

PORT SUNLIGHT ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

Leader : VICTOR ROGERS

Conductor : DAVID ENTWISTLE

presents excerpts from

"RUDDIGORE"

with

THE DEE & ALYN GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

at

THE LADY LEVER ART GALLERY, PORT SUNLIGHT

SUNDAY 6th MAY at 2.30pm.

1990

Admission by programme 5p, obtainable at The Gallery

NATIONAL MUSEUMS and GALLERY - PORT SUNLIGHT

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(leader: Vic Rogers)

Conductor: DAVID ENTWISTLE

with

DEE and ALYN GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

present

excerpts from

"R U D D I G O R E"

by

W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

First violins

Vic Rogers
Bob Irving
Geoff Heaps
Sylvia Price
Lorna Dudley
Ann Riley
Eric Caton
Marion Lister

Second violins

Stan Colquhoun
Norman Wildgoose
Peter Banks
Ken Mackay
David Thomas
Ben Davis

Violas

Hilary Easton
Celia Morrison
Russ Aubusson
Henry Crocker

Cello

Olga Doran

Bass

Les Turner

Flutes

Polly Spencer
Denise Thompson

Oboe

Hilary Duncombe

Clarinets

Jack Moore
Ken Andrews

Bassoon

Colin Jones

Trumpets

Jim Woods
Gordon Lister

Horns

Bert Danher
Paul Hastie

Trombone

Richard Jones

Percussion

Effie Crocker

CAST (in order of appearance)

ZORAHJanie Hughes

DAME HANNAH.....Janet Cook

ROSE MAYBUD.....Enid Whittle

ROBIN OAKAPPLE.....Robin Goddard

MAD MARGARET.....Caroline Owen

SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD.....Michael Bravey

SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD.....Robin Goddard

OLD ADAM.....Colin Edwards

SIR RODERIC MURGATROYD.....Colin Edwards

BRIDESMAIDS, VILLAGERS, etc.....Members of the Dee and Alyn
Gilbert & Sullivan Society

I

The first act takes place in the fishing village of Rederring in Cornwall (early nineteenth century). The curtain rises to show a corps of professional bridesmaids standing in front of the cottage of Rose Maybud. They are maintained by the village to be on duty every day from ten to four. In the opening chorus they complain of the failure of Rose Maybud, "the fairest flower that blows", to find a husband - an omission which keeps them in idleness.

Dame Hannah enters. The bridesmaids suggest that she should take a husband. She says, however, that she is pledged to eternal maidenhood. Long ago she was betrothed to Sir Roderic Murgatroyd, the bad baronet of Ruddigore, but when she discovered who he was, she left him. She tells the story of the curse on the house of Ruddigore which obliges the holder of the title to commit a crime every day or perish in agony.

Rose Maybud appears and describes to Hannah the difficulty of attracting suitors without violating the principles of etiquette to which she is devoted. She loves Robin Oakapple, a young farmer. He enters, but he is as shy as she is modest, and in the duet "I know a youth who loves a little maid" the pair only declare their love indirectly. After Rose's departure Robin's identity is revealed as Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, the rightful heir to the baronetcy of Ruddigore. He has only avoided the title by masquerading as a farmer, leaving responsibility for the daily crime to his younger brother, Despard, who believes him dead.

Richard Dauntless, a Man-o'-war's man and Robin's foster-brother, now arrives in Rederring. He is a burlesque of the braggart sailor of tradition and offers to press Robin's suit with Rose - an undertaking in which he is so successful that he wins her for himself. However, when he emphasizes the importance of acting according to one's heart's dictates, Rose takes him at his word and decides to marry Robin after all.

Mad Margaret enters. She loves Sir Despard Murgatroyd, but has been driven mad by his villainy and indifference to her. Shortly afterwards the baronet himself appears, followed by a chorus of "Bucks and Blades". Richard Dauntless, still acting on his heart's dictates, approaches him and reveals the fact that Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd is still alive. The result is that, when the villagers assemble for the union of Rose and Robin, Despard denounces the latter as the true baronet of Ruddigore. Rose is consequently compelled to return to Richard; Despard, "a virtuous person now", takes back Mad Margaret; and Robin is left saddled with the title and its attendant curse.

1. Zorah and Chorus
2. Dame Hannah and Chorus
3. Rose Maybud
4. Rose Maybud and Robin Oakapple
5. Robin Oakapple
6. Mad Margaret
7. Chorus
8. Sir Despard Murgatroyd and Chorus

ACT II

The picture gallery of Ruddigore Castle. On the walls are portraits of all the baronets since the time of James I. Robin, now Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, is consulting his faithful servant, Old Adam Goodheart, about his daily crime. They are interrupted by the arrival of Rose and Richard, who have come to ask Robin's consent to their marriage. The latter toys with the idea of immuring them both in a dungeon but after Rose pleads with him in a song, "In bygone days I had thy love", he agrees.

Robin is left alone. The stage darkens and the Murgatroyd ancestors step out of their frames. Sir Roderic, after singing the famous "Ghosts' High Noon", asks Robin about his daily crimes and professes himself dissatisfied with their trivial nature. He demands that a lady shall be carried off that very day and overcomes Robin's reluctance by giving him taste of the death agonies prescribed by the curse of Ruddigore.

The ghosts return to their frames and Robin sends Old Adam to carry out their orders. Despard and Mad Margaret enter, both dressed in sober black. They have become respectable and explain that they "rule a National School". They exhort Robin to abandon his career of crime even at the cost of his life. He agrees to do so and the three sing the patter trio, "My eyes are fully open to my awful situation". A further complication arises, however, when Old Adam returns, having, in obedience to his master's orders, succeeded in carrying off Dame Hannah. When Robin is left alone with his prisoner, she becomes so ferocious that he calls upon Sir Roderic to protect him. The latter steps down from his frame and he and Hannah recognize each other as lovers of long ago. A sentimental scene follows in which Hannah sings the ballad, "There grew a little flower 'neath a great oak tree".

Robin enters in great excitement, an idea having just occurred to him. A baronet of Ruddigore, he explains, incurs death by failing to commit his daily crime; therefore, to refuse to commit his daily crime is tantamount to suicide; but suicide is itself a crime. From this it follows that Sir Roderic ought never to have died at all. He accordingly resumes his existence and is united to Dame Hannah. Robin is now free to marry Rose, and Richard Dauntless has to be content with one of the professional bridesmaids.

1. Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd and Old Adam
2. Rose Maybud and Chorus
3. Mad Margaret and Sir Despard Murgatroyd
4. Mad Margaret, Sir Ruthven and Sir Despard Murgatroyd
5. Dame Hannah and Sir Roderic Murgatroyd
6. Finale - Rose Maybud, Richard Dauntless, Mad Margaret, Sir Despard, Robin Oakapple and Chorus

A collection will be taken after the concert and all proceeds will be donated to the British Red Cross Society.

Admission by programme: 5 pence