

Gilbert & Sullivan's

PRINCESS IDA



PROGRAM

diamond valley & eltham
community orchestra

in support of
diamond valley & eltham housing
service & community aid abroad



THE STORY IN BRIEF

ACT 1 - THE COURT OF KING HILDEBRAND

King Hildebrand and his court are awaiting the arrival of Princess Ida, to whom Hilarion (King Hildebrand's son) was betrothed in infancy. To the annoyance of Hildebrand she does not arrive, but instead her father, King Gama, and his three none-too-bright sons do. Gama announces to the court that Ida has shut herself away in one of his country houses and formed a women's university. The castle is called "Adamant", and Princess Ida is adamant that she will repudiate her marriage contract with Hilarion, as well as refusing to acknowledge the existence of men. Hildebrand decides to hold Gama and his three sons as hostage until Princess Ida changes her mind. In the meantime, Hilarion decides that he, together with his friends, Cyril and Florian, will make their way into the castle to confront Princess Ida.

There will now be a 20 minute interval.

ACT 2 - THE GARDEN OF CASTLE ADAMANT

The ladies of the college are commencing term, and Princess Ida reads her inaugural address. The boys climb the wall, and finding some academic gowns, disguise themselves as maidens. Ida returns and accepts the three "maidens" into the college - she is too engrossed in her book to notice that they are already wearing academic gowns. Florian recognises his sister Lady Psyche and this puts them in a spot. Psyche, Melissa, and Lady Blanche (Melissa's mother) for reasons of their own, decide to keep the secret, but unfortunately, during the luncheon break, Cyril becomes drunk and gives the party away. Princess Ida is shocked at the discovery, and in her haste to escape the scene, falls in the river and is rescued by Hilarion. The ladies ask for mercy for the three boys, but Princess Ida stands firm on her vows. Meantime, Hildebrand and his army arrive with the Sons of Gama as hostages and threaten to tear the castle down unless the Princess repents. Ida and her women shout defiance at Hildebrand as the curtain closes on Act 2.

There will now be a 10 minute interval.

ACT 3 - THE GARDEN OF CASTLE ADAMANT

The women should be ready for battle, but gradually admit they are not as warlike as they would like to be. King Gama returns with a message from Hildebrand, that the issue be decided by pitting Hilarion, Cyril and Florian against King Gama's sons. Ida agrees, and when Hilarion and his friends prove victorious, decides to carry on her cause in the outside world by marrying Hilarion.

MAVIS FORD

Princess Ida

Mavis has sung in a vast number of operas and operettas. Her experience includes leads in THE MIKADO, THE GONDOLIERS, THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, SISTER ANGELICA (Puccini), THE TELEPHONE (Menotti), IL SERAGLIA and THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart). She has been a member of Tudor Choristers and has sung solos in several oratorios. Mavis has performed lead roles in TRIAL BY JURY, HMS PINAFORE, THE MIKADO and THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE for Diamond Valley Singers.



JOHN TACEY

Hilarion

John has a vast and varied musical experience. As a member of the Melbourne Youth Choir, John has performed before the Prince and Princess of Wales, and has also sung with Barry Manilow. He currently sings with the Faye Dumont Singers, of which he is also the manager/treasurer. As well as singing, John also plays the Clarinet and Bass Clarinet with the Croydon Concert Band. He is the deputy musical director and conductor of their No. 2 Concert Band.

John has performed in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF and, with the Victorian State Opera Youth Company, THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARRINER. In Diamond Vally Singers productions, John has portrayed Nanki-Poo in THE MIKADO, Richard Dauntless in RUDDIGORE and Frederic in THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.



ALLAN LUKE

Cyril

Allan began singing as a hobby in 1986, joined Diamond Valley Singers in 1987, and has sung tenor solos in various choral works.

He understudied Nanki-Poo (THE MIKADO) and Richard Dauntless (RUDDIGORE) and played Samuel (THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE) with Diamond Valley Singers. He has also played the role of Leonard Merrill (YEOMAN OF THE GUARD) with Babirra Players and Cox (COX AND BOX) with Ivanhoe Players.

Allan has been learning singing from Graham Ford since 1988.



