

ME AND MY GIRL



2011
AYRSHIRE PHILHARMONIC OPERA SOCIETY



*Affiliated to the
National Operatic and
Dramatic Association*

AYRSHIRE PHILHARMONIC OPERA SOCIETY



ME AND MY GIRL

AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

BOOK AND LYRICS BY
L. ARTHUR ROSE & DOUGLAS FURBER

MUSIC BY
NOEL GAY

BOOK REVISED BY **STEPHEN FRY**
CONTRIBUTIONS TO REVISIONS BY **MIKE OCKRENT**

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE,
LONDON, BY RICHARD ARMITAGE

SUBSEQUENTLY PRODUCED AT THE MARQUIS THEATRE,
NEW YORK CITY, BY RICHARD ARMITAGE,
TERRY ALLEN KRAMER, JAMES M. NEDERLANDER
AND STAGE PROMOTIONS LTD & CO.

AYR TOWN HALL
15-19 NOVEMBER 2011 7.30pm
SATURDAY MATINEE 2.00pm

AYRSHIRE PHILHARMONIC OPERA SOCIETY

Web-site: www.ayrshirephilharmonic.com

Scottish Charity No. SC 016729



OFFICE BEARERS 2011

Hon. President

Ronald Brash

Hon. Vice-Presidents

Nan Templeton, Bill Gardner, Freda Henderson

President

Irene Bartholomew

Hon. Secretary

Margaret Doncaster

Hon. Assistant Secretary

Irene Bartholomew

Hon. Treasurer

David J. Quayle, C.A.

Hon. Assistant Treasurer

Helen Reid

Executive Committee

Brian Johnston, Heather O'Pray, Margaret Nicol,
Robin Doncaster, Karen Bain, David Reid

Hon. Life Members

Ronald Brash, Joan Brock, T. Davies Brock, Robin Doncaster,
Bill Gardner, Freda Henderson, Ella Kerr, Andrew Miller, Joyce Orr,
Robert Pratt, Judith Robinson, Roger Robinson,
Nan Templeton, Ann Thomson, Myra Watt.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Good evening friends and welcome to Ayr Town Hall.

Our APOS Executive, Production Team and Society members have been working assiduously to create a real theatre atmosphere and bring to this stage a superb Show to entertain you. We have commissioned a splendid and unique "set" for "Me and My Girl" and are confident you will agree the final result is superb. This purpose built set seeks to bring the theatre ambience to you since you are unable, currently, to access a real theatre here in Ayr.

The bright costumes, sparkling dialogue and familiar catchy music all combine to transport you from the dark winter evening of mid November, 2011 back to the balmy summer of the Home Counties in the 1930s, an era of elegance and innocent, flirtatious fun!

A special "thank you" to the Production Team of Andrew Nicol, Linda Ormiston and choreographer Gwyneth Grant who have worked tirelessly bringing all the elements of "Me & My Girl" together, ably

supported by all the back room team under the guidance of Stage Manager Mike Wright. This has involved visits to costumiers, technical meetings with set builders and sound and lighting engineers and we record our thanks to the Town Hall staff who have responded to all our enquiries and requests with very good grace! Thanks are also due to the Executive and APOS members, whose unfailing efforts have sustained me so well throughout what has been a very difficult year for me, and to whom I am so grateful.

There has been so much speculation surrounding the reopening of our beloved Gaiety Theatre and the reasons and excuses as to why this has not been established are, quite frankly becoming tedious and wearisome in the extreme – suffice to say we at APOS persevere in working hard behind the scenes to support the re-establishment of the Theatre as a performing venue and continue to live in hope that this will become a reality . . . one day in the not too distant future.

Now it is time for the lights to



dim on you, our expectant audience and soon the final chords of the orchestral opening will be fading away, as the thrill of a shared live experience, where anything can happen, kicks in ... allow yourself to step into another realm.

Thank you to our patrons and friends for your continued support – please sit back, relax and prepare to join The Lambeth Walk!

