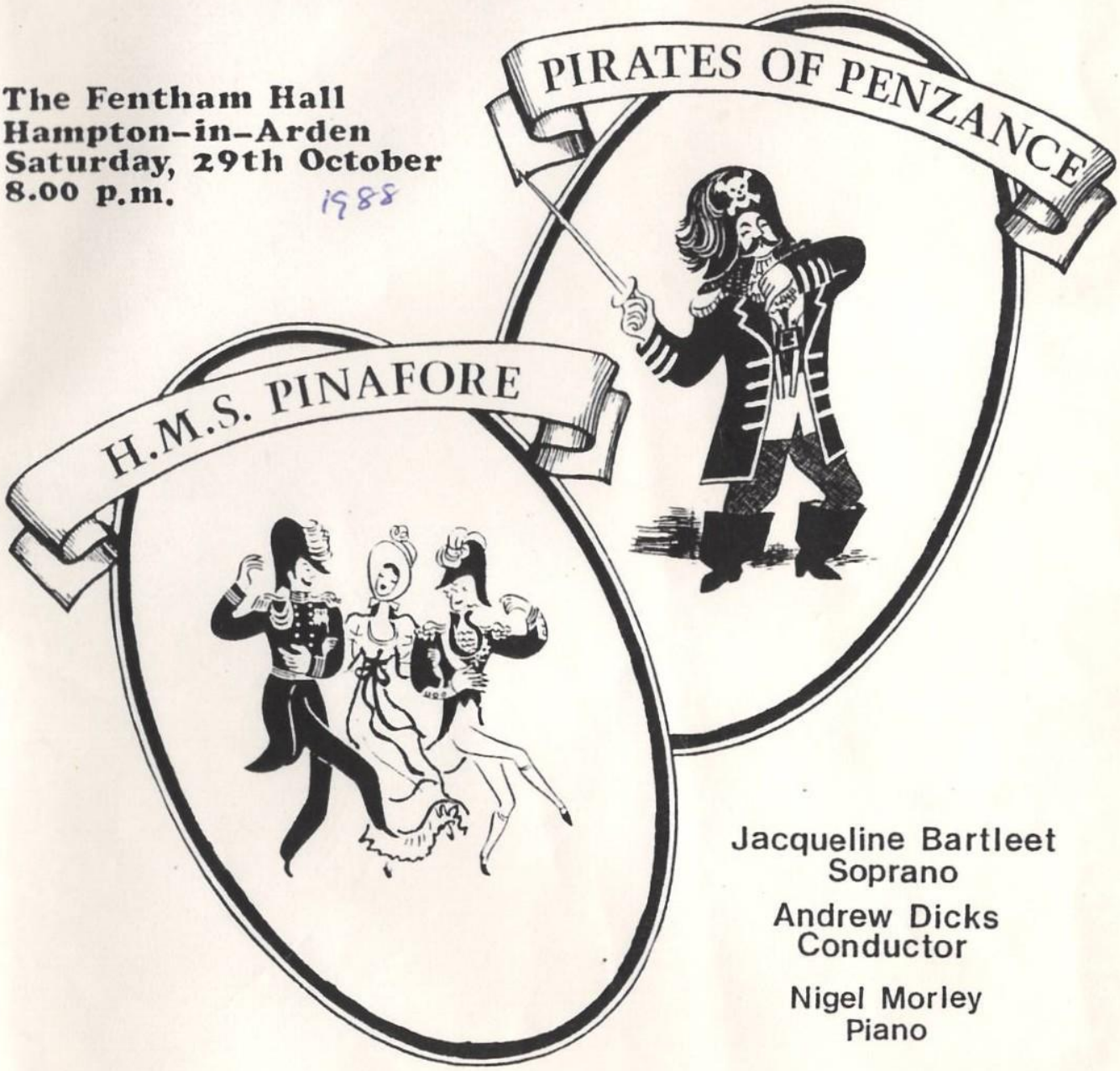
HAMPTON SINGERS

Gilbert & Sullivan

The Fentham Hall
Hampton-in-Arden
Saturday, 29th October
8.00 p.m.

1988



Jacqueline Bartleet
Soprano

Andrew Dicks
Conductor

Nigel Morley
Piano

£2.50

H.M.S. PINAFORE



We Sail the Ocean Blue
I'm Called Little Buttercup
A Maiden Fair to See
I am the Captain of the Pinafore!
Sorry Her Lot who Loves too Well
Over the Bright Blue Sea
Sir Joseph's Barge is Seen
I am the Monarch of the Sea
When I was a Lad I served a Term
A British Tar is a Soaring Soul
Oh Joy Oh Rapture Unforeseen
A Simple Sailor, Lowly Born
Never Mind the Why and Wherefore
Carefully on Tiptoe Stealing
Farewell my Own
Oh Joy Oh Rapture Unforeseen (Finale)

