

## TO SET THE SCENE

In the shadow of The Tower of London in Tudor England a story of love and intrigue unfolds. The tale centres around Colonel Fairfax who is in the Tower falsely accused of sorcery by a treacherous kinsman and is awaiting execution. His old friend Sergeant Meryll plots for his escape helped by his daughter Phoebe and son Leonard. Unbeknown to them, Fairfax has made a last request that he should be allowed to marry before he dies. When Jack Point and Elsie Maynard arrive at Tower Green it is Elsie who is reluctantly persuaded by Sir Richard Cholmondeley into this marriage of convenience. Blindfolded she is led away to the condemned cell to wed an unknown and doomed young man.

Wilfred Shadbolt, Phoebe's unwelcome and unattractive suitor and Dame Carruthers, who has long admired Sergeant Meryll, complete the scenario, adding their own highly characterised personalities to the twists and turns of this touching story.

Unlike the other Gilbert and Sullivan Operas "Yeomen" has an underlying premonition of tragedy which prompted the description "a new and original opera" rather than "a comic opera" to be attached to it prior to its opening at the Savoy Theatre on the 3rd October 1888. It is normal now for the last scene to be played as a tragedy but it is said that the original Jack Point, George Grossmith, revived from his unconscious state to wink and wiggle his toes at the audience to send them home happy rather than sad!

### Previous Productions of the Society

1922 H.M.S. Pinafore	1967 Call Me Madam
1923 The Pirates of Penzance	Iolanthe (CV)
1924 Ruddigore	1968 The Desert Song
1925 Patience	Patience (CV)
1926 The Yeoman of the Guard	1969 Rose Marie
1927 Dorothy	The Mikado
1928 Les Cloches de Corneville	1970 Free as Air
1929 The Mikado	The Pirates of Penzance
1930 The Gondoliers	1971 Oklahomal
1931 Falca	Trial by Jury
1932 H.M.S. Pinafore	H.M.S. Pinafore
1933 Merrie England	1972 The Merry Widow
1934 Tom Jones	The Gondoliers
1935 The Geisha	1973 Carousel
1936 Dorothy	Iolanthe
1937 The Maid of the Mountains	1974 The Pejama Game
1938 The Street Singer	The Yeoman of the Guard
1939 Goodnight Vienna	1975 Pink Champagne
1947 Miss Hook of Holland	Patience
1948 Maritza	1976 South Pacific
1949 Katinka	Ruddigore
1950 The Lilac Domino	1977 Guys & Dolls
1951 Rio Rita	Utopia Ltd
1952 Wild Violets	1978 White Horse Inn
1953 Magyar Melody	Mikado
1954 Carissima	1979 Brigadoon
1955 Rose Marie	Princess Ida
1956 Tulip Time	1980 Orpheus in the Underworld
1957 White Horse Inn	Iolanthe
1958 Gypsy Princess	1981 Summer Song
1959 The Merry Widow	The Quaker Girl
1960 Bless the Bride	1982 Desert Song
1961 The Boy Friend	Cox & Box & Sorcerer
1962 Grab me a Gondola	1983 Oklahomal
1963 The Quaker Girl	The Pirates of Penzance
1964 The New Moon	My Fair Lady
The Mikado (CV)	1984 Free as Air
1965 The Maid of the Mountains	1985 Showboat
The Pirates of Penzance (CV)	La Vie Parisienne
1966 Gypsy Love	
H.M.S. Pinafore (CV)	

## Witham Amateur Operatic Society

Inaugurated in 1921

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Hon. Chairman: Mr. J. E. Gunson  
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### Dates for Your Diary

Witham Amateur Operatic Society (*Autumn Production*)  
THE SOUND OF MUSIC (27 October – 1 November 1986)  
Witham Dramatic Club  
84 CHARING CROSS ROAD (5,6,7 June 1986)

## WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

present

# The Yeomen of The Guard

or  
The Merryman and His Maid

BY

## W. S. GILBERT

AND

## ARTHUR SULLIVAN

Produced and Directed by:  
DEREK COLLINS

Musical Director:  
DENNIS SIMMONS

21st – 26 APRIL 1986



WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

present

**THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD**

OR

**The Merryman and His Maid**

by

W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

**CAST**

Sir Richard Cholmondeley (Lieutenant of the Tower).....	<i>Howard Brooks</i>
Colonel Fairfax (under sentence of death).....	<i>Simon Mitchell</i>
Sergeant Meryll (of the Yeomen of the Guard).....	<i>Nicholas Clough</i>
Leonard Meryll (his son).....	<i>Tom Magnone</i>
Jack Point (a Strolling Jester).....	<i>Stewart Adkins</i>
Wilfred Shadbolt (Head Jailor and Assistant Tormentor)....	<i>Edward Maltby</i>
The Headsman.....	<i>Stephen Marsden</i>
First Yeoman.....	<i>Tim Clarke</i>
Second Yeoman.....	<i>Christopher Iddiols</i>
Citizen.....	<i>Roger Munt</i>
Elsie Maynard (a Strolling Singer).....	<i>Helene Jones</i>
Phoebe Meryll (Sergeant Meryll's Daughter).....	<i>Patsy Doy</i>
Dame Carruthers (Housekeeper to the Tower).....	<i>Rita Page</i>
Kate (her Nieca).....	<i>Joyce Ryder</i>