ROBERT ALVES

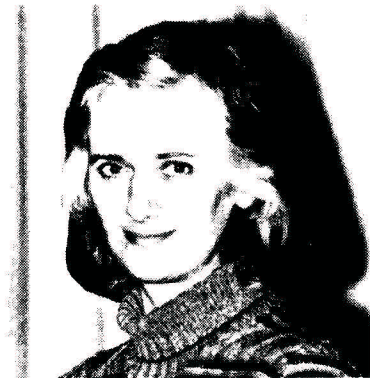
Robert is an occasional musician. He was the plaintiff in TRIAL BY JURY - the first Gilbert and Sullivan performed by Diamond Valley Singers. He has appeared in a number of other Gilbert and Sullivan's including THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, THE GONDOLIERS, PATIENCE and UTOPIA UNLIMITED.

Robert's forte is choral work and he is presently a member of the Kew Philharmonic Society choir.



Florian

JUDITH O'SHEA



Judith has been an active member of Diamond Valley Singers since its early days, after singing with Tudor Choristers and various other groups in the U.K., Perth and Canberra.

Gilbert and Sullivan roles with Diamond Valley Singers have included Pitti-Sing (THE MIKADO), and Ruth (THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE).

Judith keeps herself very busy studying singing and musicianship and performing as chorister and/or soloist with Diamond Valley Singers in concerts and oratorios. She has competed in cisteddfods at Bendigo, Footscray, Mordialloc and Doncaster/Templestowe and this year was awarded equal first place in the Lieder Section at Doncaster/Templestowe.

Earlier this year she sang with the chorus of Lyric Opera's production of LA GIOCONDA.

Lady Blanche

JENNI WILLIAMS

This is Jenni's third Gilbert and Sullivan production with Diamond Valley Singers, having previously played the roles of Rose Maybud (RUDDIGORE) and Edith (THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE). She has also played the lead in GREASE (Sandy) and second female lead in SHEER LUCK HOLMES (Cynthia Huntington Smythe).

Jenni has sung in the Macleod High Madrigal Choir and other small choirs. She has also studied dancing (jazz and ballet) and has studied singing for six years under Mavis Ford.



Lady Psyche

ROD GORFINE

Rod has been a Gilbert and Sullivan specialist for some years and has performed principal roles in PRINCESS IDA, YEOMAN OF THE GUARD, HMS PINAFORE, SORCERER, THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE and THE MIKADO during his time with the SEC Theatre Company.

Since joining Diamond Valley Singers, Rod has played the roles of Pooah Bah (THE MIKADO), Sir Roderick (RUDDIGORE) and Pirate King (THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE).



King Hildebrand

MICHAEL KNUCKEY



Michael's Gilbert and Sullivan roles include the Duke of Plazatoro (THE GONDOLIERS) and Sir Joseph Porter (H.M.S. PINAFORE), as well as chorus appearances in IOLANTHE, RUDDIGORE, and THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

His other musical roles have included Toad (TOAD OF TOAD HALL) and the Cowardly Lion (WIZARD OF OZ).

Michael has also appeared in numerous non-musical roles, the main ones being William Fetherstone (HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES); Theseus (RAPE OF THE BELT) and Birdboot (THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND).

King Gama

RITA BURCHILL

This is only Rita's second Gilbert and Sullivan role, although she has had much experience as a chorus member and rehearsal pianist with Diamond Valley Singers (TRIAL BY JURY and HMS PINAFORE including understudying Angelina) and Melbourne Music Theatre (THE GONDOLIERS, THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, IOLANTHE).

Rita studied music at the University of Wales and since arriving in Australia in 1967 has been involved with MELBOURNE CHORALE, TUDOR CHORISTERS and HEIDELBERG CITY CHOIR.



