

# *Pirates of Penzance*



AYRSHIRE PHILHARMONIC OPERA SOCIETY



# **AYRSHIRE PHILHARMONIC OPERA SOCIETY**

(An Amateur Society affiliated to the National Operatic and  
Dramatic Association, NODA SCOTLAND and Ayr Arts Guild)  
Website: [www.ayrshirephilharmonic.com](http://www.ayrshirephilharmonic.com)



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# Pirates of Penzance

## Principals

(in order of appearance)

Samuel (The Lieutenant) .....	Robin Doncaster
Frederic.....	Jim Faulds
The Pirate King .....	David Craig
Ruth (a Pirate Maid of All Work).....	Isobel Miller
Edith ) .....	Lorna McColm
Kate ) General Stanley's .....	Astrid Lawrence
Isabel ) Daughters.....	Sharon Clark
Mabel ) .....	Olive Lindsay
Major-General Stanley .....	Brian Johnston
Sergeant of Police .....	Andrew Miller

## Chorus of Pirates, Police and General Stanley's Daughters

Karen Bain, Rhona Brown, Sandra Cameron, Vicki Fairfoull,  
Fiona Irving, Raechel McGinn, Carolyn Monaghan, Margaret Nicol,  
Lilian O'Pray, Jessica Rodger, Elizabeth Sutherland  
Mark Bentham, Michael Gibb, David Helps,  
Jim Kelly, Simon Lamb, Tom McCarroll,  
Martin McCutcheon, Ian McGaffney, David Reid

## Orchestra

Andrew Nicol - Piano; Emma Roche - Flute; Simon Browne - Clarinet  
Ray Munday - Trumpet; Denis Kane - Trombone  
Ross Saunders - Bass; Robert McCabe - Percussion

# Production Officials

Music under the direction of .....	Andrew Nicol
Production under the direction of .....	Alan C. Jones
Rehearsal Accompanist .....	Ann Miller
Stage Manager .....	Roger Robinson
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Lynn Bradley
Wardrobe Mistress .....	Ella Kerr
Assistant Wardrobe Mistress .....	Shona Quayle
Make-Up .....	Under the supervision of Irene Bartholomew
Properties .....	Judith Robinson and Alison Smith
Prompt .....	Senga Johnston and Susan Pye
Calls .....	Margaret Doncaster and Helen Reid
Housemaster .....	Ron Brown
Child Protection Officer .....	Margaret Doncaster
Publicity .....	Susan Pye
Programme Committee .....	Joan Brock, Shona Quayle, John Cartner and Robin Doncaster
Programme Cover Design .....	Fiona Quayle
Programme Photographer .....	Andrew Mitchell
Company Photographer .....	Alan Lee-Bourke
Archive Photographer .....	T. Davies Brock
Costumes .....	Utopia Costumes Ltd.
Scenery .....	The Border Studios, Selkirk

# Andrew Miller

In 1965 some members of the Doon Valley Male Voice Choir joined the Society to "beef up" the male chorus in the Society's production of "Merrie England". Andrew Miller was one of them and this is where his long relationship with the Philharmonic began. At age 10 Andy's first public appearance was in the school concert where he sang "The Laughing Policeman". At age 16 he was introduced to the Gaiety Theatre when he took part in the Boy's Brigade Bandbook.

In the early 80's Neilson (Jeff) Taylor who was a singing teacher at the RSAMD came to live in Dundonald. Andy telephoned him and asked for some singing lessons. Jeff, when hearing Andy's

audition said "you don't have much of a voice, do you?". However he took Andy on and consequently

Andy proceeded to play many bigger and

better parts in the Society's productions. As a member of the Philharmonic he played major roles including Luiz in "The Gondoliers", Nanki Poo in "The Mikado", Hajj and the Caliph in two productions of "Kismet" to name but a few.

While performing with the Society, Andy was also a member of the

local singing group "Rondo" and Ayr Intimate

Opera where he took part in some grand

Operas such as "Madame Butterfly", "Tales of Hoffman" and "Carmen". He was also a member of the very well known Arran Choir and several other singing societies. Andy has participated in numerous Burns' Suppers and many concerts over the years.

*"Die Fledermaus" 1982*

Andy has been a most loyal and successful member of the Philharmonic for forty years and is to be congratulated by his fellow members and audiences on this wonderful achievement, receiving his Long Service Bar.



*"The Gondoliers" 1977*



*"Trial by Jury" 2002*

# Pirates - A Brief History

Penzance seems an unlikely setting for "Pirates", so what can possibly have inspired Gilbert & Sullivan to collaborate on such a subject. A little research has disclosed that pirates abounded on the South Coast of England in the reign of Elizabeth I and the Victorians loved to romanticise the past and looked back with special fondness to the time of another great Queen. Elizabeth I was always glad to cause as much inconvenience as possible to the Spanish whose ships on "The Spanish Main" were notorious for carrying gold. This was an attractive proposition and "Letters of Marque" were given to a number of gentlemen allowing them to work as Privateers under licence from the Monarch. This was supposed to grant immunity from being considered a common criminal but those on the receiving end of their attentions could not always appreciate the difference and the Privateers were not always given the immunity they expected.

One such was Edward Teach known as Blackbeard who began as a Privateer during the War of the Spanish Succession, but when that was over he turned to Piracy, terrorising the coastal settlements of Virginia and Carolina sailing in "an acquired" French vessel which he equipped with 40 guns. He was assisted in his endeavours by Charles Eden, the Governor of North Carolina, with whom he shared his booty but eventually at the ardent request of the Governor of Virginia, a British Navel force was sent under the command of Lieutenant Robert Maynard who engaged with Teach and after a ferocious fight succeeded in killing him. To this day no one has found his fabled buried treasure.

To return to the earlier Privateers of Queen Elizabeth I, they counted among their number Sir Henry Morgan, Sir Francis Drake, Sirs Richard and John Hawkins (a father and son) and Sir Richard Grenville. One can understand where the line near the end of the production, referring to the pirates as "all being the sons of gentlemen" had its origins and given the Victorian delight in romanticising the past, perhaps it was not such a surprising subject for Gilbert & Sullivan after all.

**Shona Quayle**