



Congratulations

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD 2016

Having transformed ourselves from mere mortals, and journeying through some occasionally hellish patches (The Tech!), we managed to reach the heavenly heights of producing a fantastic show that was universally well-received. Visually the show looked stunning, the musical performances were strong, and thanks must go to all those involved in Direction, Production, Costumes, Cast, Back-stage and Technical Crew, Front of House and of course the many in the audience. We received a lot of help from members of TOADS backstage, information on their current production can be found at www.toads-drama.co.uk/.

We also managed to break all Olympic records in the charity collections as well.

Cardiac Risk in the Young: £190; Weston Park Hospital Cancer Charity: £314.58; Cathedral Archer Project: £258.44 (cash-matched to £516.88); Sheffield Hospitals Charity: £342.
Grand Total: £1,105.02 (£1,363.46 with cash-matching).

Thank you to our generous audiences for making such a difference!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 7th September: DVD of John Savournin's Mikado production at Millhouses.
- 14th September: Mikado sing through at Millhouses.
- 17th September: Final Summer Concert, North Anston
- 21st September: Mikado Rehearsals begin at Millhouses.
- 9th October: Mikado Auditions
- 17th-19th March 2017: Classical Sheffield Weekend Festival
- 2nd April-8th April 2017 Mikado Show Week



NODA REVIEW FOR ORPHEUS

As known in Sheffield the audience talk their way through the overture at amateur productions so it really was a pleasure to listen to the long overture played by a good orchestra and no talking!

The quality of singing from all the principals was excellent with good diction, no mics in use (I applaud them for this - bearing in mind the Montgomery Theatre is not small - seating 400-500) with their excellent characterisation they all made a first class line-up. It was also great to hear four-part harmony from the ensemble.

Much work had gone into the costumes, most of which had been provided by the members. The set was very simple, but effective and worked well.

Keep up your good work with the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire and the occasional operetta.

Author: Mary Titterton

Source: https://www.noda.org.uk/events/reports/orpheus_in_the_underworld_3

PRESENTS

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Thank you to our outgoing Chairman, Mark White

As most of you will know, Mark has retired as Chairman of the Society, having performed the task for four years.

He will now be able to return to the 'back benches', and spend his time enjoying the rehearsals, concerts and shows without the responsibility that 'high office' brings.

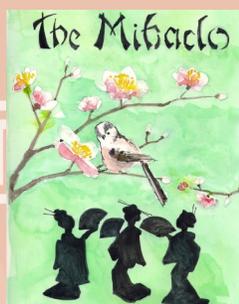
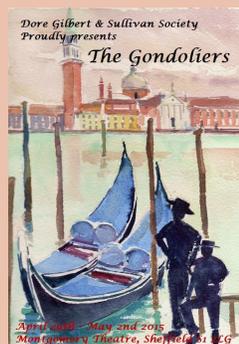
I think that everyone will agree that during his time as Chairman, whenever decisions have had to be made, no matter how difficult, he has performed the job with an air of calmness and dignity that is an inspiration to us all.

In the words of Gilbert from *The Grand Duke*:

'Oh, the man who can rule a theatrical crew,
Each member a genius (and some of them two),
And manage to humour them, early or late,
Can govern this tupenny state!'

Mark, thank you.

Richard Cotton



SUMMER CONCERTS

Dore, 2nd July; Kingfield Conference Centre (Sheffield Jewish Congregation), 13th July; Crossing Church, Worksop, 23rd July

The offshoot of Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society, the TroubaDores, have held a very successful series of Summer Concerts under the guidance of Monica Eyley and accompanied by Peter Waring and Alan Smith. We welcomed two new members who joined us for the concerts, Alice Nelson and John Gallaher.

The aim of the concerts this year was to showcase our strong chorus singing and to engage with new audiences.

We held our traditional spot on the Saturday of the Dore Festival in July and performed to an audience of over 100. The concert was dedicated to the memory of David Bramah (see page 7), and £139 was raised for Bluebell Wood in his memory.

We then held concerts at two brand new venues, hoping to spread awareness of the Society to new groups and areas. On the 13th July we sang in front of a small but appreciative audience at the Sheffield Jewish Congregation on Psalter Lane as part of their series of afternoon events. This raised £150. We also branched out into Bassetlaw with a performance at the Crossing Church at Worksop, a lovely venue to sing in.

