

11-6-1999

Homecoming Weekend Concert: Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial By Jury

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Recommended Citation

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



HOMECOMING WEEKEND CONCERT

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND CHOIR

Jeffrey Riehl, conductor

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND ORCHESTRA

Fred Cohen, conductor

Gilbert and Sullivan

TRIAL BY JURY



NOVEMBER 6, 1999, 8:00 P.M.
CAMP CONCERT HALL
BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC
GEORGE M. MODLIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PROGRAM

Symphony no. 4, op. 36 Pytor II'yich Tchaikovsky
IV. Finale. Allegro con fuoco (1840-1893)

University of Richmond Orchestra
Fred Cohen, conductor

Trial by Jury Arthur Sullivan
Libretto by W. S. Gilbert (1842-1900)

The Learned Judge. Donald Armstrong, baritone

The Plaintiff (Angelina). Laura Knouse, soprano

The Defendant (Edwin). Jeffrey Riehl, tenor

Counsel for the Plaintiff. John Guthmiller, tenor

Usher. Matthew Worth, baritone

Foreman of the Jury. Jay W. Beville, baritone

Bridesmaids, Gentleman of the Jury, Barristers, Attorneys,
Public. The University Choir

University of Richmond Choir
University of Richmond Orchestra
Fred Cohen, conductor

NOTES

Trial by Jury was not Gilbert and Sullivan's first work together, but it was the piece that established the collaboration for good, marking the beginning of a run of extraordinary successes over the next twenty years that changed the face of musical theatre in English. Conceived in some haste as a one-act filler for an evening's entertainment that featured Offenbach's *La Perichole*, *Trial by Jury* quickly became the real hit of the production. Its success encouraged the librettist Gilbert and the composer Sullivan to collaborate on a full-length work, and within a very short time the phrase "Gilbert and Sullivan" had become a virtual brand name guaranteeing a theatrical piece of high quality in the best of taste produced with the utmost polish.

Trial by Jury was a most happy fluke. Gilbert had written the libretto for the composer Carl Rosa, who intended to set it as a vehicle for his wife, Euphrosyne Parepa-Rosa. But she died before he had written the score, so Rosa returned the text to Gilbert unset. One day in January 1875, Gilbert happened to call upon a friend who was helping to mount a production of *La Perichole*, for which they still needed a short work to fill out the evening. Gilbert was asked if he could help, and he thought of his unused *Trial by Jury*.

At the friend's suggestion, Gilbert tried to interest Sullivan in the piece.

Although *Trial by Jury* comes very early in the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership, it already has most of the standard elements of their mature style. The most important of these was Gilbert's insistence on the comic use of a disjunction between appearance and reality. When the curtain rises, the audience was to find an utterly realistic courtroom scene, but once the piece is underway, this serious and realistic setting becomes the locale of the most ludicrous and comical activities. Most of the Gilbert and Sullivan characters are present: the comic patter baritone, the vapid tenor, the pretty but self-seeking soprano, and the male and female choruses, each characterized as a distinct group.

The remarkable success of *Trial by Jury* encouraged Gilbert and Sullivan to think of themselves as a team, and a team they remained for the next twenty years. By that time, they had produced a lasting body of works for the musical theatre -- a larger number of successes, and of consistently higher quality than that of any other partnership in theatrical history. *Trial by Jury* is the smallest of their fourteen works, but it is also among the most perfect.

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND ORCHESTRA

Fred Cohen, conductor

FIRST VIOLIN

Jane Hoffman, co-principal
Ilan McNamara, co-principal
Jessica Gilmore
Jack Gauntlett
Julie Hayes
Kim Forquer
Frances Lin
Mason Morris
Chung-In Park

SECOND VIOLIN

Aaron Aunins, principal
Rebecca Pinkham
Emily D'Antonio
Emily Erb
Kelly Hart
Iris Redmond
Alanna Rice
Judy Shim
Mary Yoon

VIOLA

Jenny Bernard, principal
Kathrine Dixon
Tom Calder
Danielle Haskins
Allyson Ladley
Meghan McDonald
Jennifer Smith
Dick Stone

CELLO

James Tripp, principal
Steven Hoyle
Jenny Dertinger
Adam Kerr
Lisa Marshall
Tom Rivituso
Kevin Stults

BASS

Joe LaPaglia

FLUTE

Tara Arness
Eva Chang
Jamie Beth Paulson
Marsha Kronman

OBOE

Jen Magee
Meghan Pesch

CLARINET

Steve Ahearn
Elaine Buccheimer
Betsy Plunket
Simone Renz

BASSOON

Stephanie Allen
Catherine Massie

FRENCH HORN

Ed Aunins
Ruth Auman
Mary Beth Hall
Robert Gabler

TRUMPET

Julie Cillo
Sean Linfors

TROMBONE/TUBA

Robert Wagenknecht
William W. Franklin
David Davis
Alan Hall

PERCUSSION

John Hubbard
Ray del Savio

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND CHOIR

Jeffrey Riehl, conductor

Keith Tan, accompanist

Jessica Aber
Laura Ahlstrom
Kristen Alexander
Ben Alonso
Christina Andreassi
Catharine Archer
Sarah Asbell
Julie Bevevino
Chris Botterbusch
Ben Brown
Jennifer Brown
Samantha Burnett
Cathleen Campbell
Katie Caputo
Kessiah Carlbom
Carolyn Clements
Kendra Corey
Esther Daily
Dabney DeHaven
Christina DeLillo
Andrea DelMonte

Kaitlin Dewhurst
Abby Doolittle
Holly Gordon
Karen Greiner
Bonnie Grysko
Kelly Hackett
Glen Henkle
Sarah Hormell
Jill Jackson
Allison Kane
Megan Kulp
Eric Lovitt
Jennifer Magee
Lauren McGovern
Sally Metzler
Melanie Mitchell
Matthew Nelson
Christopher Nielsen
Patricia North

Ellen O'Nan
Patrick Okas
Denise Olivieri
R. Neil Palik
Christina Petry
Liz Rennix
Randall Resnik
Laurie Rhoads
Bryan Riley
Marc Salmon
Kristy Shih
Terry Smith
Kathleen Smith
Christopher Snyder
Alison Stuart
Gina Todaro
Tom Trayer
Sarah Trimble
Mariko Uchiyama
Doris Wylee
Katy Young