Irene Bartholomew

★ STORY OF THE SHOW

In the late 1930s, if you were in with the aristocratic in-crowd, then Hareford Hall was THE place to go for a weekend in the country.

But all is not well in the stately pile! - the late Earl has inconsiderately died without a legitimate heir. The title and all the family fortunes will now pass to the offspring of a somewhat dubious

dalliance with someone from a class much lower down the social scale than the Hareford's.

Speculation is rife as to the identity of this upstart and when the prospective heir duly turns up in the person of Bill Snibson, a "costermonger" from the London parish of Lambeth, the snobbish family is appalled. Well, apart from the gold-digging

Lady

Jacqueline, who knows a good meal ticket when she sees one and is prepared to stop at nothing to get her

hands on the millions, including ditching her fiance, the simpering Gerald Bolingbroke.

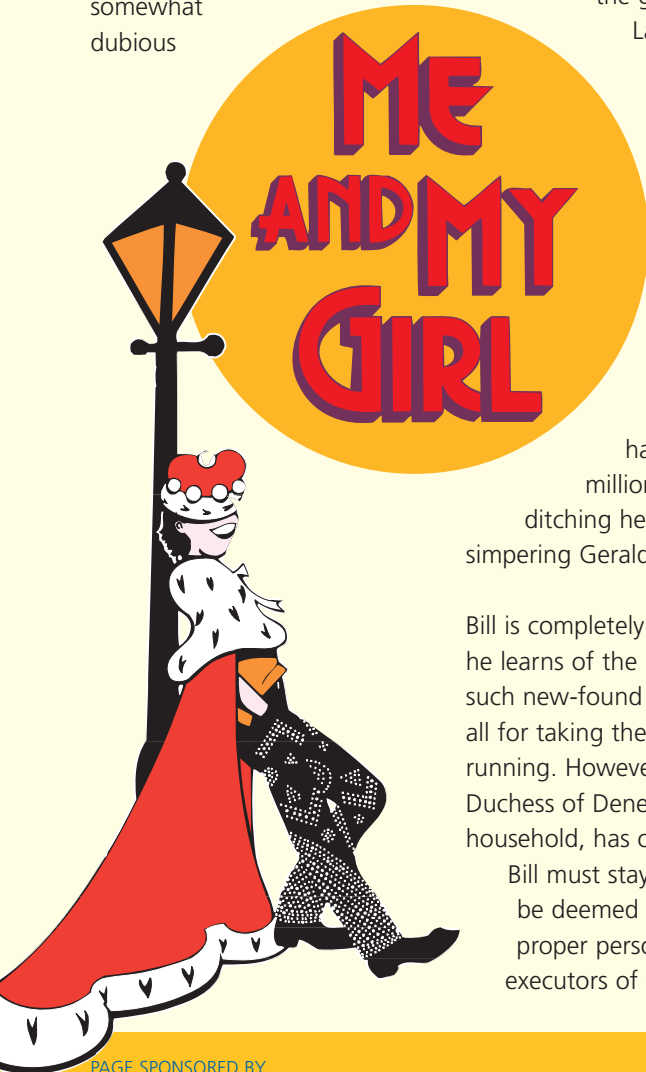
Bill is completely floored when he learns of the prospect of such new-found wealth and is all for taking the money and running. However Maria, Duchess of Dene, head of the household, has other ideas.

Bill must stay at Hareford, be deemed a fit and proper person by the executors of the Estate -

the Duchess and Sir John Tremayne and he must 'perpetuate' the distinguished family line alongside a fit and proper consort. Bill's quite happy with that - he can perpetuate all he wants with his girlfriend, Sally Smith, who's definitely fit and proper for him! That's not quite what the Duchess has in mind! But she is convinced she can turn Bill into a proper gentleman, much to the consternation of the rest of the family, though her future plans for him certainly do not include Sally.

