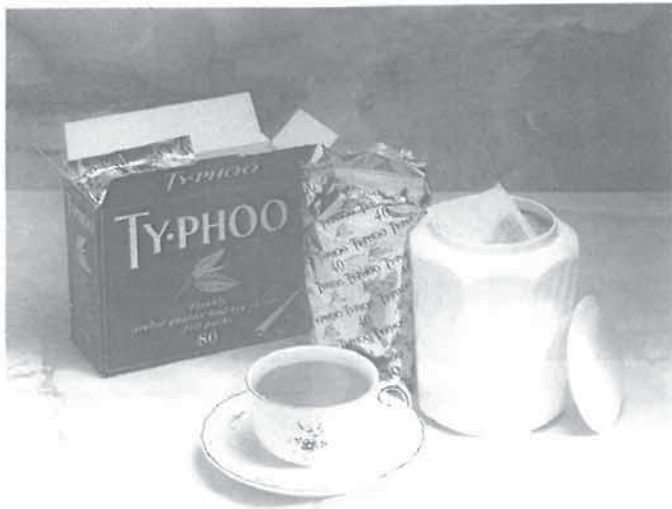


The Sorcerer



Sale Gilbert and Sullivan Society

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Society the best drink of
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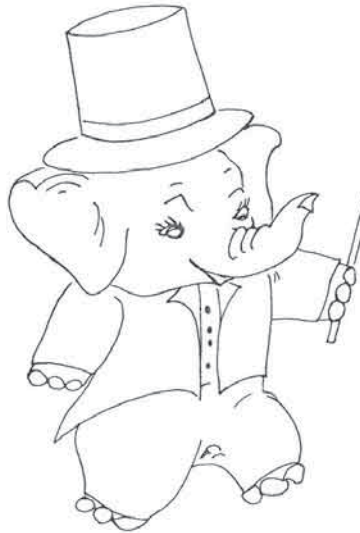
**Sale
Gilbert & Sullivan
Society**

present

The Sorcerer

**Garrick Playhouse,
Altrincham**

February 19th to 24th 1990



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Chairman's Message

Another year has gone by since The Gondollers and we now present The Sorcerer for the first time by this Society. It is a source of regret to me that it has not been performed as frequently as the more popular operettas written by Gilbert and Sullivan. Indeed, it was not often performed by the D'Oyly Carte in its hey-day. I am sure you will find the music magical and delightful as there are many most attractive and lovely melodies of which perhaps Dr. Daly's opening song is as well-known as "My name is John Wellington Wells."

We have a sparkling cast again this year and warmly welcome the talented Margaret Lindsay and Louise Taylor who appear with us for the first time.

Roy Dillon is musically directing us for the first time and this production brings us to the end of a successful year under his leadership. We go from strength to strength as a society and are looking forward to an exchange visit with the Rose Valley Chorus and Opera of Pennsylvania, USA, when they visit us in July. We intend to stage a joint concert with them and look forward to this being a regular exchange.

If anyone would like to join us please ring our Secretary, Olive Cooper, on 945 2717

Have a lovely evening and thank you for coming.

Martin Gude.

Officers of the Society

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Lieutenant Commander
Martin Gude R.N. Rtd.

Musical Director
Honorary Secretary
Treasurer
Business Manager

Roy Dillon
Olive Cooper
Paul Richmond
Robert Gunn

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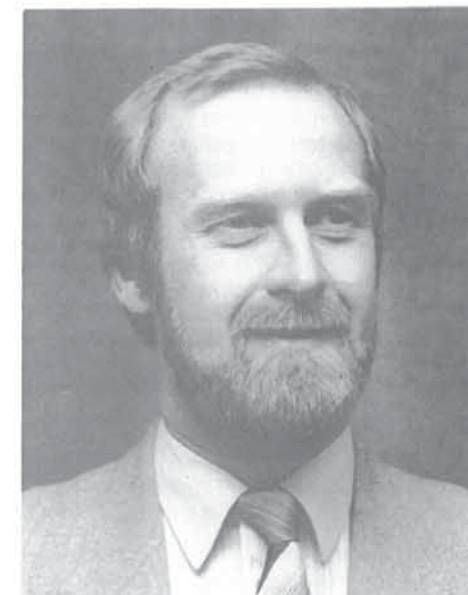


Alistair Donkin — Producer

Three years with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company gave Alistair the opportunity to play the majority of the patter roles in the Savoy Operas and since the untimely closure of the company Alistair has appeared both here and abroad with the London Savoyards and The Magic of Gilbert and Sullivan. Alistair has been guest artist with the Houston Gilbert and Sullivan Society in Texas since 1982 where he directed and performed in their production of The Sorcerer last year. Alistair returns to the Garrick Theatre later this year to direct their production of "La Cage Aux Folles".

Roy Dillon — Musical Director

Regular patrons of Sale Gilbert and Sullivan Society might be forgiven for thinking they've seen our Musical Director, Roy Dillon, on the other side of the footlights in previous productions. And they'd be right, for this talented musician is equally at home either as a leading tenor or orchestral conductor. As well as musically directing this production of the Sorcerer, Roy is also fulfilling the same role for Bolton Catholic and Musical Society who are performing Elgar's Dream of Gerontius in May. It's no secret that Roy would love to both sing the title part and conduct the performance on that occasion!



