

# The Peer and the Peri

PRODUCTEURS / PRODUCERS:

MARC DUCUSIN & MATTHEW JOHN MCKEOWN

METTEUR EN SCÈNE / STAGE DIRECTOR: ROGER ANDREWS

DIRECTEURS MUSICAUX / MUSIC DIRECTORS:

SARAH WUNSCH & DIDIER BLACH-LAFLÈCHE

GÉRANTE DE SCÈNE / STAGE MANAGER: MAYA CAPLAN

CHORÉGRAPHIE / CHOREOGRAPHY: CORALIE HEILER



**Gilbert & Sullivan's**



# IOLANTHE

## PROGRAMME



# President's Note

February is here and we could not be more excited to share our hard work! We are delighted to present *Iolanthe*, a show that has brought us so much joy over the past several months, and to continue in Savoy's grand tradition of bringing light opera to the McGill and Montreal community. What began as an idea back in March of last year has become a full-fledged production through many months of intensive rehearsals, grueling meetings, and endless amounts of peer support and gratitude. With the direction of Roger Andrews, Coralie Heiler, Marc Ducusin, Matthew McKeown, Sara Wunsch and Didier Blach-Lafèche, we have created something that all of us can be proud of.

As we premiere our 54th season, the society continues to flourish and reach new possibilities thanks to the support of patrons like yourself. Through your generosity, we have been able to expand all aspects of our production, providing new opportunities for involvement and presenting light opera in a truly modern and accessible fashion. We cannot thank you enough for giving us the means to not only function, but thrive year after year.

To our members, The McGill Savoy Society is more than just a performance opportunity, it is a community in every sense of the word. As my fourth and final year of membership comes to a close, I cannot help but reflect on how Savoy has shaped my experience here at McGill and how lucky I am to be a part of something so unique and wonderful. I am filled to the brim with endless gratitude to be steering this ship filled with such talented and loving individuals, and cannot wait for you to see what they are capable of.

We hope you enjoy the show!

*Hannah Meloshok*

# Director's Note

*Iolanthe* comes almost exactly halfway through the series of comic operas created by Gilbert and Sullivan. It stands out in a number of ways: it was the first show to premiere at the Savoy Theatre, built for their company by Richard D'Oyly Carte; it was the first show of any kind, anywhere, to be entirely lit by electricity; it was the first occasion on which Sullivan wrote the overture himself, instead often trusting the job to his assistants, and consequently it is the first overture that includes musical material found nowhere else in the opera. It has the greatest men's chorus (The Entrance and March of the Peers), the greatest patter song (The Lord Chancellor's "Nightmare") and the most infectiously upbeat second act finale. On the other hand, it represents Gilbert's most savage attack on empty-headed aristocrats, most notably in Strephon's second act aria, which we, as with most modern productions, have opted to omit. After this point the libretti were mostly set in foreign locales (Japan, Italy, Central Europe) or different historical periods (as in *Yeomen of the Guard* and *Princess Ida*). Although never absent from the D'Oyly Carte repertoire, it has historically been less popular than the "Big Three," namely *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*. Perhaps this is because the music is more sophisticated. Perhaps it because there is a "serious" character, *Iolanthe* herself. Perhaps. . . . ., but who can tell? It has been one of my favorites for almost 50 years and we are delighted to share it with you tonight. May you leave the theater smiling!

*Roger Andrews*

## **WARNING**

Strobe lights are used during this performance

# About Savoy

The McGill Savoy Society, a student group of the SSMU (Students' Society of McGill University), is a non-profit, high-profile student theatre group, supported by a large and active patron base, the SSMU, and its audience. We are the cast, creative team, production team, stage crew, and orchestra of the year's productions, as well as an elected executive to provide direction and manage finances.

We are a social group, and our friendships are formed through the activity of producing one or two high-profile spectacular shows per year. The mainstage production is traditionally a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, held before the winter Reading Week. The sideshow is any variety of music-based shows; recitals, revues, or even concert versions of musicals.