When Sally arrives at the Hall, she is completely dazzled by Bill's new surroundings but despite his assurances, she is convinced that there is no place for her in his lofty lifestyle and is determined to go back to Lambeth.

Will Sally stay at Hareford Hall? Will the Duchess get her way and turn Bill into a fitting head of Hareford? What's going to happen to Gerald and Jacqueline? And for whom has Sir John been carrying a secret torch all these years? Come with us on a joyous journey to find out what happens when the English upper class collide head on with London cockney life.



★ CAST OF CHARACTERS

Bill Snibson
Sally Smith
Maria, Duchess of Dene
Sir John Tremayne
Lady Jacqueline Carstone
The Hon. Gerald Bolingbroke
Herbert Parchester
Sir Jasper Tring
Charles, the Butler
Lord Battersby
Lady Battersby/Mrs Brown
Cook
Mrs Worthington-Worthington
Lady Brighton
Sophia Stainsley-Asherton
Pearly King
Pearly Queen
Constable
Telegraph Boy
Cockney Girl

Adam Dawson
Pauline Kerr
Margaret Nicol
James Nicol
Wendy-Anne Duncan
Graham Duffy
Andrew Miller
Tom McCarroll
Robin Doncaster
Jim Kelly
Lorna McColm
Lilian O'Pray
Maureen McCarroll
Karen Bain
Elizabeth Sutherland
Michael Gibb
Lesley McGhee
Leom Gray
Keir Beckwith
Jessica Rodger

ANCESTORS

Robin Doncaster, Jim Kelly, David Reid, Leom Gray

GUESTS, SERVANTS, AND COCKNEYS

Heather Armstrong, Karen Bain, Keir Beckwith, Jane Eaglesham, Sandra Erskine, Pamela Foster, Michael Gibb, Leom Gray, Maureen McCarroll, Lesley McGhee, Carolyn Monaghan, Heather O'Pray, Lilian O'Pray, David Reid, Charlotte Rodger, Jessica Rodger, Yvonne Sheehan, Elizabeth Sutherland, Kathleen Thomas.

BAND

Andrew Nicol – Keyboards
Henry Fullerton – Bass
Robert McCabe – Percussion
Emma Roche - Flute
Simon Browne - Reeds
Ray Munday – Trumpet
Alan Scott – Trombone



PRODUCTION OFFICIALS



ANDREW NICOL
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



LINDA ORMISTON
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Artistic Directors.....	Andrew Nicol and Linda Ormiston
Choreographer	Gwyneth Grant
Stage Manager	Michael Wright
Wardrobe Mistress	Shona Quayle
Assistant Wardrobe Mistress	Sandra Cameron
Make-Up.....	Under the supervision of Irene Bartholomew
Properties.....	Alison Smith
Prompt	David Russell
Calls.....	Margaret Doncaster and Helen Reid
Child Protection Officer	Margaret Doncaster
Housemaster	John Sutherland
Assistant Housemaster.....	Robert Bartholomew
Publicity.....	Margaret Doncaster and Irene Bartholomew
Programme Committee.....	Joan Brock, Shona Quayle, John Cartner and Robin Doncaster
Programme Photographer.....	Andrew Mitchell
Company Photographer	Ron Brown
Archive Photographer.....	T. Davies Brock
Costumes.....	Utopia Costumes Ltd
Set Design	James Paterson
Set Construction	SCENEEngineering Ltd
Sound and Lighting Design.....	Sono Vie
Ancestral Portrait Design.....	Maureen Hutton

THE PEARLIES

Henry Croft was, according to records, born in 1862 in the Charleston Street Orphanage in the Somers Town area of London.

He was looked after there till he was 13 when he had to make his own way in the world. He was employed as a municipal street sweeper in Somerston Market.

As he grew up there, he was much impressed and influenced by the kindness and mutual support which the costermongers in the markets offered to each other. Sometimes they would gather small sums of money to help out colleagues who might have financial difficulties caused by illness for example. Henry decided that he would collect money for the children in the orphanage where he had been brought up.

