin Kirkwood

Edwin's love of G&S began in his birth city of Newcastle, learning songs from *Pirates* at school where he performed in a number of productions. After University he performed with the New College Society in Durham alongside the girl who became his wife. Following a move to Leeds he joined Morley AOS and 29 musicals and 29 pantomimes later he felt that Batley's 70th anniversary was a good time to get back into G&S. He has also performed with a number of other societies and enjoys singing in his church choir and round a Scout campfire. He is pleased to be reprising his first ever solo performance as Samuel, though last time he was eleven years old singing treble.

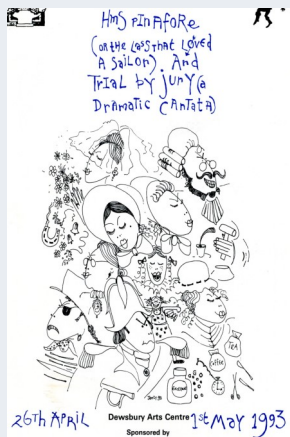


70th BATLEY Gilbert Sullivan SOCIETY Anniversary 1949-2019



The Sergeant of Police ~ Robert Thurman

Robert joined the Society in 1976 and has played a variety of principal roles in all thirteen G&S operas. He is a third generation Savoyard: his Grandfather directed several G&S shows at Springfield Congregational Church in Dewsbury and both his parents performed in shows. He has worked with Meltham and Halifax G&S Societies and took the lead role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and played Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady* with Heckmondwike Players. The Sergeant is a new role for Robert, having portrayed the Major General on four occasions.



Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society ~ October 2018

Major-General Stanley ~ Malcolm Parkinson

Full

houses at the ABC

Dewsbury greeted *The King and I*

in which Malcolm made his stage debut.

In 1976 at **Wheelwright College** he first was the very model of a modern Major-General.

Carol Parkinson and Jennifer Day will on

the last night join Malcolm and the

Class of 76 to square the

Circle



The Pirate King ~ David Parker

David has been a regular performer at Batley since making his first appearance as Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers* at the Little Theatre in 2008. He is well versed in the lore of Gilbert & Sullivan, and has performed many of the principal bass/baritone roles with several local groups, including Harrogate, Leeds and Wakefield Gilbert & Sullivan Societies. He also appears regularly with the West Yorkshire Savoyards. He is delighted to be setting sail under the pirate flag once again.



Frederic ~ Leon Waksberg

Leon began singing with Bradford University G&S Society. He has since joined groups around Yorkshire, performing leading roles in all the Savoy operas, as well as tenor roles with West Riding and Leeds Youth Opera and the Northern Opera Group. He plays bass guitar for amateur musicals and sang the tenor solo in *Carmina Burana* with Yorkshire Wind Orchestra. He composes music, including the score for a musical play *47 Sonnets of Self Repair*, an operatic adaptation of *The Winter's Tale* and songs he performs at open-mic nights in Leeds. This is Leon's tenth show at Batley. His next role is that of Ludwig in *The Grand Duke*, with Hull Savoyards, this coming June.



Dramatis Personæ

Major-General Stanley	Malcolm Parkinson
The Pirate King	David Parker
Frederic (<i>a Pirate Apprentice</i>)	Leon Waksberg
Samuel (<i>his Lieutenant</i>)	Edwin Kirkwood
The Sergeant of Police	Robert Thurman
Ruth (<i>a Piratical Maid of All Work</i>)	Ann Likeman
Mabel	Carol Parkinson
Kate	Bex Barker
Edith (<i>Major General Stanley's daughters</i>)	Stephanie Roe
Isabel	Rita Jno-Baptiste

Chorus of Pirates, Policemen and Daughters

Fi Baker, Liz Blount, Simon Bray, Helen Carbutt, Marilyn Cooper,
Jennifer Day, David Hall, Lyndsey Hall, Tracey Hook,
Tony Johnson, Debbie Moores, Steve Roe,
Lee Stone, Kath Thurman.

ACT I A Rocky Seashore on the Coast of Cornwall

ACT II A Ruined Chapel by Moonlight

The ladies and gentlemen of our wonderful orchestra under the
baton of our Musical Director, Adam Boniface.

Violins - Kate Ghent (Leader), Anne Griffiths, Becky Mellings,
Lynda Dunn: **Viola** - Andrew Bedford: **Cello** - Elliot Tingley:

Bass - Susan Morgan

Trumpet - Will Burn: **Trombone** - Mason Hirst: **Horn** - Bob Shaw:

Clarinets - Gary White, Martha O'Sullivan: **Flute** - Jayne White:

Oboe - Rachel O'Sullivan: **Percussion** - Dave Luckett

Costumes have been kindly sponsored by the following:

Major-General Stanley - Hugh Jarse, Mabel - Stanley Accrington
Pirates and daughters - Simon Bray, Marilyn Cooper and Tony Johnson

Musical Numbers

Act I

1. Opening Chorus of Pirates and solo (Samuel) "Pour, oh pour the pirate sherry"
2. Solo (Ruth) "When Frederic was a little lad"
3. Song (Pirate King and Chorus) "Oh, better far to live and die"
4. Recitative and Duet (Ruth and Frederic) "Oh! False one you have deceived me"
5. Chorus of Girls "Climbing over rocky mountain"
6. Recitative (Edith, Kate, Frederic and Chorus) "Stop, Ladies, pray!"
7. Aria (Frederic and Chorus of Girls) "Oh! Is there not one maiden breast"
8. Air (Mabel and Chorus) "Poor wand'ring one"
9. (Edith, Kate and Chorus of Girls) "What ought we to do? Gentle sisters say"
10. Duet (Mabel and Frederic) and Chorus of Girls "How beautifully blue the sky"
11. Frederic and Chorus of Girls and Pirates "Stay, we must not lose our senses"
12. Recitative (Mabel, Major-General, Samuel and Chorus) "Hold monsters"
13. Song (Major-Gen & Chorus) "I am the very model of a modern Major-General"
14. Finale "Oh Men of dark and dismal fate"

Act II

1. Introduction and Solo (Mabel and Chorus) "Oh dry the glistening tear"
2. Recitative (Frederic & Major-Gen) "Then, Frederic, let your escort lion-hearted"
3. Chorus with solos (Mabel, Edith and Sergeant) "When the foeman bares his steel"
4. Recitative and trio "Now for the pirate's lair"
5. Trio (Ruth, Frederic & King) "When you had left our pirate fold"
6. Trio (Ruth, Frederic & King) "Away, away, my heart's on fire!"
7. Recitative & duet (Mabel & Frederic) "All is prepared! Your gallant crew await you"
8. Duet (Mabel and Frederic) "Stay, Frederic, stay"
9. Recitative Mabel and Chorus of Police) "No! I'll be brave! Oh, family descent"
10. Song (Sergeant and Chorus) "When a felon's not engaged in his employment"
11. Solo (Sergeant and Chorus) "A rollicking band of pirates we"
12. Solo (Samuel and Pirates) "With cat-like tread"
13. Frederic, King, Major-General, Police and Pirates "Hush! Hush! Not a word"
14. Song (Major-General and chorus of Pirates and Police) "Sighing softly to the river"
15. Finale