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Pour O Pour the Pirate Sherry
Oh, Better Far to Live and Die
Climbing over Rocky Mountain
Oh! is there not one Maiden Breast
Poor Wand'ring One
How Beautifully Blue the Sky
Here's a First Rate Opportunity
I am the very Model of a Modern
Major General
Although our Dark Career ....Hail Poetry
Oh! Dry the Glistening Tear
When the Foeman Bares his Steel
Ah! Leave Me not to Pine
When a Felon's not Engaged in
his Employment
With Cat-like Tread
Poor Wand'ring One (Reprise)



H.M.S. PINAFORE

ACT 1

On the deck of H.M.S. Pinafore, the gallant crew, being rather pleased with itself, expresses this professional pride in the stirring strains of "We sail the Ocean Blue". They are engaged in their honest toil when all of a sudden, Little Buttercup, the rosiest, the roundest, and the reddest of bumboat-women, comes aboard to sell them ribbons and laces for their sweethearts. She points out that although she is called Little Buttercup, and in spite of her jolly appearance, a mysterious secret weighs heavily on her heart.

Ralph Rackstraw, who, though a simple sailor, lowly born, is yet the smartest lad in all the fleet, comes up the hatchway and confides to the entire crew that he is in love with a maiden fair to see - who is, unfortunately, the Captain's daughter. A villainous sailor, Dick Deadeye, dares to say that Captains' daughters are not in the habit of marrying humble seamen. He is roundly scolded by the sailors for this heresy, and saved from physical harm only by the entrance of an officer who makes it clear that he is the Captain of the Pinafore.

Left alone with Little Buttercup, the Captain admits that he is worried because his daughter, Josephine, refuses to marry Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., First Lord of the Admiralty. Buttercup leaves and Josephine enters, murmuring sadly "sorry her lot who loves too well". She tells her father that, while she esteems Sir Joseph, she loves a simple sailor aboard the Pinafore. But, after hearing her father's kindly (but class-conscious) arguments, she agrees to think no more of one so far beneath her and to listen to the declarations of Sir Joseph, who at this moment is approaching on his barge, accompanied as always by his retinue of admiring sisters, and cousins, and aunts, led by Cousin Hebe.

The sailors huzzah, and the female relatives twitter, while Sir Joseph, a dapper though elderly gentleman, announces that he is the monarch of the sea, and proceeds to tell how he attained this high station, outlining what happened when he was a lad. He admonishes the Captain never to look down upon sailors, since they are as good as anyone, except, of course, Sir Joseph Porter himself.

When the Captain and his exalted guest go below, Ralph Rackstraw confesses his love to Josephine. Although she returns this happy passion, she pretends pride (not sartorial interest) when ordering him to refrain, audacious tar, his suit from pressing. But then Ralph takes matters (and also a pistol) into his own hands, and threatens to shoot himself. Naturally, this makes Josephine confess her love, and they plan to elope - which delights all the sailors, except Dick Deadeye.

ACT II

Night has fallen, and the Captain paces the deck, audibly brooding over his sorrows (and also giving a pretty good synopsis of Act I as he does so). Little Buttercup comes and gazes at him sentimentally. It develops that the Captain secretly loves Little Buttercup, but, as he tells her, because of their difference in social standing, they can never be more than friends. Little Buttercup warns him not to be too sure, since things are seldom what they seem.

Enter Sir Joseph Porter with Josephine, to whom he offers his heart and exalted rank. Under the impression that her unresponsiveness is caused by his high station, Sir Joseph suggests that she should never mind the why and wherefore. This plea is only too effective, since Sir Joseph's democratic sentiments only strengthen Josephine's determination to elope with Ralph Rackstraw.

But that villainous betrayer, Dick Deadeye, furtively whispering "Kind Captain, I've Important Information", tells his master about the merry maiden and the tar. His paternal and social instincts outraged, the Captain hides as the elopement party comes in, carefully on tiptoe stealing. At the crucial moment, he leaps forward and forbids them to proceed. Then Sir Joseph's romantic female relations and the equally romantic sailors tell the Captain not to scorn Ralph Rackstraw - he is an Englishman!

To everyone's horror, including his own, the Captain is so furious that allows himself to say "Damme!" Sir Joseph immediately comes aboard and berates him for swearing at a British sailor. Nevertheless, Sir Joseph's own fury on learning of the elopement is awful to behold. He enquires as to whether there is such a thing as a dungeon on board, and on finding that there is, orders Ralph to be dragged off to it in chains. The lovers tearfully make ready to part.

But wait! In the nick of time, Little Buttercup steps forward. She explains that when she was young and charming, she practised baby farming. She further adds that when the infant Ralph Rackstraw and the infant Captain were entrusted to her care, she mixed those children up. The nub of the matter is, she concludes, that Ralph is really the Captain, and the Captain is really Ralph.