At that time it was the custom of the costermongers to sew mother of pearl buttons along the seams on the outside of their trousers and also on their caps and waistcoat flaps. It was a way of identifying

themselves as traders as opposed to customers on the busy markets. Henry had collected many lost things during his sweeping including as you can imagine many of the pearl buttons which had fallen off.

In order to make himself identifiable, he decided to sew buttons on to his suit but he went much further than the costermongers and made patterns on his clothes, an anchor for hope, a cross for faith, a heart for love and a wheel for the cycle of life.

He was so successful in his endeavours that his services were much in demand from other organisations in need of support. The work became more than he could handle on his own and he had to enlist help. Thus was born the idea of the Pearly Kings and Queens who took the decoration of their clothes to new heights. Each King and Queen, usually a husband and wife team, was assigned an area and they, along with their families, supported charities and hospitals and schools within their area.

Today they are a recognised organisation with charitable trust status who collect money by all sorts of endeavours for many organised mainstream charities. Some of the people involved to-day are descendants of the original families. Henry died in 1930 and his funeral was attended by 400 Pearly Kings and Queens and was filmed by Pathe News.

What an inspirational legacy has been left by a man who had such an unpromising start in life, and what a sad sign of the times it is to know that the statue which was erected to his memory, and which stood in St. Pancras Cemetery Islington, has had to be removed due to vandalism and has been replaced with a headstone bearing a photograph of the statue.





The Society were delighted to be awarded two Trophies for Runner-Up in the NODA Scotland Programme and Poster Competitions for our show **"The Music Man"**.

The Programme Sub-Committee shows John Cartner, Robin Doncaster, Joan Brock and Shona Quayle.



POWER **TRANSPORT**

MOT TESTING, CLASS 4, 5, & 7

Servicing & Repairs • Breakdown Recovery

Tel: 01563 550333

OFF CAMPBELL STREET KILMARNOCK

★ OUR PRESIDENT

IRENE BARTHOLOMEW



The Gipsy Baron 1979

Irene was also President of the Society in 1990 and 1991 and has been with APOS for 37 years having joined in 1974 taking part in "The Merry Widow" where she was a dancer. She played a Bridesmaid in "Trial by Jury" in 1975 and then continued in 1976 and 1978 by dancing again in "The Great Waltz" and "Orpheus in the Underworld". After this time she became a regular and enthusiastic member of the chorus. For the last decade she has been our director of Make-Up. Irene has fulfilled this role with tremendous diligence and great expertise.

Irene trained as a PE teacher and began her first teaching post at St. George's School for Girls in Edinburgh. She then

moved to Ayr to teach at Mainholm Academy. Career progression led her to become a Guidance Teacher. After further studies, she became a qualified teacher in Religious Education. Irene met her husband, Bob, at Mainholm Academy and they married in 1977. They have two sons, Iain and Alan and now are grandparents to Adam who was born in 2009.

Sport was always high on Irene's agenda and, in fact, she played hockey for "Ayr Ladies". Cricket and Lacrosse were also favourites and Irene often boasts that her games skirt played for Scotland (because she lent it to another girl whose skirt was damaged!).



Irene's mother was a keen member of the "Women's League of Health and Beauty". Irene has followed in her footsteps and has remained a member since her childhood. She is an active member of Ayr St. Columba Church being an Elder, choir member and Church Secretary.

Keeping fit is also high on Irene's priority list and holidaying on the Continent, or nearer to home, is also of great importance. Amateur photography and art also rank highly in her weekly routine.

We all wish Irene a successful two years as our President and thank her sincerely for her many years of loyalty with the Society.



La Vie Parisienne 1980

50 YEARS WITH THE PHILHARMONIC

Davies Brock joined the Society in 1961 and his first show was "Die Fledermaus" – a show he repeated in 1971 when he played the part of Dr. Blint. Other parts he played were Luiz in "The Gondoliers", Silas Simkins in "Merrie England", Pish Tush in "The Mikado" and Cheko the Butler in "Countess Maritza".