We have one final summer concert to come, again at a new venue, at North Anston.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Kathryn, Bob and their son Freddie on the birth of Joseph William Alwyn Parkin on May 6th 2016 at 10.42pm weighing 9lb 12oz.

Joe has already been practising his scales and is thinking of joining the Tenor section, he certainly has the lungs for it!



FRIENDS OF THE MONTGOMERY THEATRE

Members of the Committee recently attended a meeting for society users of the Montgomery Theatre. A working group has been formed in response to the state of the building and problems when groups and audiences are using it. A committee has been set up with the aim of trying to improve the theatre alongside the Montgomery officials. To help with fundraising, a ball has been organised at Kenwood Hall on the 4th February. Information on this has been forwarded to members. Another idea is to hold a joint show amongst the groups that use the theatre.

The Montgomery theatre officials have very little access to funds and are applying for grants for the major work. Quotes they have had for the work that needs doing is into the hundred's of thousands. The leaky roof, the lack of a lift, toilets, and auditorium seats are all needing extensive work and it is unlikely that

these will be done soon. They had to repair the boiler and chimney and have a new lighting rig this year. They are trying to redevelop the flat and get a tenant in and want people to use the rehearsal spaces available there. They have improved the bar area and a company called Little Mesters who run Abbeydale Industrial hamlet café have recently taken it over. They can now do after show parties for groups and have a licence to serve alcohol.

More recently a Facebook group 'Friends of the Montgomery Theatre' has been set up and they have organised a clean-up of the Theatre and have also repainted large sections. They are in communication with all societies to find some ideas for achievable goals for this volunteer group. If you are on Facebook, please join the group and learn more about what is going on, you may have skills or know someone that can help.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The After Show Party at the Showroom was a lovely occasion, a good venue, good food and good company meant a great night was had by all.

We have also held the Eurovision sweepstake which was won by Yvonne Smith's Ukraine, and a Euro 2016 sweepstake, won by Susan Oxley's Portugal.

At the end of August, Anne and Alan Senior hosted the annual barbeque, which raised £90. Many thanks to all those involved in organising the food and cooking!

COMING UP

SEP-DEC:

- A repeat of the excellent Dore G&S Bake-Off
- Alan Wade's Quiz Night



The Mikado: 2017

SHOW DETAILS

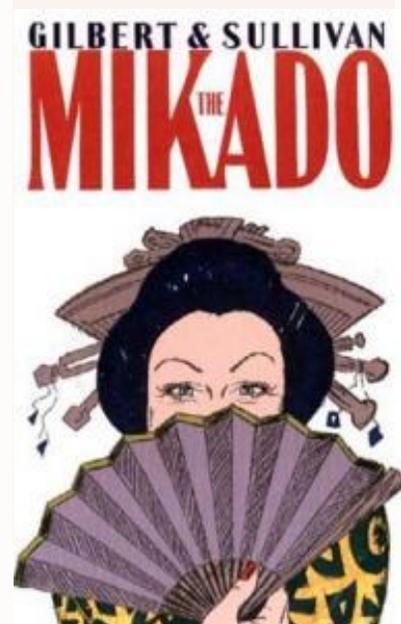
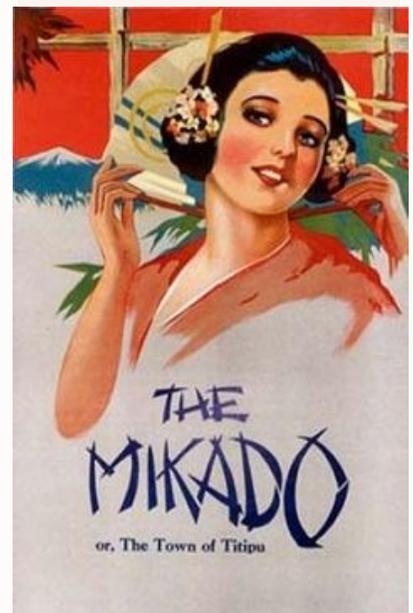
We are pleased to announce that our Director for this show will be Graham Weston and our Musical Director is Nigel Martin.