**CHORUS**

*Alison Brewer  
Katrina Brooks  
Muriel Chambers  
Brian Clark  
Dick Enfield  
Janice Hawkes  
Brian Henderson*

*Ron Howe  
Lynette Magnone  
Anne Marsden  
Cynthia Meek  
Elisabeth Miller  
Yvonne Mitchell  
Susan Page*

*Wayne Savill  
Gary Smith  
Edna Starling  
Carole Turner  
Elizabeth Watson*

**ORCHESTRA**

Musical Director.....	<i>Dennis Simmons</i>
First Violin/Leader.....	<i>Graham Snelling</i>
First Violin.....	<i>Linda Burn</i>
Second Violins.....	<i>Keith Radley</i>
	<i>Peter Belsham</i>
Viola.....	<i>Nita Boness</i>
Cello.....	<i>John McMaster</i>
Double Bass.....	<i>Stan Smith</i>
Clarinet.....	<i>Robert Lindsell</i>
Flute.....	<i>Siobhan O'Malley</i>
Oboe.....	<i>Juno O'Malley</i>
Horn.....	<i>David Bentley</i>
Trumpet.....	<i>Roland Morris</i>
Trombone.....	<i>Geoff Trim</i>
Percussion.....	<i>Kevin Ling</i>

**CREDITS**

Stage Manager:	<i>Audrey King</i>
Assistant Stage Manager:	<i>Derek Hunt</i>
Lighting:	<i>Robin Dedman</i>
Stage Crewman:	<i>Les King</i>
Props:	<i>Anne Hunt, Helen Collins</i>
Make-up:	<i>June Smith, Margaret Jex</i>
Wardrobe:	<i>Margaret Schoeser, Nesta Hinchliffe</i>
Prompt:	<i>Ewart Cornfield</i>
Front of House:	<i>John Gunson</i>
Programmes:	<i>June Locke</i>
Scenery:	<i>Paul Lazell</i>
Costumes:	<i>South Anglia Players</i>
	<i>Chelmsford Opera Group and The Society</i>
Accompanists in rehearsal:	<i>Peter Humphrey, Janet Collins, Keith Coleman</i>

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Society would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way towards the successful production of this show.

**SCENE . . . . . TOWER GREEN**

Date — 16th Century

**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**ACT I**

**OVERTURE**

When maiden loves she sits and sighs.....	<i>Phoebe</i>
Tower wardens under orders.....	<i>People and Yeomen</i>
This the autumn.....	<i>Solo 2nd Yeoman</i>
When our gallant Norman foes.....	<i>Dame Carruthers and Yeoman</i>
Alas! I waver to and fro.....	<i>Phoebe, Leonard and Meryll</i>
Is life a boon?.....	<i>Fairfax</i>
Here's a man of jollity.....	<i>Elsie, Point and chorus</i>
I have a song to sing, O.....	<i>Elsie and Point</i>
How say you, maiden, will you wed.....	<i>Elsie, Point and Lieutenant</i>
I've jibe and joke and quip and crank.....	<i>Point</i>
'Tis done'. I am a bride.....	<i>Elsie</i>
Were I thy bride.....	<i>Phoebe</i>
Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true.....	<i>FINALE</i>

**ACT II**

Night has spread her pall once more.....	<i>Chorus</i>
Warders are ye?.....	<i>Dame Carruthers</i>
Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon.....	<i>Point</i>
Hereupon we're both agree.....	<i>Point and Wilfred</i>
Free from his fetters grim.....	<i>Fairfax</i>
Strange adventure!.....	<i>Kate, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax and Sergeant Meryll</i>
	<i>Elsie, Phoebe, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax, Wilfred Point, Lieutenant Sergeant Meryll and Chorus</i>
Hark! What was that, sir?.....	<i>Elsie, Phoebe and Fairfax</i>
	<i>Point</i>
A man who would woo a fair maid.....	<i>Elsie, Phoebe and Fairfax</i>
When a wooer goes a-wooing.....	<i>Elsie, Phoebe, Fairfax and Point</i>
Rapture! Rapture!.....	<i>Dame Carruthers and Sergeant Meryll</i>
Comes the pretty young bride.....	<i>FINALE</i>

15 MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN ACTS I and II