

U3A Classical Music Lovers B

24 August 2023

Carol Chetwynd presents - Operetta

Operetta is a form of theatre and a genre of light opera. It is lighter than opera in terms of its music, orchestral size and subject matter. Is usually of a light and amusing character sometimes including social commentaries. First recognized around 1850. Precursor to modern musical theatre.

Iolanthe - Gilbert and Sullivan

All G and S operettas have a satirical background. Here Gilbert has targeted the aristocracy. The House of Lords is lampooned as a bastion of the ineffective, privileged and dim-witted whose only qualification to govern is noble birth. Iolanthe is a fairy who has been banished from fairyland because she married a mortal, the Lord Chancellor. Her son, Strephon (half a fairy) wants to marry Phylis a Ward in Chancery but all the members of the House of Peers, including the Lord Chancellor, also want to marry Phylis.

[The entrance of the Peers from Iolanthe 5.34](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxAHnJD7LE4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxAHnJD7LE4>

[Tripping Hither, Tripping Thither from Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe 3.29](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejsyALvQxCc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejsyALvQxCc>



The Mikado – Gilbert and Sullivan

A wave of Japanese mania was sweeping London when an exhibition of Japanese culture gave WS Gilbert the idea to set another operetta which lampooned British politics. It involves a young man, Nanki Poo son of the Mikado who fled his father's court to avoid marrying an elderly lady, Katisha. Disguised as a travelling musician he meets and falls in love with Yum-Yum the ward of Ko-Ko the Lord High executioner. The Lord High Executioner has to find someone to execute so he goes through his little list to find one.

[The Mikado Act 1: Behold the Lord High Executioner/I've Got a Little List 6.54](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw2Tr9xBw1Y)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw2Tr9xBw1Y>

["Three Little Maids From School Are We" 1.40](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXWklZUPmDY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXWklZUPmDY>



The Gondoliers – Gilbert and Sullivan

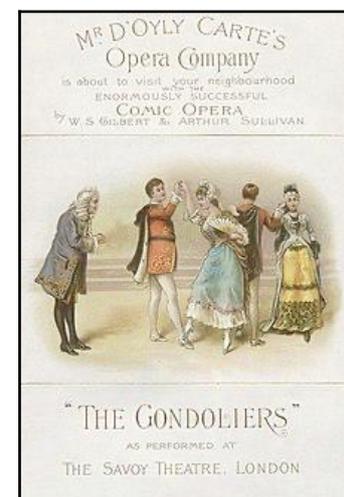
In this operetta Gilbert satirises class distinctions. Because he sets his works in far away countries he was able to direct sharper criticism of the nobility and the monarchy itself. The story tells of the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Barataria who arrives in Venice to join her husband to be. However he cannot be identified as he was entrusted to the care of a drunken gondolier who mixed up the prince with his son. Both men share the throne and appoint all their fellow gondoliers as house hold courtiers. Everyone is somebody but no-one's anybody!

[There lived a king 3.23](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie4OwwmFj8o)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie4OwwmFj8o>

[Dance a Cachucha - Australian Opera, 1989 4.23](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPqw3kJiU6l)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPqw3kJiU6l>



The Merry Widow Franz Lehar

Operetta by Hungarian composer Franz Lehar. The story concerns a rich widow and her countrymen's attempts to keep her money in the country by finding her the right husband. Vilja - The witch of the wood. Slav water deity. Came out of the water in spring to give life giving moisture to the fields.

[Martinez & Domingo - The Merry Widow \(Rio 2014\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzZTW8MvPSU) 3.40 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzZTW8MvPSU>

[Vilja Song-The Merry Widow \(Franz Lehar\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_e8g4LhAOA) 6.31 mins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_e8g4LhAOA



Orpheus in the Underworld Jacques Offenbach

A Greek myth which tells the story of Orpheus' search for his wife Eurydice through the underworld after she was bitten by a serpent and died. A satire of the court of Napoleon III.

Offenbach wrote more than two dozen operettas. At the time in Paris the theatrical licensing laws only permitted four singers in any one piece so with such small casts full length works were not possible.

[Overture to Orpheus in the Underworld](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA8WEK1T0k0) 9.56 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA8WEK1T0k0>

[Offenbach: Can Can - Orpheus in the Underworld](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tmm8fP1-ww) 3.27 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tmm8fP1-ww>



Merrie England Edward German

A patriotic story concerning the love and rivalries at the court of Elizabeth I. A love letter sent by Sir Walter Raleigh to one of the Queens ladies in waiting Bessie Throckmorton ends up in the hands of the Queen. Very patriotic.

[Merrie England - Yeomen of England](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHejKeGM5Vo) 4.37 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHejKeGM5Vo>

[O Peaceful England](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5-XWwKNplw) 4.19 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5-XWwKNplw>



The Dancing Years / Glamorous Night Ivor Novello

Another Welshman. Most well known for keep the Home Fires Burning 1914. His prolonged youthful exposure to early sacred choral music had turned his tastes to lush romantic music. Lived in a flat above the Strand Theatre. Songwriter turned actor and singer.

[The Dancing Years Overture](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJVC5t8bfVg) 3.50 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJVC5t8bfVg>

[The Dancing Years - I can give you the starlight](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2fAzrHpYxY) 2.31 mins.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2fAzrHpYxY>

[Glamorous Night' - Selection](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSpS2aA2yoQ) - 8.40 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSpS2aA2yoQ>

[Ivor Novello "Waltz of My Heart" - Soprano Chung Jiwon](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yABOGPuFO1M) 2.58 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yABOGPuFO1M>



Naughty Marietta Victor Herbert

Naughty Marietta is an operetta in two acts, set in New Orleans in 1780, it tells how Captain Richard Warrington is commissioned to unmask and capture the notorious French pirate "Bras Pique" – and how he is helped and hindered by a high-spirited runaway, Contessa Marietta. Victor Herbert was an American composer, who wrote 43 operettas.

[Naughty Marietta \(1935\) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhaH12mJ-Is) 4.47 mins.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhaH12mJ-Is>

["Italian Street Song" from Naughty Marietta by Victor Herbert](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSXOaGbt4-8) 3.18 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSXOaGbt4-8>

Rose Marie Rudolf Friml

The composer was Czech born but moved to the US in early 20th century when operetta was the most popular theatrical form. Also wrote The Vagabond King. He collaborated with Oscar Hammerstein. Famous for old world sentiments.

[Rose Marie I love you - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVo79Xlm9Dc) 4 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVo79Xlm9Dc>

[Ann Blyth, Fernando Lamas - Indian Love Call! -](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrdX9PTEQTA) 5.48mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrdX9PTEQTA>

Desert Song & The Student Prince Sigmund Romberg

Hungarian born but also emigrated to the US in 1909. Worked in a pencil factory and then employed as a pianist in cafes. Formed his own orchestra and was eventually hired to write for Broadway shows.

[The Riff Song from "The Desert Song" \(film\) 1929 –](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i8XFwludGQ) 2.23 mins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i8XFwludGQ

[Kathryn Grayson, Gordon MacRae - Desert Song –](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wub_DjEvsSo) 4.09 mins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wub_DjEvsSo

[William Olvis sings 'Serenade' from "The Student Prince" –](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxPkweUO5EI) 4.00 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxPkweUO5EI>

[Mario Lanza Serenade The Student Prince -](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pjEWzgz8zU) 5.26

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pjEWzgz8zU>

[Drink Drink Drink \(The Drinking Song\) -](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI3Bcgh4Jko) 2.11 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI3Bcgh4Jko>

