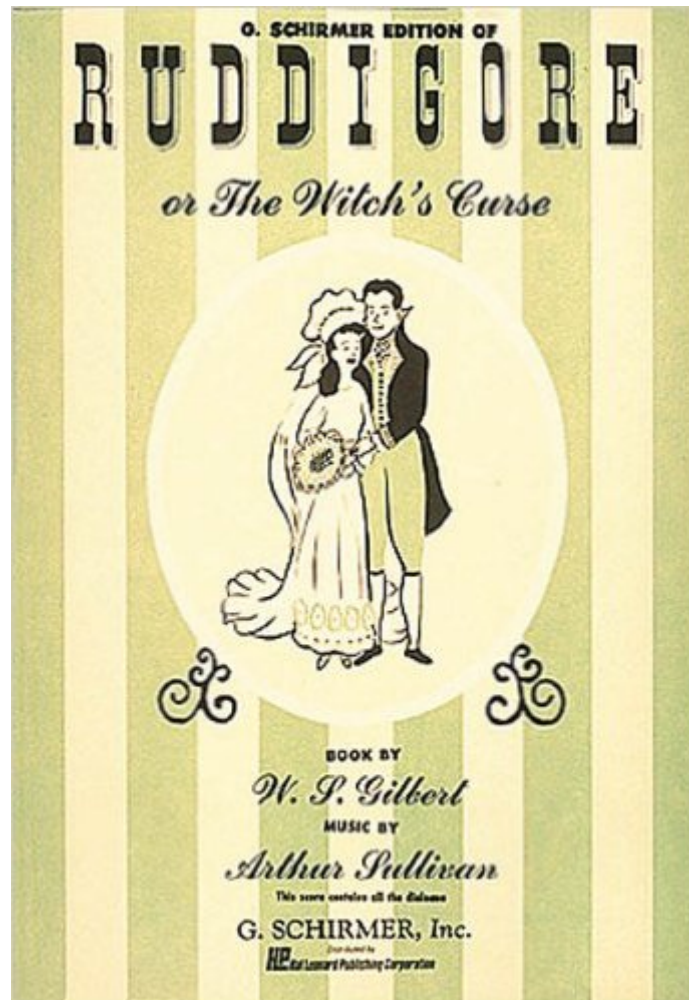


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Ruddigore, Or, The Witch's Curse



Synopsis

(Vocal Score). Complete vocal score.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gilbert & Sullivan's "Ruddigore" has the unfortunate distinction of being the opera written right after perhaps their greatest work, The Mikado. As such, it is sadly overlooked, but unjustly so, in my opinion. I am currently in a production of Ruddigore, with performances set to begin in June 2007, and I can tell you that this is a fun show. The music is as fun as anything in Pirates or Mikado, and it has the "topsy turvy" feel that all G&S shows do. Here is a summary from the online Gilbert & Sullivan Archive (do a Google search and you'll find it): "Ruddigore, or The Witch's Curse' was the 10th collaboration between Gilbert and Sullivan. The 'supernatural opera' opened on January 21, 1887 at the Savoy Theatre and ran for 288 performances. [A very small number, compared to Mikado, which ran for nearly 600 performances.] It was not revived until 1920 when it was substantially cut and provided with a new overture arranged by Geoffrey Toye. [Lots of dialogue was rightly cut. Gilbert's widow said that the revised version was better than her late husband's original.]" The opera is a parody of the stock melodrama -- the villain who carries off the maiden; the priggishly good-mannered poor-but-virtuous-heroine; the hero in disguise, and his faithful old retainer who dreams of their former glory days; the snake in the grass who claims to be following his heart; the wild, mad girl; the swagger of fire-eating patriotism; ghosts coming to life to enforce a curse; and so forth. But as one critic noted, Gilbert turns the moral absolutes of melodrama upside

down: Good becomes bad, bad becomes good, and heroes take the easy way out."The Baronets of Ruddigore are cursed.

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