Davies met his wife Joan at the NODA Summer School at Ripon when they both took part in "The Pirates of Penzance" and they were married in 1970.

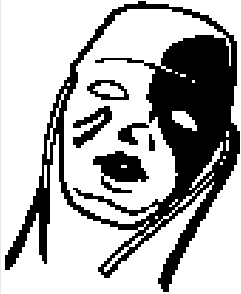
Davies has been Regional

Representative for NODA, District No.4, Scotland, for a number of years visiting clubs on the south side of Glasgow and in Ayrshire as far south as Ayr and taking in the Isle of Arran (his overseas visit!) and reporting on the productions for publication in the NODA Theatre Business and Amateur Stage magazines. Davies is also Hon. Solicitor to NODA Scotland.

He has always had a love of the theatre and was instrumental in having the Gaiety Theatre saved from demolition in the early 1970s when it received listed building status. Work is cur-

rently underway to bring the Theatre back into use and Philharmonic members sincerely hope it won't be much longer before we are back performing there.

Davies was Secretary of the Society for a long number of years and is also a Past President and Life Member of the Society and currently the Society's Archive Photographer. It is therefore most fitting that we acknowledge his considerable contribution to the Society over the past 50 years and his award of the NODA Gold Bar.



Ayr Arts Guild

An affiliation of local artistic, musical and dramatic societies.

Individual membership brings you into contact with the whole spectrum of artistic life in Ayr.

Syllabus and members forms available from the Business and Membership Secretary: Mr. Alastair M. Ritchie, 14 Savoy Court, Racecourse Road, Ayr, KA7 2XP. Tel: 01292 282107;

e-mail: alarit@supanet.com

Web-site: www.aag.org.uk

Awards 2011

KYLE ACADEMY AWARD FOR MUSIC & DRAMA

Sam Stopford

AYRSHIRE MUSIC FESTIVAL A.P.O.S. TROPHY FOR SCOTS SONGS

Aaron Robb

SOCIAL EVENTS

The change in format of our Burns celebrations

from the traditional Burns Supper to a more casual, free-flowing evening of songs, prose, funny stories, chat and good food resulted in "A Scot's Nicht wi' a drap o' Burns"! This event was an instant success and in February 2011 we celebrated the third such evening. All the talent on show is in-house with members joining the spirit of the night by singing traditional and new arrangements of Burns and time-honoured Scot's songs. Poetry on offer reflected a rich diversity of style and content and from home and abroad, all interspersed and co-ordinated with wit and charm. We were delighted to welcome two young friends this year Joanna Wilson and Tara Cunningham whose considerable talents wowed the company. Brian Johnston successfully drew

together all the performers and organised the programme; Andrew Nicol willingly accompanied the singers and Secretary Margaret has an ace team of caterers who year on year have produced a fabulous feast. The setting in Alloway Village Hall is excellent and adds to the homely feeling of this "new" event on the Society calendar. The night is open to all members and friends – if you have not managed to attend, make sure you keep an eye out for the details of the 2012 event.

In April this year, 12 members of the Society set off for a theatre week-end in London organised by Brian. After a rather eventful train journey we eventually arrived at King's Cross Station with just enough time to drop our bags at the Hotel and rush to the theatre – tea had to be

cancelled! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Love Never Dies" at the Adelphi. When Christine sang the Title song it made the hairs on your neck stand up. On the Saturday afternoon the company split, some going to "The Warhorse" and the others to "The Jersey Boys". In the latter group our seats were so good we were convinced the "boys" were singing just for us – if only! "The Warhorse" also received great reviews from the others. As is tradition, we spent Saturday evening together wining and dining before the journey home on the Sunday afternoon. In our free time on the Saturday morning, some of the group were lucky enough to meet a Pearly King and Queen. We were hoping for some helpful hints for OUR PRODUCTION.

