Come & Sing

Gilbert & Sullivan's

Iolanthe

Evening Concert



21st June 2025, 7:30pm

Registered Charity Number : 1005332

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Iolanthe a comic opera by W S Gilbert and A Sullivan

Musical Director **Hannah Long**

Accompanist **Tom Ayres**

Cast

The Lord Chancellor	*Ian Hamilton*
Lord Mountararat	*David Crew*
Lord Tolloller	*Robert Little*
Private Willis	*Andy Johnson*
Strephon	*Matthew Juggins*
Queen of the Fairies	*Lynne Leggat*
Iolanthe	*Anne Passmore*
Celia	*Catherine England*
Leila	*Peggy Handscombe*
Phyllis	*Melanie Plowman-Cobb*
Narrators	*Jackie Duff and Edith Pratt*

Chorus of Fairies and Peers: *Annette Woodbridge, Belinda Gee, Eva Radowski, Jacqui Maddison, Jan Milton, Jane Tunesi, Jenny Wilson, Judith Harrison, Julie Dawson, Marianne Bond, Nicola Niles, Pam Hunter, Sarah Bailes, Sheila Soothill, Sue Card, Sue Wookey, Susan Osbourn, Suzanne Long, Vivienne Tadman*
Bob Sulzbach, David Edwards, David Walmsley, John Edwards, John Walden, Keiran Raine, Mark Savage, Michael Niles, Neil Sykes, Nigel Kirby

An overview of Iolanthe

Iolanthe, a fairy, marries a mortal, which is a capital offence in fairy law, but the Queen of the Fairies commutes the sentence on condition that Iolanthe never sees her husband again.

Iolanthe has a son, Strephon, who is half fairy (upper half) and half mortal (from the waist down).

Strephon grows up as a shepherd and falls in love with Phyllis, a shepherdess. Phyllis is unaware of his mixed origin.

Strephon wants to marry Phyllis and asks her guardian, the Lord Chancellor, for permission to do so, but the Lord Chancellor forbids it.

Iolanthe and her fairy friends persuade the Queen to pardon Iolanthe and she returns to help Strephon resolve the problem.

The peers and fairies are nearly at war but the “subtleties of the legal mind” sort out everything. Strephon reveals his fairy origins to Phyllis and they are happily reunited.

“Iolanthe” or “The Peer and The Peri” satirised many aspects of the British government, the law and societal attitudes at the time but the sentiment is probably as relevant today as when it was premiered at the Savoy Theatre in London on 25th November 1882

Act One

Tripping hither, tripping thither	Fairies with Celia & Leila
Iolanthe from this dark exile	Queen, Iolanthe, Celia, Leila & Fairies
Good morrow, good mother	Strephon with Fairies
Fare thee well, attractive stranger	Queen with Fairies
Good morrow, good lover	Phyllis & Strephon
None shall part us	Phyllis & Strephon
Loudly let the trumpet bray	Entrance of the Peers with the Lord Chancellor
A very susceptible Chancellor	Lord Chancellor with Peers
My well beloved Lord	Phyllis, Lord Tolloller & Lord Mountararat
Nay, tempt me not	Phyllis
Spurn not the nobly born	Lord Tolloller & Peers
Lords, it may not be	Phyllis, Lords Tolloller & Mountararat, Strephon, Lord Chancellor & Peers
I said to myself, said I	Lord Chancellor
When darkly looms the day	Ensemble

INTERVAL

Act Two

When all night long a chap remains	Private Willis
Strephon's a Member of Parliament	Fairies & Peers
When Britain really ruled the waves	Lord Mountararat with Peers & Fairies
In vain to us you plead	Leila, Celia, Fairies, Lords Tolloller & Mountararat
Oh, foolish fay	Queen with Fairies
Though perhaps I may incur your blame	Phyllis, Lords Tolloller & Mountararat & Private Willis
Love unrequited robs me of my rest	Lord Chancellor
He who shies at such a prize	Lords Tolloller & Mountararat & Lord Chancellor
If we're weak enough to tarry	Phyllis & Strephon
My Lord, a suppliant at your feet	Iolanthe
It may not be	Iolanthe, Queen, Lord Chancellor & Fairies
Soon as we may, off and away	Ensemble

Event Organisers:	Philippa Tadman & Susan Osbourn
Rehearsal Pianists:	Tom Ayres & Martin Goodchild
Narration Writers:	Andy Johnson & Susan Osbourn
Publicity Artwork:	Cathy Coulthard & Laura Rogers
Programme Editor:	Susan Osbourn
Front of House Managers:	Edith Pratt & Julia Skinner
Front of House Personnel:	Cathy Coulthard & Ed Jones

COMING SOON