Melissa

PRINCESS IDA

Music by: Sir Arthur Sullivan
Text by: Sir William Gilbert

Co-Director: Graham Ford

Co-Director: Ruth Richter

Producer: Dianne Richter

Conductor: Ian Lowe

Choreographer: Rhonda Tallnash

Orchestra Leader: Mary Wright

Rehearsal Pianists: Elizabeth Inglis, Ian Lowe, Roger Peck,

Rita Burchill, Lauren Poynton

Chris White and Brian Clough

Stage Managers: Beryl Nichols, Les Bardwell

Backstage: Don Douglas, Jonathon Manzoney, Ivan Matey

Lighting: Keith Fraser, Don Douglas

Costumes: Marilyn Billing, Jeanette Donahue

Makeup: Donna Billing

Poster, Program Cover: Jan Lowe

Ticket Sales: Kay Driver

CAST

KING HILDEBRAND

KING GAMA

PRINCE HILARION

PRINCESS IDA

CYRIL

FLORIAN

LADY BLANCHE

LADY PSYCHE

MELISSA

SONS OF GAMA

SACHARISSA

ADA

LADY CHLOE

Rod Gorfine

Michael Knuckey

John Tacey

Mavis Ford

Allan Luke

Robert Alves

Judith O'Shea

Jenni Williams

Rita Burchill

James Douglas, Krystof Lewandowski,

Chris Wearne

Kay Driver

Merrill Hogan

Catie Thomson

MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE

ACT ONE

1. SEARCH THROUGHOUT THE PANORAMA Florian and Chorus
2. NOW HEARKEN TO MY STRICT COMMAND Hildebrand and Chorus
3. TODAY WE MEET Hilarion
4. FROM THE DISTANT PANORAMA Chorus
5. WE ARE WARRIORS THREE Sons of Gama and Chorus
6. IF YOU GIVE ME YOUR ATTENTION King Gama
7. FINALE

ACT TWO

8. TOWARDS THE EMPYREAN HEIGHTS Lady Psyche, Melissa, Sacharissa and Women's Chorus
9. MIGHTY MAIDEN WITH A MISSION Women's Chorus
10. OH GODDESS WISE Princess Ida
- 10a. EXUENT FOR PRINCESS IDA AND WOMEN
12. GENTLY, GENTLY! Cyril, Hilarion and Florian
13. I AM A MAIDEN, COLD AND STATELY Cyril, Hilarion and Florian
14. THE WORLD IS BUT A BROKEN TOY Princess Ida, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian
15. A LADY FAIR, OF LINEAGE HIGH Lady Psyche, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian
16. THE WOMAN OF THE WISEST WIT Lady Psyche, Melissa, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian
17. NOW WOULDN'T YOU LIKE Melissa, Lady Blanche
18. MERRILY RING THE LUNCHEON BELL Lady Blanche, Cyril, Women's Chorus
19. WOULD YOU KNOW THE KIND OF MAID Cyril
20. FINALE Ensemble

ACT THREE

21. DEATH TO THE INVADER! Melissa and Women's Chorus
22. I BUILT UPON A ROCK Princess Ida
23. WHENEVER I SPOKE King Gama
24. WHEN ANGER SPREADS HIS WING Soldiers and Women's Chorus
25. THIS HELMET I SUPPOSE Sons of Gama
26. DEATH TO THE INVADER! Chorus
27. FINALE - WOMAN OF THE WISEST WIT Ensemble

JAMES DOUGLAS, KRYSTOF LEWANDOWSKI,

CHRIS WEARNE

JAMES DOUGLAS: An actor (singer?) of little note, James was initiated to Gilbert and Sullivan in 1988 in RUDDIGORE and played dual roles as gentry and ghost. This schizoid tradition continued with 1989 with a pirate/police split in PIRATES OF PENZANCE. Finally, this year James secured the rank of Principal, Class 1 (one character) in a role perfectly suited to his ability - the part of basic stupidity.

KRYSTOF LEWANDOWSKI: This great dramatic role could not have been more suited to Krytof's multifarious talents. In classic "cinema verite" style, he plays the bumbling idiot with such consummate ease as to appear almost natural. A thespian of considerable breadth (his armour had to be specially adapted), Krytof has landed (usually in a tangled heap) in a variety of roles over the years (details upon request - please supply self-addressed postage stamp). Whilst his bass tones have long reverberated around the bathrooms of Eltham, it is only in recent years that he has allowed his dulcet rumblings to reach more discerning audiences.

CHRIS WEARNE: Although only 22, Chris has been involved in many musical productions with his school and church. Chris' first performance with Diamond Vally Singers was in THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE. As one of the three highly intelligent Sons of Gama, Chris believes he can fit into the role well and is looking forward to the performances.

