

The Merry Widows



**CLACTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
1978**

CLACTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

President: W. H. Timmens, Esq.

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M. Spurgeon, J. White

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Mr. G. Osborn

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. B. Balls, 38 Southcliff Park, Clacton-on-Sea

Hon. Auditors:

R. H. Brown and Company

A Message from the Chairman

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I once again welcome you to our Spring production, this time to our sixty-second show, the well-loved operetta "The Merry Widow". Not since "The New Moon" ten years ago have we staged what might be termed "an oldie" of this nature and I can assure you that the members of the Company are much looking forward to presenting once again the type of show that we know many of our patrons enjoy so much.

Musical shows of any vintage, and especially these pre-war productions, do call for large casts and nowadays we are finding it increasingly difficult to persuade men to come along and join our ranks—though the curious thing is that once they have been persuaded, they can then often be counted amongst our most enthusiastic members!

Once again then, an appeal. New members are the life blood of any society and if you have ever thought that you would like to be involved in the mounting of a musical show, do please have a word with any member of the Society, or, if you prefer, drop a line to Beryl, our Secretary—we would love to hear from you.

Very sincerely,

KEN ROWLANDS.

It is a pleasure to announce that, after the Saturday evening performance, a donation from the Society will be presented to the Clacton Branch, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, whose Golden Jubilee it is this year.

CLACTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY



Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Presents

THE MERRY WIDOW

*(By arrangement with N.O.D.A. Ltd. on behalf of
Glocken Verlag Ltd.)*

Music by FRANZ LEHÁR

Original Book and Lyrics by VICTOR LEON and LEO STEIN

New Book and Lyrics by PHIL PARK

Music adapted and arranged by RONALD HANMER

at the

PRINCES THEATRE, CLACTON

**MONDAY, 15th MAY to
SATURDAY, 20th MAY, 1978**

7.15 p.m. nightly

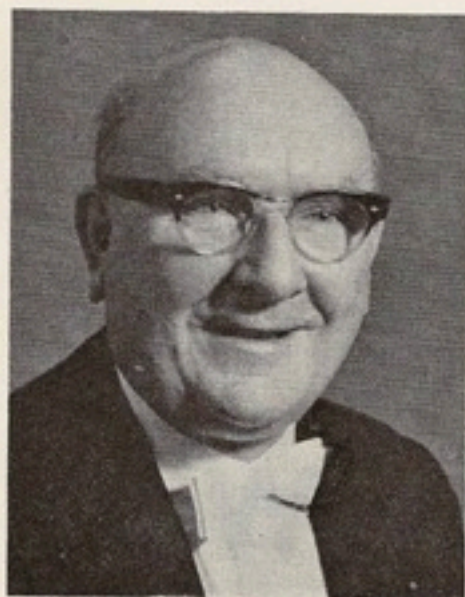
Matinée:

Saturday, 20th May at 2.30 p.m.

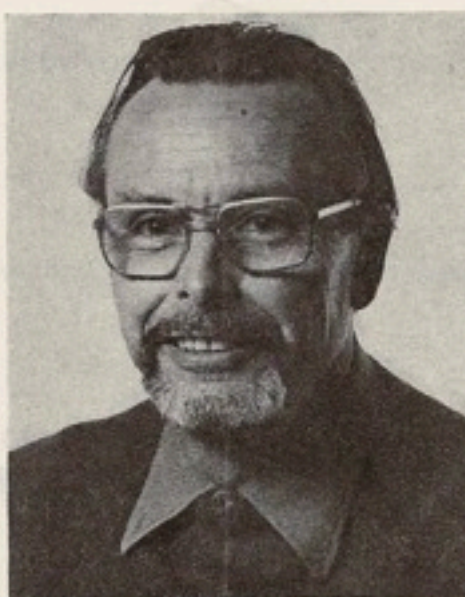
FULLY LICENSED BAR AVAILABLE

in the Essex Hall, open from 6.45 p.m. until 11 p.m.
Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance.

