



Great Operetta Recordings

ADD

8.110785-86



GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

The Sorcerer

Fisher Morgan

Neville Griffiths

Jeffrey Skitch

Muriel Harding

Ann Drummond-Grant

The D'Oyly Carte Opera
Company Chorus
and The New Symphony
Orchestra

Isidore Godfrey

(Recorded in London in 1953)

2 CDs

Gilbert & Sullivan: The Sorcerer

CD 1

61:42

1	Overture (Orchestra)	5:34
	ACT 1: Exterior of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion. Mid-day.	41:57
2	<i>Ring forth, ye bells</i> (Chorus)	1:46
3	Recit: <i>Constance, my daughter</i> (Mrs Partlet, Constance)	2:19
4	Aria: <i>When he is here</i> (Constance)	1:46
5	<i>The Air is charged / Time was, when love and I were well acquainted</i> (Dr Daly)	3:58
6	Recit: <i>Sir Marmaduke</i> (Dr Daly, Alexis)	0:59
7	Minuet (Orchestra)	1:28
8	<i>With heart and with voice</i> (Chorus of Girls)	2:10
9	Recit: <i>My kindly friends</i> (Aline)	2:44
	Aria: <i>O happy young heart</i> (Aline)	
10	<i>My child, join in these congratulations</i> (Lady Sangazure)	0:54
11	<i>With heart and with voice</i> (Chorus of Men)	0:51
12	<i>Welcome joy! Adieu to sadness</i> (Sir Marmaduke, Lady Sangazure)	4:01
13	<i>All is prepared</i> (Notary, Chorus, Alexis, Aline)	1:36
14	<i>With heart and with voice</i> (Chorus)	0:59
15	<i>Love feeds on many kinds of food</i> (Alexis)	2:48
16	<i>My name is John Wellington Wells</i> (Mr Wells)	2:09
17	Incantation; Finale (Mr Wells, Aline, Alexis, Chorus)	11:28
	ACT 2: Exterior of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion. Midnight.	14:11
18	<i>'Tis twelve</i> (Alexis, Aline, Mr Wells)	3:27
19	<i>Why, where be oi</i> (Chorus of Villagers)	1:17
20	<i>If you'll marry me; Country dance</i> (Chorus of Villagers)	1:59
21	<i>Dear friends, take pity on my lot</i> (Constance, Notary, Chorus)	2:40
22	<i>Oh joy! Oh joy!</i> (Aline & Alexis)	2:06
23	<i>Thou hast the power</i> (Alexis)	2:42

ACT 2 (continued)

1	<i>I rejoice that it's decided</i> (Alexis & Ensemble)	20:42
2	<i>Oh I have wrought much evil with my spells</i> (Mr Wells, Lady Sangazure)	3:31
3	<i>Alexis doubt me not</i> (Aline)	4:21
4	<i>The fearful deed is done</i> (Aline)	0:52
5	<i>Oh my voice is sad and low</i> (Dr Daly)	1:28
6	<i>Oh Joyous Boon; Alas that lovers thus should meet</i> (Aline, Dr Daly, Alexis, Ensemble)	3:02
7	Finale (Ensemble)	3:49
		3:39

THE SORCERER

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre (an Elderly Baronet)	Fisher Morgan
Alexis (of the Grenadier Guards, his Son)	Neville Griffiths
Dr Daly (Vicar of Ploverleigh)	Jeffrey Skitch
Notary	Donald Adams
John Wellington Wells (of J.W. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers)	Peter Pratt
Lady Sangazure (a Lady of Ancient Lineage)	Ann Drummond-Grant
Aline (her Daughter, betrothed to Alexis)	Muriel Harding
Mrs Partlett (a Pew Opener)	Beryl Dixon
Constance (her Daughter)	Yvonne Dean

Chorus of Villagers

D'Oyly Carte Opera Company Chorus and the New Symphony Orchestra conducted by Isidore Godfrey

Decca LK 4070/1, London LL 885/6, mx ARL 1800/4

Recorded 8th, 10th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 29th & 30th July 1953, London

Gilbert & Sullivan: The Sorcerer (Highlights)