The Montgomery Theatre has been booked and the show dates are Wednesday 5th April to Saturday 8th April, 2017.

Rehearsals will begin on 7th September, 2016.

Auditions will be held on Sunday 9th October, 2016.

If you do not have a score then please check with the Committee, as a number of members have spare copies they would be willing to lend out for this show.



**CLASSICAL
SHEFFIELD
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**



Classical music in Sheffield has received a tremendous boost following the success of a bid from Classical Sheffield for major funding from Arts Council England.

The funding, totalling £35,000, will allow the group to build on the success of the Classical Sheffield Festival of Music 2015 with another weekend festival from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th March 2017, continuing to expand and enrich the Steel City's classical music offering.

The programme for the 2017 festival is shaping up brilliantly, with already confirmed highlights including performances from the world famous Hallé orchestra, acclaimed contemporary ensemble Psappha and a celebration of the life and work of Pierre Boulez organised by the University of Sheffield. Dore G&S Society hopes to once again be part of this event.

The festival will also host the UK premiere of John Luther Adams' 'Canticles of the Sky' for 48 cellos, drawing on talent from across Yorkshire to participate, before reaching a spectacular conclusion with a choral concert on a huge scale, performed by hundreds of local singers.

Concerts will take place across a wide range of Sheffield venues, including Sheffield City Hall, Sheffield Firth Hall, Sheffield Cathedral, Blue Moon Café and Yellow Arch Studios.

Deborah Chadbourn, Executive Director of Music in the Round, said:

"I'm very excited that Sheffield will host the second Classical Weekend Festival in March 2017. Once again the city will be brought to life by thousands of musicians sharing a huge variety of music with thousands of Sheffielders. Next year's festival will be bigger and more spectacular than last year's, and with additional funding from the Arts Council, will involve more people from throughout the city. There'll be more opportunities for children and young people, more music from around the world, and an exciting finale comprising hundreds of singers from the city's many choirs."

The 14th and 15th October 2016 will also see a Classical Sheffield Mini-Festival in Sheffield's Winter Garden, with a series of free pop-up performances showcasing many of the city's finest musical groups in this unique city centre location.

With two fantastic events over the next year set to bring a wealth of international talent to Sheffield and provide exciting opportunities for the city's own musicians to get involved, the future of classical music in Sheffield has never looked brighter.





In Memoriam

David Bramah had been a member of Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society since 1971, shortly after it was set up by a group of local aficionados including Norah Hollis, Peter Maxwell, John Wade and Caroline Heslop (nee Armitage) in 1970. During that time he has played every tenor role in the G&S operettas and was an active member of the Troubadores right up to his death.

David was born in Sheffield 82 years ago and after school (King Edward VII) studied metallurgy at university. He went on to work for AVROE in Woodford where he met Sheila whom he later married.

David has always been active in the theatre but before taking up with any society he used to sing in competitions in which he achieved considerable success. Sheila told me that his very first part was in about 1959 in a play called

The Gift in which he played a naive, gormless twit who had no idea how to get on with the opposite sex and it was down to a worldly maid (played by Sheila) who had to help him along. Apparently, the local reviewer said that he did not understand how the group put up with such an idiot not knowing that David and Sheila were to get engaged the following week! David must have played the part well.

After moving back to Sheffield to take up a position in the family firm he was pressed (not hard!) into joining Sheffield Light Opera with whom he sang for many years. He also joined The Tudor Players and was a stalwart there for the best part of 50 years. He has sung with Dore Male Voice Choir since about 2000 and was a keen golfer which he took up on retirement as a member of Hallows Golf club in Dronfield.

He held several offices within the Society, latterly as President, every one of which was held with distinction. He always wanted the society to improve and did not suffer poor work gladly. He could be pointed but always had the best interest of the society at heart. Having said that, one of my abiding memories is of David and another tenor, Tony Evans, who died some years ago, when playing Phantis and Scaphio in Utopia Ltd helping each other get into tights that were too small with a gusset somewhere around their knees. The memory always makes me laugh.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren. He will be missed by many.

Derek Habberjam