The Story

The plot of *The Sorcerer* centres around the grounds and mansion of a landowner called Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre whose son is going to be married to a lady called Aline. The opera opens with everybody in high spirits. However, a villager called Mrs. Partlet has a daughter, Constance, who suddenly professes undying love for the elderly Vicar of the village, Doctor Daly. Equally, just to complicate the plot further, it becomes apparent that Sir Marmaduke is actually in love with Aline's mother, the Lady Sangazure. Sir Marmaduke's son, Alexis is so happy he decides that everybody in the village should share his happiness. As a result of this he decides that he will distribute around the villagers a love philtre which he obtains from a firm called J.W. Wells and Company, an old established firm of family sorcerers.

The complication of this is eased since, by pure chance, Mr. John Wellington Wells himself is actually in the village and comes immediately to the aid of Alexis. It now seems that the only way in which this love philtre can be distributed to the villagers is via the use of an extra large teapot filled with magic and spells. Mr. John Wellington Wells fills up the teapot with his love philtre explaining, of course, that it has no effect on married people. At this point in the plot there is a violent flash from the teapot followed by incantations from the Sorcerer and the cups of tea containing the love philtre. The effects of this are magical, and all the villagers collapse in a heap on the ground, falling asleep.

The second act opens with the villagers waking up. The principle of the love philtre is that those who wake up will fall madly in love with the first person that they see. Some have not taken the love philtre, in particular Aline, Alexis and Doctor Daly. Sir Marmaduke has taken the love philtre and falls in love with Constance's mother, and fundamentally the whole village is going berserk. It is amazing the effect a cup of tea can have!

Mr. John Wellington Wells is by this time getting extremely worried over all that he seems to have achieved and the complicated relationships which seem to be springing up all over the stage. It seems that the only way this can be resolved, and the effects of the love philtre curbed is if either he, John Wellington Wells, or the young son, Alexis, yields up his life. Neither is particularly keen on this course of action however. In a display of democracy which seems slightly unusual for 1877 the villagers cast a vote and decide that Alexis should be allowed to live and therefore, Mr. Wells must be the victim. Thus, in the middle of the stage there is a flash of red fire and a burst of smoke. Mr. John Wellington Wells disappears, everyone in the village is restored to their original true loves and the village goes on happily ever after.



EILEEN JACKSON



ERIC CYMBIR



BILL LAWSON



ANTHONY NODEN



MARGARET LINDSAY



The Sorcerer

First performed at the Opera Comique theatre,
London November 17, 1877.



The National Operatic and
Dramatic Association

Dramatis Personae

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre (an elderly baronet)
Alexis (of the Grenadier Guards - his son)
Dr. Daly (Vicar of Ploverleigh)
Notary
John Wellington Wells (of J.W. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers)
Lady Sangazure (a lady of ancient lineage)
Aline (her daughter - betrothed to Alexis)
Mrs Partlet (a pew opener)
Constance (her daughter)

Anthony Noden
Eric Cymbir
John Matthias
Edgar Spencer
Bill Lawson
Margaret Lindsay
Eileen Jackson
Wynne Harris
Louise Taylor

Chorus

Milkmaids Bea Schouten - Rosemary, Helen Simcock - Bluebell, Rachel Davidson - Primrose, Carol Mindham - Daisy

Village Tart Jacqui Harding - Salome

Yokels Shirley Palmer - Nancy, Helen Stuart - Betty, Brenda Preston - Sally, Jill Blunk - Polly

Townspeople Marjorie Morris - Ophelia, Sandra Fenton - Wilhelmina, Joan Jordan - Claudia

Maypole Dancers Paul Rendel - Walter, Malcolm Evans - Phillip, Colin Wardale - Joseph, Jeff Grubert - Daniel, Margaret Duerdoth - Ruth, Susan Fishwick - Naomi, Denise Taylor - Fiona, Janice Rendel - Harriet

Old Villagers Kevin Donnelly - Methuselah, John Wylid - Obadiah, Lesley Stockley-Roberts - Laetitia, Anne Porter - Adela

Band David Stone - Aesculapius, Paul Richmond - Eustace, Brian Elliff - Amadeus

Household Staff Martin Gude - Mr. Hudson, Colin Mansley - Hercules, Olive Cooper - Mrs. Bridges, Brenda Thompson - Rose

Production Team

Producer - Alistair Donkin
Musical Director - Roy Dillon

Front of House Manager
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Wardrobe Mistress
Rehearsal Pianist
Ticket Secretary
Make-up
Props
Wig Stylist
Prompt
Costumes
Scenery and Sound
Lighting
Orchestra Under the Leadership of

Janet Richmond
Philip Harrison
Tom Richardson
Helen Stuart
Colin Martin
Gwen Burslam
Marjorie Day and team
Brenda Thompson
Elaine Condy
Kay Knowles
The Costume Studio, Shrewsbury.
Garrick Staff.
Ian Crownshaw
Kay Thomas

Act I Exterior of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion (Mid-day)
(Twelve hours are supposed to elapse between Acts one and two)

Act II Exterior of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion (Midnight)

Coffee will be available at the interval, during which time the bar
will also be open.



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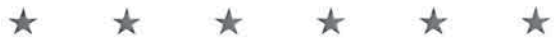
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Mr F G R Barnes

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Mr & Mrs M R Gosling
Mr & Mrs W Holt
Mr P J Knowles
Mr & Mrs S N Miller
Mrs E Nicholson
Mrs & Mrs A Robinson
Mr B M Witter

~~~~~

If you enjoyed the performance this evening and would like to be more closely involved with the Society, you will be most welcome either as a Member or a Patron.

The Membership Secretary is Stephen de Launey,

The Patrons Secretary is Kay Knowles,  
telephone (061) 973 3389



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