



"Iolanthe", or "The Peer and the Peri", opened at the Savoy Theatre on November 25, 1882, three nights after the final performance of Patience at the same theatre, and ran for 398 performances.

Gilbert had taken potshots at the aristocracy before, but in this "fairy opera," the House of Lords is lampooned as a bastion of the ineffective, privileged and dim-witted. The political party system and other institutions also come in for a dose of satire. Yet, both author and composer managed to couch the criticism among such bouncy, amiable absurdities that it is all received as good fun.

Both Gilbert and Sullivan were at the height of their creative powers in 1882, and many people feel that Iolanthe, their seventh work together, is the most perfect of their collaborations.

Strephon, an Arcadian shepherd, wants to marry Phyllis, a Ward of Chancery. Phyllis does not know that Strephon is half fairy (his upper half — his legs are mortal!) and when she sees Strephon kissing a seemingly young woman, she assumes the worst. But her "rival" turns out to be none other than Strephon's own mother, Iolanthe, a fairy — fairies never grow old.

But Phyllis' guardian, the Lord Chancellor, and half the peers in the House of Lords are sighing after her. Soon the peers and the fairies are virtually at war, and long friendships are nearly torn asunder. But all is happily sorted out, thanks to the "subtleties of the legal mind".

# This Evening's Cast

**The Lord Chancellor:** Bob Wardle

**Earl of Mountararat:** Anthony Noden

**Earl Tolloller:** Andrew Percival

**Private Willis (of the Grenadier Guards):** Kenneth Brook

**Phyllis, Ward of the Court of Chancery:** Helen Fieldsend

**Strephon (an Arcadian Shepherd):** Stephen Othen

**Queen of The Fairies:** Alison Davies

**Iolanthe (a Fairy, Strephon's Mother):** Janice Rendel

**Celia:** Fran Pearson

**Leila:** Liz Betts

**Fleta:** Caroline Meek

## **Chorus of Fairies:**

Sue Bowden, Jane Gallagher, Rosie Homer, Gillian Hunt, Elizabeth Newton, Carole Mindham, Rebecca Murray, Anne Ogle; Brenda Preston, Helen Priestman, Annie Prokofiev, Nicola Rushby, Denise Tyler

## **Chorus of Peers:**

Keith Borton, Eric Brunt, Matthew Callaghan, Ian Coomber, Simon Cooper, Dave Hunt, Dave Rose, Tony Topping

Special thanks to our regular barmen Tom and Stuart and a very big thank you to our raffle ticket sellers and all who have given their time to make this special evening happen.

A finally a very big thank you from Sale G and S to the Manchester Opera Orchestra for their outstanding support.

# SALE G AND S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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Sale Gilbert and Sullivan Society  
& Manchester Opera Orchestra



Proudly present a Gala performance of

# IOLANTHE