DIANNE RICHTER



Dianne's involvement with Diamond Valley Singers began as Assistant Producer for THE MIKADO in 1987. Since then she has participated in numerous DVS performances including solos in THE MESSIAH. Dianne also took on the role of producer for RUDDIGORE and THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

Dianne is currently secretary of Diamond Valley Singers and regularly sings in concerts and eisteddfods. She played the lead female role in a gospel musical at Ormond Uniting Church and earlier this year performed in NOW FOR THE 1990'S with Elwood Theatre Company.

ENSEMBLE

Women's Chorus

Lesley Alves, Karen Baker, Susan Bardwell, Marilyn Billing, Jeanette Donahue, Rachel Drinkwater, Kay Driver, Merrill Hogan, Sue Kleins, Kylie Knuckey, Dawn Loftus, Katherine Lynch, Susan Maffei, Vanessa Porter, Bronwyn Ryall, Gael Shearer, Janine Tacey, Catie Thomson.

Men's Chorus

Ian Bell, Adrian Donahue, Gordon Issom, Victor Jetten, Brent Reichenbach.



Sons Of Gama

GRAHAM FORD

After experiences with various musical comedy companies, Graham joined the National Theatre Opera School, playing a number of lead baritone roles. He has also played lead roles in KISMET, PAINT YOUR WAGON, KISS ME KATE and several Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, as well as a number of roles with the semi-professional company, Globe Opera. Earlier this year he played the role of Barnaba in Lyric Opera Company's production of LA GIOCONDA.

A Sun Aria semi-finalist, Graham has won the musical comedy section and vocal championship at South Street, and appeared on Quest 77 on Channel 2. Graham is president of Diamond Valley Singers and teaches singing locally.

Graham has played the roles of the Bosun in HMS PINAFORE and Pish Tush in THE MIKADO with Diamond Valley Singers, and directed their productions of TRIAL BY JURY, RUDDIGORE and PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

RUTH RICHTER



After a childhood fascinated by the stage and performing, Ruth studied drama at La Trobe University. She went on to risk life and limb playing Theatre Sports (competitive improvisational drama games). Undeterred she became a drama teacher.

She has co-directed MAN OF STEEL and GREASE. She also wrote and directed INSPECTOR SLEUTH FINDS THE TRUTH, a play about nutrition for primary school children, under the auspices of the Victorian Health Promotions Unit. It was a smash hit in Broadmeadows!

This is Ruth's first Gilbert and Sullivan.

RHONDA TALLNASH

Rhonda has vast experience in tap and ballet dancing, calisthenics and aerobics. Her choreography experience includes the Combined Schools' Choir performances in Darwin (televised by the ABC) in 1981/82, folk and modern dance items for the North Australian Eisteddfod, school productions and Education Department (Northern Territory and Victoria) promotional displays.

Rhonda was a teacher of dance at Loyola College, Watsonia, and has been associated with Greensborough/Janelle Calisthenics College since 1976.

Rhonda has choreographed Diamond Valley Singers productions of THE MIKADO, RUDDIGORE and PIRATES OF PENZANCE.



Co-director



Co-director

IAN LOWE

Ian has conducted the Eltham (now Diamond Valley and Eltham) Community Orchestra for over ten years, preparing the orchestra for programs of serious and lighter works, always of popular appeal. He has also acted as musical director for the several performances by Diamond Valley Singers of Handel's MESSIAH and Haydn's THE SEASONS and the annual Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

Ian's other musical directions has included OKLAHOMA and ANNIE for Warrandyte High School, THE WIZARD OF OZ for Eltham Little Theatre and PEACE CHILD and ANNIE for the Eltham and Diamond Valley Youth Theatre.

Ian is also a competent pianist, and has recorded Australian piano pieces for 3MBS which are regularly broadcast. He enjoys music as a relaxing hobby from his profession as a mathematics educator (teacher and text book author).

Musical Director



THE ORCHESTRA

VIOLENS:	Mary Wright, Paul Watson, Val Lennie Wilma Ezard, Kevin Mullen, Jo Parr, Nola Thompson, David Sadedin
VIOLAS:	Eric Pool, Sheila McAlley
CELLOS:	Ray Banks, Richard Batson
BASS:	David Rawlinson
FLUTES:	Mary Keusgen, Betty Martin
OBOE:	Dennis Thiel
CLARINETS:	Derek Wright, Robert Knappett
HORNS:	Claire Porter
TRUMPETS:	Cal Martin, Daniel White
BASS TRUMPET:	Orm Stewart
BASS TROMBONE:	Mike Ogilvy
PERCUSSION:	Len Johnstone, Julie Wright, Andrew Alves

DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS

In 1985 Ian Lowe asked Graham and Mavis Ford to help with a performance of TRIAL BY JURY with the Eltham Orchestra. Rehearsals started and "Valley Musical Society" (later to become "Diamond Valley Singers") was born.