## Executive Team 2017-2018

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**Ben Markbreiter**

Member at Large — Orchestra  
**Nicole Pagaling**

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THE MCGILL SAVOY SOCIETY  
presents

# IOLANTHE

Music by **Arthur Sullivan**

Libretto by **W.S. Gilbert**

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Producers  
**Marc Ducusin**  
**Matthew Mckeown**

Stage Director  
**Roger Andrews**

Assistant Stage Director &  
Choreographer  
**Coralie Heiler**

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Stage Manager  
**Maya Caplan**

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Orchestra Director  
**Sara Wunsch**  
Vocal Director  
**Didier Blach-Lafèche**

Production Manager  
**Hugo Sivov**

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Costume & Prop Designer  
**Nicole Heiler**

Lighting Designer  
**Gaspard Nahmias**

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Sound Designer  
**Emma Van Esbroeck**

Sound Assistant  
**Tess Seip**

Makeup Designer  
**Sophia Chau Hoang**

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**Charlise Chen**

Dance Captains  
**Charlotte Scott-Frater**  
**Neel Soman**

Videographer  
**Benjamin Warner/ Beanduck**  
**Productions**

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Graphic Designer  
**Cai Cheng**

Assistant Vocal Director  
**Xavier Gervais Dumont**

Featuring  
**The McGill Savoy Opera Orchestra**

# Synopsis

## ACT I

**An Arcadian forest.** Woodland fairies sing of their bustling existence and their devotion to love. Their sister Iolanthe was banished from Fairyland twenty-five years ago for wedding a mortal man, a crime that usually incurs death under fairy law. The imperious Fairy Queen explains how she spared Iolanthe's life on condition that she never communicate with her husband again. At the other fairies' insistence, the Queen summons Iolanthe back to pardon her. To her sisters' surprise, Iolanthe reveals that she has a half-mortal son: Strephon, an Arcadian shepherd who loves Phyllis, a shepherdess. Phyllis's guardian, the Lord Chancellor, opposes their union, but the lovers are determined to be together. A fanfare heralds the House of Peers' procession into the forest, followed by the Lord Chancellor. The Chancellor has fallen in love with his ward Phyllis, as have all the peers, who implore him to give her hand in marriage to one of them. Phyllis, however, refuses to marry anyone but Strephon. Lord Tolloller leads the peers in entreating her not to spurn them because of their noble birth. When Strephon returns to claim Phyllis, the peers object. Strephon makes his case to the Chancellor, who justifies his refusal. Iolanthe consoles her lovelorn son, but Phyllis overhears them and assumes that the ageless Iolanthe is Strephon's lover. Feeling betrayed, Phyllis agrees to marry either Lord Tolloller or Lord Mountararat. Strephon tries to explain the truth, summoning the fairies to his aid. The peers insult the fairy band, and the Queen exacts her magical revenge: Strephon will join parliament, and the peers will be compelled to pass any bills that he proposes.

## ACT II

**The Palace Yard, Westminster.** Private Willis, the night guard, comments on the seeming arbitrariness of the political system. The fairies burst in to chide the peers about Strephon's success. The peers protest the fairies' interference, and Mountararat leads them in extolling Britain's past. Celia and Leila confess that they are falling under the men's charms. The Queen advises willpower in the face of romantic temptation, which she demonstrates with Private Willis's help. Tolloller and Mountararat are torn between their attraction to Phyllis and their friendly devotion to one another, while the Chancellor has been tormented by his own unrequited love for her. Tolloller and Mountararat encourage him to win the shepherdess's hand. Alone with Phyllis, Strephon confesses his half-fairy lineage, and the two lovers reconcile. Iolanthe enters and agrees to plead with the Chancellor on their behalf, for he is her husband and Strephon's father. But by revealing her identity to her husband, who had presumed her dead, Iolanthe incurs the death penalty again. The Fairy Queen is preparing to punish her when Celia and Leila confess that they and the other fairies have also taken mortal husbands by marrying the peers. The Queen is reluctant to execute them all, and the Chancellor proposes a legal solution that allows the entire band and their new husbands to retreat joyfully to Fairyland.

*Marc Ducusin*



# Musical Numbers

## **OVERTURE** (The McGill Savoy Opera Orchestra)

### **ACT I**

1. Opening Chorus: "Tripping hither, tripping thither" (Celia, Leila, & Fairies)
2. Invocation: "Iolanthe! From thy dark exile" (Queen, Iolanthe, & Fairies)
3. Solo: "Good-morrow, good mother" (Strephon & Fairies)
4. "Fare thee well, attractive stranger" (Queen & Fairies)
- 4a. Soli: "Good-morrow, good lover" (Phyllis & Strephon)
5. Duet: "None shall part us from each other" (Phyllis & Strephon)
6. March of the Peers: "Loudly let the trumpet bray" (Peers)
7. Song: "The law is the true embodiment" (Lord Chancellor & Peers)
8. Trio & Barcarole: "My well-loved Lord," "Of all the young ladies I know" (Phyllis, Tolloller, & Mountarat)
9. Recitative: "Nay, tempt me not" (Phyllis)
10. Song: "Spurn not the nobly born" (Tolloller & Peers)
11. "My lords, it may not be" (Phyllis, Tolloller, Mountarat, Strephon, Chancellor, & Peers)
12. Song: "When I went to the Bar" (Chancellor)
13. Finale Act I (Company)