Naturally, this solves everything. Sir Joseph can no longer think of marrying Josephine, the daughter of a humble seaman, so he contents himself with his devoted Cousin Hebe. Ralph and Josephine can at last be married, and the Captain, overjoyed at now being a mere member of the crew can marry Little Buttercup!

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

ACT 1

On the rocky coast of Cornwall, a band of pirates are employed in toasting the newly won piratehood of their apprentice, Frederic, who today is freed from his indentures. Frederic alone is despondent, and Ruth, the piratical maid of all work, explains why. It seems that when Frederic was a little lad, she was his stupid nursery maid, on breakers always steering, and she did not catch a word aright through being hard of hearing. She apprenticed Frederic to a pirate instead of to a pilot, as his father had requested.

Frederic is thoroughly cast down, since he feels that he must go back to the world of honest men and that it is his duty to devote himself heart and soul to the extermination of his beloved pirates. He pleads with them to forswear their evil trade, but to the Pirate King it is better far to live and die under the brave black flag they fly than play a sanctimonious part with a pirate head and a pirate heart.

Ruth begs Frederic to take her with him, but although he believes her to be beautiful, never having seen another woman, he declines, mentioning that a lady of forty-seven might possibly be too old for a lad of twenty-one. Unfortunately for Ruth, Frederic just then sees true beauty for the first time, as a bevy of maidens trips lightly in, picnic-bound, climbing over rocky mountain.

They are shocked by his pirate attire and he pleads in vain, oh, is there not one maiden breast that will be moved by such a one as he? There doesn't seem to be one, no, not one.

Yes, One! Mabel! Entering, she courageously volunteers to sacrifice her future to save Frederic's peace of mind, berates her sisters, and bids Frederic, poor wandering one, to take heart - her heart, in fact.

The pirates enter stealthily. Each seizes a girl, all having been struck with the happy thought that here is a first-rate opportunity to get married with impunity. This plan falls foul of the fact, which Mabel announces, that all the girls are wards in Chancery, their father being a Major-General. This is substantiated by the arrival of Mabel's father, who drives the point home by making it quite clear that he is the very model of a modern Major-General.

While this impresses the pirates, they persist in demanding General Stanley's daughters in marriage. But he plays upon their softheartedness by announcing that he is an orphan (the news has got about that the Pirates of Penzance, being orphans themselves, are very tenderhearted about all others.) They allow him to go in peace with his daughters and with Frederic, while poor Ruth remains reluctantly behind.

ACT II

In a ruined Chapel, before the tombs of his ancestors (he is their decendant by purchase, since he has bought the estate just recently), General Stanley shamefacedly confesses to Frederic and Mabel that he is not really an orphan. Frederic comforts him, tells him his preparations for the coming pirate purge, and is proposing to Mabel when the policemen, who are to exterminate the pirates, enter and put off their expedition somewhat by explaining how uncomfortably they feel when the foeman bares his steel.

Frederic is about to join them in their glorious exploit when Ruth and the Pirate King arrive, announcing that they have just discovered a most ingenious paradox. Frederic was born on leap-year day and thus won't reach his twenty-first birthday until 1940. He is, therefore, still legally apprenticed to the pirates.

Being a slave of duty, Frederic again resumes his indentures and is forced in all honour to tell the pirates that General Stanley is not really an orphan. Ah, leave me not to pine, Mabel tells him, but Frederic's sense of duty wins out.

The police return, and, explaining that a policeman's lot is not a happy one, reluctantly plan to arrest the pirates. Hearing a pirate chorus in the distance, they conceal themselves. The pirates enter, stealing with cat-like tread upon their prey, General Stanley. Just as the pirates are about to do away with the Major-General, the constabulary springs into action - and is rapidly overwhelmed. All are about to be despatched when they play their trump card, drawing small Union Jacks from their bosoms and charging the pirates to yield, in Queen Victoria's name. Naturally, the pirates yield immediately, because, with all their faults. they love their Queen. Ruth secures their pardon by revealing that they are not common criminals at all, but are noblemen who have gone wrong. So of course they are forgiven, and General Stanley invites them all to resume their ranks and legislative duties and to marry his daughters.

THE HAMPTON SINGERS

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS	BASSES
Thelma Borley	Betty Blennerhasset	Andy Cassey	Christopher Docker
Vicky Cardwell	Bessie Earnshaw	Richard Cook	Kit Edwards
Christine Cook	Lesley Eno	Michael Gough	Malcolm Owen
Hilary Crosby	Jane Glaze	Ted Howarth	Alan Smyth
Judth Docker	Frances Gray	Peter Mace	George Thorpe
Sandra Heard	Anne King	Ron Webb	Tony Worthington
Anne Insull	Pauline Oram		
Sue Kiely	Shelagh Paton		
Cheryl Manton	Anthea Purchase		
Elisabeth Morris			
Betty Rackham			
Jill Siddall			
Ursula Smyth			
Sarah Steele			
Sandy Wasse			

DIRECTOR:-

Andrew Dicks

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