There were two performances of TRIAL BY JURY, which, combined with other items by the orchestra, raised \$1300 for World Vision. Because of nature of the cause, rehearsal venues were, and still are, provided free of charge by Diamond Creek and Greensborough Uniting Churches.

Since 1985, Diamond Valley Singers has performed three seasons of Handel's MESSIAH, four more Gilbert and Sullivans (HMS PINAFORE, THE MIKADO, RUDDIGORE and PIRATES OF PENZANCE) and smaller works including Maunder's OLIVET TO CALVARY. They have also been involved in local Carols by Candlelight Services and Eltham and Greensborough Festivals and as part of the massed choir at CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl on Christmas Eve.

Proceeds to World Vision to date total over \$9,500. \$1650 has also been donated to Diamond Valley/Eltham Housing Service. This year, it has been agreed that the profits from PRINCESS IDA and other performances will be divided equally between Community Aid Abroad and the Diamond Valley/Eltham Housing Service.

Through the support of members of the company, none of whom are paid, Diamond Valley Singers hopes to continue to raise money to support groups such as those assisted in 1990, as well as providing opportunities for local singers.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested, why not contact Graham Ford on 439 3267?

DIAMOND VALLEY AND ELTHAM COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

The Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra practises weekly throughout the year at Eltham High School, on Wednesday nights at 8.00 p.m. New members are very welcome - call Ian on 435 5841 or secretary David Sadedin on 434 7130.

The orchestra has been in existence for about thirteen years and during that time has performed three or four different programs each year. These programs have included symphonies, concertos (some with Ian as piano soloist), musical comedy selections and other lighter works. They have also contributed to both the Eltham and Greensborough Festivals.

In recent years, Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra has co-operated with Diamond Valley Singers in performances of Handel's MESSIAH and Haydn's THE SEASONS, and in productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's TRIAL BY JURY, HMS PINAFORE, THE MIKADO, RUDDIGORE and THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE. They look forward to this association continuing.

The next program will be in late November/early December. Call Ian for details.

COMING PRODUCTIONS:

BABIRRA PLAYERS INC. presents ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD (Offenbach) at Nunawading Arts Centre, October 26 - November 10, 1990. For tickets phone 458 1797.

DIAMOND VALLEY/ ELTHAM HOUSING SERVICE

The Diamond Valley/Eltham Housing Service is a community based emergency housing service, for people who are facing housing related crises. The service operates four emergency houses for short term accommodation for families who in most cases are leaving situations of domestic violence and family breakdown. Due to their situation many families have no furniture, food, transport or the money for same. Most cannot afford private rental accommodation and are awaiting Ministry of Housing accommodation.

The service receives funding from the Ministry of Housing towards the costs of power bills and maintenance and to help pay rent and bond money for people in need. An increasing need is the supply of basic foodstuffs, furniture and other items most people take for granted. The Housing Service is reliant on the community for these goods as funding does not cover the purchase of such items.

If you would like further information about the Diamond Valley/Eltham Housing Service, the contact number is 435 9977.

COMMUNITY AID ABROAD

Community Aid Abroad is an organisation which works to bring about sustainable improvement in the living conditions of people who have little if any support from elsewhere. They do this by working with the people on projects put forward by the people provided that the projects meet Community Aid Abroad's guidelines for projects.

These guidelines have been developed from years of experience to improve the probability of the project succeeding and therefore making best use of available resources.

CAA relies on donations including those in response to the Walk Against Want and Work Against Want events, and the sales of goods sold on behalf of people with whom they are working (a catalog is available from their office or visit Shop 12 in the Myer Arcade).

There are also CAA branches in many suburbs raising funds through a wide variety of activities and also providing information to members and community so that informed action can be taken to help improve the balance in the distribution of world resources.

Further information about CAA its activities, branches and projects can be obtained from their office at 156 George Street, Fitzroy 3065 or by phoning 419 7111.