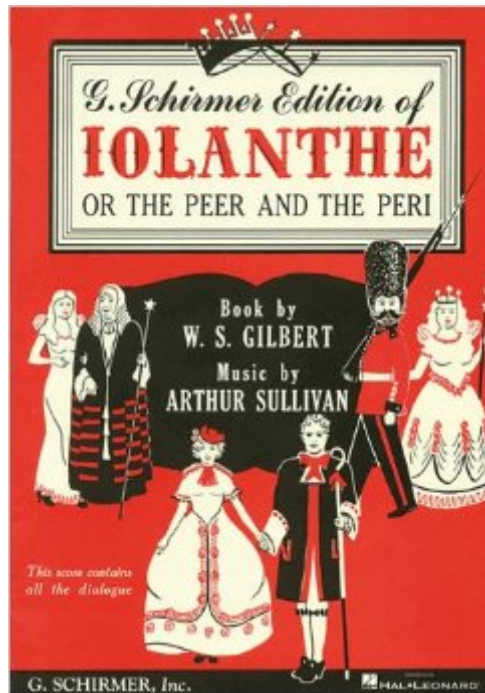


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Iolanthe, Or The Peer & The Peri: Vocal Score With Dialogue



Synopsis

(Vocal Score). English Only. Comes with dialogue.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Few opera/opera librettos read very well on their own (of course, they weren't intended to). In the case of Gilbert and Sullivan, the exercise is not only sheer pleasure, but almost a necessity; such is the speed of the monologues and intricacy of the ensembles that much of Gilbert's brilliant verbal wit gets lost. 'Iolanthe' is one of his most enrapturing confections, the story of a shepherd, Strephon, half-fairy half-mortal, whose mother, Iolanthe, is a disgraced sprite (it is forbidden for fairies to marry mortals), and whose father (unbeknownst to either) is the Lord Chancellor who won't let him marry his ward, Phyllis, darling of the Lords. The material may be fantastic, the setting pastoral, but the satire in this 1882 work is spot-on contemporary, with jibes at the Irish problem, the uselessness of the House of Lords (who as a caste are as close to fantasy as the fairies, so it is no surprise they exchange the House of Peers for the House of Peers), and the ruling class' fear of democracy and universal suffrage. A most delightful fancy has the fairies take over Parliament in the shape of Strephon, whose every whim unites the notoriously factional Liberal and Conservative in his favour. This is Gilbert at his funniest - the verbal contortions he undergoes in the search for rhymes break all linguistic boundaries, and his view of the fragility of centuries-old English institutions prescient. There is an extraordinary patter song by the Lord Chancellor which shows the man embodying Law and Constitution plunging into nightmare, the culmination of a libretto in which

identities and forms, as well as seemingly irrevocable laws and customs, are repeatedly broken down or metamorphosed.

I was required to purchase this score, having been cast in a production of Iolanthe. I appreciated the price and the fact that it arrived in perfect condition. I would recommend this not only to performers but to any G&S fan.

Great! A marvelous satire of Victorian politics. Iolanthe, a fairy, has a son, Stephon, who is half mortal and cannot marry his true love because the entire House of Lords is in love with her too! To revenge themselves on the Peers, the fairies put Strephon into Parliament and arrange it so every bill he chooses is passed into law.

My son goes to DePaul University and this will be his first opera performance in his second year at DePaul University. Rehearsing lines with his sister on the way back to school from his spring break was incredible listening to him. I can't wait for the performance. This was such a great help for him preparing. Thanks.

The score is inexpensive but I'm annoyed that the last six pages are crooked. I guess I should be grateful that all the pages are there. The score that we had in our personal library was missing a huge chunk of music from the first act finale.

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