### **ACT II**

14. Song: "When all night long a chap remains" (Private Willis)
15. Chorus: "Strephon's a member of Parliament" (Fairies & Peers)
16. Song: "When Britain really ruled the waves" (Lord Mountarat & Chorus)
17. Duet: "In vain to us you plead" (Leila, Celia, Fairies, Mountarat, Tolloller, & Peers)
18. Song: "Oh, foolish fay" (Queen & Fairies)
19. Quartet: "Through p'r'aps I may incur y our blame" (Phyllis, Mountarat, Tolloller, & Willis)
20. Recitative & Song: "Love, unrequited, robs me of my rest," "When you're lying awake" (Chancellor)
21. Trio: "If you go in you're sure to win" (Tolloller, Mountarat, & Chancellor)
22. Duet: "If we're weak enough to tarry" (Phyllis & Strephon)
23. Recit. & Ballad: "My lord, a suppliant at your feet" (Iolanthe)
24. Recit: "It may not be" (Chancellor, Iolanthe, & Fairies)
25. Finale Act II: "Soon as we may" (Ensemble)



# Cast

<b>Iolanthe</b> .....	Grace Bokenfohr Sarah Gosselin
<b>Strephon</b> .....	Aaron Meredith
<b>Phyllis</b> .....	Hanna Nes
<b>Lord Chancellor</b> .....	Guy Ettlin
<b>Fairy Queen</b> .....	Olivia Barnes Lindsay Peets
<b>Lord Mountararat</b> .....	Michael Loewen
<b>Tolloller</b> .....	Gregory Muszkie Feng Xiong
<b>Private Willis</b> .....	Jonathan Howes
<b>Celia</b> .....	Megan Cumming Hannah Moloshok
<b>Leila</b> .....	Charlotte Scott-Frater Sarah Webb
<b>Fleta</b> .....	Dominique Fontaine Hali Kremen-Hallowell
<b>Chorus of Peers</b> .....	Philippe Courtemanche Sean Haid Deszo Lovicsek Ben Markbreiter Matthew Mckeown Sebastien Medina Michael Quinsey Stefano Saykaly Neel Soman Keven Sonesaksith-Keohavong Kevin Walker
<b>Chorus of Fairies</b> .....	Irina Ghitulescu Jayden Kang Luyao Liu Ella Martindale Caeleigh McDonald Anita Pandey Charlotte Paradis Hermine Villedey

# *The McGill Savoy Opera Orchestra*

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## **Violin 1**

Madeline O'Reilly Brown  
Nigel Penney  
Violet Webster

## **Violin 2**

Irene Toro  
Alexina Choma

## **Viola**

Gwendolyne Krasnicki  
Nicole Pagaling

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## **Cello**

Nicholas Gallant  
Kelly Cooper

## **Contrabass**

Alexandra Jacobson

## **Oboe**

Sabrina Hefferman

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## **Flute 1**

Camille Malard

## **Flute 2**

Michael Zappavigna

## **Clarinet 1**

Emily Gray

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## **Clarinet 2**

Soon Jae "Joseph" Jo

## **Bassoon**

Liana Starnino

## **French Horn 1**

Malika Pharand

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## **French Horn 2**

Veronica Hefferman

## **Trumpet 1**

Daniella Carbert  
Brandon Taylor

## **Trumpet 2**

Jesse Radz

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## **Trombone 1**

Cheryl Falconar

## **Trombone 2**

Aaron Willis

## **Percussion**

Taylor Halperin

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# Special Thanks


## We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support:

Corinne Deeley, Keith Roche, the staff and crew at Moyses Hall, Allan Hepburn, Muna Tojiboeva, Jemark Earle, the Student Society of McGill Undergraduates (SSMU), Pierre Foret, Ethan Macdonald, Noelle Hannibal, Diane Dupuis, Tracy Braunstein, Montreal Theatre Hub, Queer McGill, Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society (AUTS), Players Theatre, Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre, Simona Buth and Manoir Westmount, Carol Johansen, Robert Schaap, and everyone at Lakeshore Light Opera (LLO), Montreal West Operatic Society (MWOS), Copie Nova, CopiEUS.

The Producers wish to dedicate this production to the memory of Winston Purdy (1941 – 2017).

### MOYSE HALL STAFF:

Departmental Chair: Allan Hepburn (Prof.)  
Theatre Production Mgr.: Corinne Deeley (Ms.)  
Technical Supervisor: Keith Roche (Mr.)



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Lighting Designer: Mark Bye  
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