	ACT 1: Exterior of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion. Mid-day.	24:45
8	<i>Ring forth, ye bells</i> (Chorus)	1:44
9	Recit: <i>Constance, my daughter</i> (Mrs Partlet, Constance)	2:00
10	<i>The air is charged / Time was, when love and I were well acquainted</i> (Dr Daly)	3:25
11	Recit: <i>My kindly friends</i> (Aline)	2:53
	Aria: <i>O happy young heart</i> (Aline)	
12	<i>Welcome joy! Adieu to sadness</i> (Sir Marmaduke, Lady Sangazure)	3:23
13	<i>All is prepared</i> (Notary, Chorus, Alexis, Aline)	1:36
14	<i>With heart and with voice</i> (Chorus)	0:52
15	<i>My name is John Wellington Wells</i> (Mr Wells)	2:09
16	Incantation: <i>Sprites of Earth and air</i> (Mr Wells, Aline, Alexis, Chorus)	3:24
17	Finale Act I (Sir Marmaduke, Mr Wells, Alexis, Aline, Chorus)	3:19
	ACT 2: Exterior of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion. Midnight.	12:48
18	<i>Thou hast the power</i> (Alexis)	2:42
19	<i>I rejoice that it's decided</i> (Alexis, Ensemble)	3:20
20	<i>Oh I have wrought much evil with my spells</i> (Mr Wells, Lady Sangazure)	3:35
21	<i>Oh Joyous Boon</i> (Aline, Dr Daly, Alexis)	1:53
22	Finale: <i>Come to my mansion</i> (Sir Marmaduke, Ensemble)	1:19

THE SORCERER (highlights)

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre (an Elderly Baronet)	Darrell Fancourt
Alexis (of the Grenadier Guards, his Son)	Derek Oldham
Dr Daly (Vicar of Ploverleigh)..	Leslie Rands
Notary	Stuart Robertson
John Wellington Wells (of J. W. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers)	George Baker
Lady Sangazure (a Lady of Ancient Lineage)	Dorothy Gill
Aline (her Daughter, betrothed to Alexis)	Muriel Dickson
Mrs. Partlett (a Pew Opener)	Anna Bethell
Constance (her Daughter)	Alice Moxon

Chorus of Villagers

Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Isidore Godfrey

HMV B 8054/9, mx 0B 5074-1, 5078-2, 5069-2, 5071-1, 5068-2,
5073-1, 5075-2, 5070-2, 5079-2, 5076-1, 5072-1, 5077-1

Recorded 12th-13th September 1933, London

William Schwenk Gilbert (1836-1911) and Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

The Sorcerer

Chronologically the second of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, if we count *Trial By Jury* as their first, *The Sorcerer* opened at the Opera Comique in London on 17th November 1877 to a successful initial run of 178 performances. The first full-length G & S comedy, it was sequentially their third collaboration, the two-act *Thespis, or the Gods Grown Old*, (Gaiety Theatre, 1871) having been their earliest. Produced on commission by impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte, who

had also staged *Trial By Jury*, and billed as an 'entirely New and Original Modern Comic Opera', it was cast in the rather tame, German Reed-esque style of English opera typical of its time, in contrast to the more extrovert opéra-bouffe also currently in vogue. Like its predecessor its plot was derived from a story by Gilbert, which had previously appeared in *Graphic Magazine*, this latest specifically in its Christmas number of December 1876.

Synopsis

CD 1

Act 1

After the Overture [1] the curtain rises on an animated scene before the mansion of Sir Marmaduke Poindextre. The villagers have gathered to witness the betrothal of Sir Marmaduke's son Alexis, an officer of the Grenadier Guards, to Aline, daughter of Lady Sangazure [2]. Mrs Partlet, the pew-opener, enters with her own daughter, the love-lorn Constance [3], who recounts her misfortune in a short aria [4]. At least initially, Constance causes her mother some consternation when she reveals the object of her affection as Dr Daly, the aging Vicar of Ploverleigh, who, as it were on cue, suddenly appears and, in an aside, ruminates on the ephemeral nature of youth [5]. Mrs Partlet and Constance do their best to commiserate before leaving Dr Daly to reaffirm his bachelor status [6]. Daly greets Sir Marmaduke and Alexis, who briefly engage in dialogue during which it emerges that fifty years previously Sir Marmaduke had had a romantic attachment to Alexis's mother-in-law to be, Lady

Sangazure. The long-lost era is evoked by the strains of a minuet [7] before a chorus of girls, to a waltz tune, usher in the bride-to-be, Aline [8]. Thanking her friends, Aline sings of her joy [9]. She is greeted by Alexis and by her mother [10] before the company go out, amid general rejoicing, to fetch the notary [11], leaving only Lady Sangazure and Sir Marmaduke who, in an ingenious duet, express their public and private feelings [12]. The villagers return with the notary, and the marriage contract is duly signed [13]. Again, they express their congratulations before exiting, leaving Aline and Alexis alone at last [14]. In a ballad Alexis sings of his love and happiness [15], which he is desirous that the whole village should share, and explains that he has arranged for the euphoria to be spread by a love-potion, courtesy of a long-established firm of sorcerers: J. W. Wells & Co. Conveniently, the firm's proprietor, John Wellington Wells, is present at the celebration. He responds to Alexis's summons and, in a charming patter-song enumerates his repertoire of wares [16]. Spurred on by Alexis, Aline procures a large teapot, which Mr Wells proceeds to fill with the love-philtre, commenting that it will have an aphrodisiac effect only on the unmarried, that is that married couples need have

no fear. Amid flashes, incantations and general merriment, cups of the potion are passed around and drained by the villagers who, intoxicated, fall to the ground [17].

