

The Show

Gilbert and Sullivan's political satire *Iolanthe*

16th - 17th & 22nd - 24th November 2018

The Playhouse Theatre, Cheltenham

By Gilbert & Sullivan

Stage Director: Diana Dodd

Musical Director: David Manifold

Iolanthe is a brilliantly funny, satirical fantasy, revealing a typically Gilbert & Sullivan topsy-turvy worldview. *Iolanthe* is set 25 years after fairy Iolanthe committed the ultimate crime: marrying a mortal. Pardoned for her crime she begs the Fairy Queen to help her half-human, half-fairy son Strephon, to marry his beloved Phyllis. Unfortunately the scheming Lord Chancellor wants Phyllis for himself, so naturally the fairies invade parliament so the boy can win the girl (and have a lot of fun with a few Peers).

List of characters

Iolanthe, mezzo-soprano (c-e') -- A fairy, and Strephon's mother who looks to be "a girl of seventeen." Elegant of movement; capable of sustained emotional highs and lows. This is a dramatic role.

Phyllis, lyric soprano (A-a') -- An Arcadian shepherdess and Ward in Chancery. A pretty, coquettish character who bedazzles the men. She has a clear, flute-like voice; naturally temperamental and delicately determined.

Queen of the Fairies, contralto (G-c') -- A commanding presence with a powerful voice and gestures; imposing and haughty but also lovable and comically amorous.

Celia, soprano (d-g') -- A fairy. Airy and flitty with delicate gestures.

Leila, mezzo-soprano (c-e') -- A fairy. Perhaps more earthy than Celia.

Fleta, chorus member with speaking part -- A fairy. More "vacant" than the others.

Strephon, baritone (A'-d) -- An Arcadian shepherd whose upper half is a fairy and whose lower half is mortal -- confident and unabashed, with a resonant, clear voice. A "Dudley Do-Right" type of character.

Lord Chancellor, baritone (Bb'-e) -- Irascible yet benign. Must have flawless, effortless diction, good stamina and perfect timing.

Lord Tolloller, tenor (F-a) -- Aristocratic to the point of effeteness; supercilious.

Lord Mountarat, baritone (A'-d) -- Discreetly arrogant, slightly pompous, with a rich, full voice.

Private Willis, bass (Bb'-d) -- A Grenadier Guard. Low-born, imperturbable, matter-of-fact, stiff-bearing with expressive facial features (rolling of the eyes, etc.)

Chorus

Men: Chorus of Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, Barons

Women: Chorus of Fairies, who are ageless

Iolanthe audition pieces

Name	Type	No.	Song	Details
Phyllis	Duet	Act 1, No. 5	None shall part us	With Strephon
	Solo	Act 1 Finale		C+12; Allegro Agitato in E Flat; 'Oh shameless one tremble' 9 bars only to 'He worships another'
	Dialogue with Strephon	Page 6		My Phyllis! And to-day we are to be made happy for ever..... and if we are to marry, the sooner the better.
Strephon	Duet	Act 1, No. 5	None shall part us	With Phyllis
	Solo	Act 1 Finale		G+9 with 4 bar intro; 'My Lord, of evidence I have', to H-7
	Dialogue with Phyllis	Page 6		My Phyllis! And to-day we are to be made happy for ever..... and if we are to marry, the sooner the better.
Iolanthe	Solo	Act 2, No. 10	My Lord, a suppliant	
Chancellor	Solo	Act 2, No. 7	Love unrequited robs me of my rest	
	Dialogue with Tolloller and Mountarat	Page 34		I am much distressed to see your Lordship in this condition... ... I resign myself
	Dialogue	Page 8, 9		By all means. Phyllis.....with such thorns as these!
Fairy Queen	Solo	Act 2, No. 5	Oh foolish Fay	
	Dialogue with Leila, Fleta and Queen	Page 2, 3		Ah, it's all very well.....it shall be as you wish!
Tolloller	Solo	Act 1, No.10	Spurn not the nobly born	Should be able to sing the A flat, end of 2 nd verse
	Dialogue with Chancellor and Mountarat	Page 34		I am much distressed to see your Lordship in this condition... ... I resign myself
	Dialogue with Mountarat	Page 32, 33		So we are. At least I am.....Oh, Thomas, it would not last a day!
Mountarat	Solo	Act 2, No. 3	When Britain really ruled the waves	
	Dialogue with Chancellor and Tolloller	Page 34		I am much distressed to see your Lordship in this condition.... I resign myself
	Dialogue with Mountarat	Page 32, 33		So we are. At least I am.....Oh, Thomas, it would not last a day!

Willis	Solo	Act 2, No.1	When all night long	
Celia	Solo	Act 1, No. 1	Tripping hither, tripping thither	C to D, 2 bars intro "We are dainty little fairies"
	Dialogue with Leila, Fleta and Queen	Page 2, 3		Ah, it's all very well.....it shall be as you wish!
Leila	Solo	Act 1, No. 1	Tripping hither, tripping thither	E to F, 3 bars intro "If you ask us how we live"
	Dialogue with Leila, Fleta and Queen	Page 2, 3		Ah, it's all very well.....it shall be as you wish!
Fleta	Solo	Act 2, No. 2	Strephon's a member of Parliament	G to end, 2 bars intro
	Dialogue with Leila, Fleta and Queen	Page 2, 3		Ah, it's all very well...it shall be as you wish!
Chorus and all soloists*	SATB	Act 2, No. 2	Strephon's a member of Parliament	G to end, 2 bars intro

*Principals are included, must be able to hold a SATB line.