Act 2

Midnight. The villagers lie asleep in the moonlight, in various stages of 'intoxication'. Mr Wells explains to Alexis and Aline that, not wishing to humiliate the more august elders of the community, Sir Marmaduke, the Vicar and others, he has had them 'carried home and put to bed respectably' [18]. Disorientated, the villagers gradually regain consciousness [19] and begin to plight their troth with their newly chosen partners, with whom they join in a merry dance [20]. The harmony is disrupted by the arrival of the tearful Constance with the deaf old notary who earlier had conducted the betrothal ceremony (Constance is, of course, still enamoured of the old Vicar, who, unfortunately for her, does not return her affection) [21]. Rather foolhardily, Alexis then suggests to Aline that they too should both quaff the love-potion, in order to seal their love for ever. Aline, however refuses ('If you cannot trust me, you have no right to love me – no right to be loved *by* me.') [22]. At this, Alexis launches into a sad ballad [23].

CD 2

Meanwhile, however, Sir Marmaduke (who has taken the potion) enters, with his *innamorata* Mrs Partlet, and a quintet ensues [1]. By now Mr Wells is beginning to express concern over the unpredictable results of the drug that he has so recklessly administered, particularly

when the dowager Lady Sangazure makes advances towards him; the more he declines, the more amorous she becomes. Protesting that he is already betrothed to a girl on an island in the South Pacific, he finally succeeds in extricating himself from her clutches [2]. Aline meanwhile has had a change of heart [3] and in accordance with Alexis's wishes drinks the love-potion [4]. As she takes her exit, however, the aphrodisiac takes effect and she becomes suddenly enamoured of Dr Daly who, accompanying himself on a flageolet, gives vent to his confusion in a doleful lay [5]. The two embrace and join in a duet [6]. Alexis returns and on embracing Aline is taken aback at her rejection. Aline and Dr Daly attempt to reassure Alexis that their sudden infatuation is due solely to the potion and Daly, magnanimously, even offers to quit the country, in order not to stand between him and Aline. Such sacrifice on Daly's part, however, will be gratuitous, Mr Wells interjects, for the spell may only be broken if either he (Wells) or Alexis is prepared to give up his life. Wells adds that under normal circumstances he would 'have no hesitation in sacrificing my own life to spare yours...But we take stock next week, and it would not be fair on the Co.'. Aline, however, counters this by protesting that with Alexis's death she would be left with no one upon whom to direct her affections. The dilemma is then put to the vote and it is decided that the one to die must be Mr Wells. Willingly, he submits to his fate, and while the other characters return to their true partners and to normality, he disappears by way of a trapdoor into Hellfire [7].

Peter Dempsey

Fisher Morgan

Fisher Morgan was a stalwart of the D'Oyly Carte from 1950 until 1956 (he died in 1959). His leading rôles included Bouncer (in *Cox And Box*), The Learned Judge (in *Trial By Jury*), Sergeant of Police (in *Pirates*), Private Willis (in *Iolanthe*), King Hildebrand (in *Princess Ida*), Pooh-Bah (in *Mikado*), Sir Despard (in *Ruddigore*), Wilfred Shadbolt (in *Yeomen*), Don Alhambra (in *Gondoliers*) and Sir Marmaduke Poindextre.

Neville Griffiths

Now probably better remembered for his subsequent work with Sadler's Wells Opera, Neville Griffiths joined D'Oyly Carte as a chorister in 1948. A regular member of the Company until 1958, he was heard in various tenor leads, including Ralph (in *HMS Pinafore*), Nanki-Poo (in *Mikado*), Marco (in *Gondoliers*), the First Yeoman, and Alexis.

Jeffrey Skitch

A D'Oyly Carte principal from 1952 until 1965, Jeffrey Skitch's rôles included Luiz (in *Gondoliers*), Archibald Grosvenor (in *Patience*), Strephon (in *Iolanthe*), Pish-Tush (in *Mikado*), Giuseppe (in *Gondoliers*), Captain Corcoran and Samuel (in *HMS Pinafore*), Florian (in *Princess Ida*), The Learned Judge (in *Trial By Jury*) and Dr. Daly.

Donald Adams

Born in 1928, until World War 2 Donald Adams was a chorister at Worcester Cathedral. By the war's end, after brief service in the British Army, he was an actor with the BBC Rep Company in Bristol and also worked for a time in pantomime before joining the D'Oyly Carte Chorus. Following the death of the resident Darrell Fancourt (1888-1953), Adams gradually assumed most of the bass leads of his former colleague with the company until 1969 when, in partnership with fellow-Savoyard, Thomas Round, he set up 'G&S For All', which made much-acclaimed tours of Great Britain, Australia and the United States. In 1983, he sang the title rôle in *Mikado* in Chicago and that same year made his début (in non-G&S opera) at Covent Garden, a successful new career direction which would continue until shortly before his death, in 1996.

Peter Pratt

Not originally a singer by trade, Peter Pratt's connection with G & S evolved from his earlier activities as a comic stage actor. He joined the D'Oyly Carte Chorus in 1945 and stayed with the company for a total of fourteen years, during which time he sang virtually every principal comic rôle. He was particularly admired for his portrayals of Bouncer (in *Cox And Box*), Bill Bobstay (in *Pinafore*), Major Murgatroyd (in *Patience*) and John Wellington Wells.

Ann Drummond-Grant

Although later a noted principal contralto and the wife of D'Oyly Carte conductor Isidore Godfrey, Ann Drummond-Grant began as a soprano in opera and musical comedy. She first sang with the D'Oyly Carte from 1933 until 1938, her rôles including the Plaintiff (in *Trial By Jury*) Celia and Phyllis (in *Iolanthe*), Fiametta (in *Gondoliers*), Josephine (in *HMS Pinafore*) and Lady Saphir (in *Patience*) and Phoebe Meryll. Her later career was devoted largely to annual summer seasons and non-G&S operetta, but in 1950 she returned to D'Oyly Carte where a year later she took over the repertoire vacated by Ella Halman. She died in 1959.

Muriel Harding

Muriel Harding was a D'Oyly Carte chorus-member from 1945, before she left the Company in 1954. Her bright, evenly produced high soprano voice was heard in a variety of rôles, including The Plaintiff (in *Trial By Jury*), Mabel (in *The Pirates of Penzance*), Kate (in *Yeomen*), Zorah (in *Ruddigore*), Gianetta (in *The Gondoliers*), Princess Ida and Lady Ella (in *Patience*) and Elsie Maynard. She was married to Donald Adams.

Beryl Dixon

Beryl Dixon was a D'Oyly Carte regular from 1951 until 1960. Her rôles included Peep-Bo (in *Mikado*), Lady Angela (in *Patience*), Leila (in *Iolanthe*), Melissa (in *Princess Ida*), Ruth (in *Ruddigore*), Phoebe (in *Yeomen*), Tessa (in *Gondoliers*) and Mrs Partlet.

ADD

Playing
Time
1:59:57

GILBERT and SULLIVAN

The Sorcerer

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre Fisher Morgan
 Alexis Neville Griffiths
 Dr Daly Jeffrey Skitch
 Notary Donald Adams
 John Wellington Wells Peter Pratt
 Lady Sangazure Ann Drummond-Grant
 Aline Muriel Harding
 Mrs. Partlett Beryl Dixon
 Constance Yvonne Dean

Recorded 8th, 10th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 29th
 & 30th July 1953 London

Decca LK 4070/1, London LL 885/6, mx ARL 1800/4

The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company Chorus
 and The New Symphony Orchestra
 conducted by Isidore Godfrey

Originally billed 'an entirely New and Original Modern Comic Opera', *The Sorcerer* was the first full-length G&S operatta. In contrast to the vogue for the frothy opéras-bouffes of Offenbach and others, it was moulded on the burlesque 'Entertainment', the more restrained genre popularised by Gilbert's former colleague, singer-turned-impresario Thomas German Reed. The most under-recorded of the G&S operas, between the two world wars *The Sorcerer* was excluded from the regular D'Oyly Carte repertory. Prior to this complete 1953 release, it made its only appearance on disc, in abridged form, in the 1933 album featuring Darrell Fancourt, Derek Oldham and a select group of prominent inter-war Savoyards.

CD 1	61:42	CD 2	58:15
1 Overture	5:34	1-7 Act II (continued)	20:42
2-17 Act I	41:57	8-22 Highlights from The Sorcerer - 1933 Recording	37:33
18-23 Act II	14:11		

www.naxos.com

Archivist & Restoration Producer: David Lennick
 Digital Noise Reduction: K&A Productions Ltd.

A complete track list can be found in the booklet
 Cover Image: 'My name is John Wellington Wells. I'm a dealer in
 magic and spells' from *The Sorcerer* (Mary Evans Picture Library)



8.110785-86

All rights in this sound recording, artwork, texts and translations reserved.
 Unauthorised public performance, broadcasting and copying of this compact disc
 prohibited.
 © 2005 & © 2005 Naxos Rights International Ltd.
 Distributed by: Naxos of America Inc., 416 Mary Lindsay Polk Drive,
 (Suite 509) Franklin, Tennessee, 37067, USA.

MADE IN
 CANADA