THE MERRY WIDOW PRODUCTION TEAM



ROY BUDDEN
Musical Director



KENNETH SMITH
Production Director



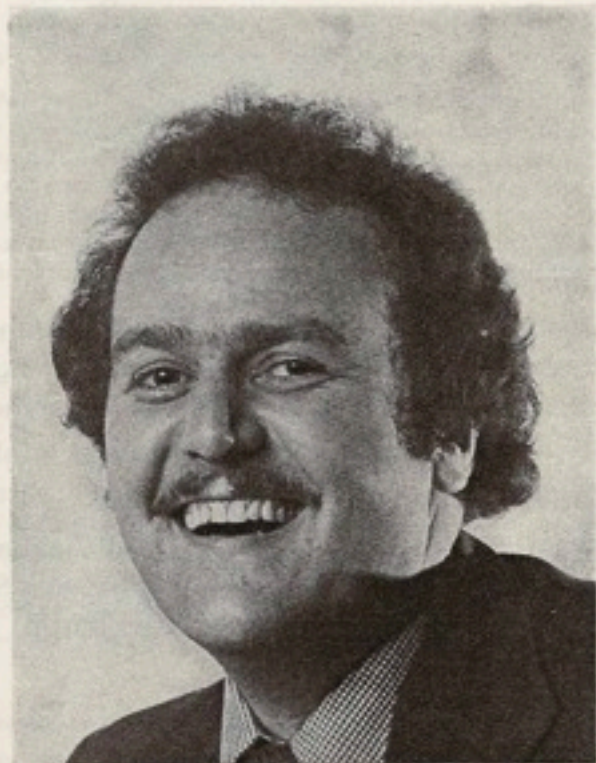
JANE-ELIZABETH TAYLOR, A.I.S.T.D.
Choreographer

The Capriol Orchestra of London—Leader THOMAS GERADINE

<i>Stage Manager</i>	.. ..	John White
<i>Chorus Master</i>	.. ..	David Cawdell
<i>Accompanist</i>	.. ..	Josi Cavender
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>		Adrian Robinson
<i>Assisted by</i>	.. ..	Mike Adamson, John Aldous, Colin Bayliss, Jack Heath, John Holliday, Alan Manning, Tony Parrott, Gill Robinson, Mike Rumsey, Ted Tearle, Ron Austin
<i>Stage Lighting</i>	.. ..	David Beales
<i>Assisted by</i>	.. ..	Alan Larner, Paul Shaw, Lesley Beales
<i>Wardrobe</i>	.. ..	Cynthia Baker
<i>Assisted by</i>	.. ..	Chris Bareham, Lesley Beales, Joan Griffin, Vicky Haines, Barbara Heath, Anne Howard, Ronda Maasz, Ella Rowlands, Tracy Spong, Joyce Smith
<i>Properties</i>	.. ..	Beryl Balls
<i>Assisted by</i>	.. ..	Betty Beales, Jean Tomlinson, Sue White
<i>Sound Amplification</i>	.. ..	Alan King
<i>Prompt</i>	.. ..	Rosemary Whiteman
<i>Call Boy</i>	.. ..	Kathy Culham
<i>Publicity and Programmes</i>		John Plumtree, Alan King
<i>Make-up by</i>	.. ..	Members of the Society
<i>House Manager</i>	.. ..	John Plumtree
<i>Programme Distribution</i>	.. ..	Jean Hutley, Enid Symes
<i>Ice Cream Sales</i>	.. ..	Nora Timmens
<i>Theatre Box Office</i>	.. ..	Mike Freeman, Ken Rowlands
<i>Scenery by</i>	.. ..	Stagesets (London)
<i>Costumes by</i>	.. ..	W. A. Homberg Ltd., Leeds
<i>Additional Lighting by</i>	.. ..	J.B.E. Stage Lighting, Southend-on-Sea
<i>Furniture by</i>	.. ..	Old Times Furnishing Co. Ltd., London
<i>Jewellery by</i>	.. ..	Stagecraft Jewellery



Anna (Madame Glavari)
BERYL TAYLOR



Danilo
VIC EDWARDS

THE CHARACTERS

Anna (Madame Glavari)	..	..	..	BERYL TAYLOR
Danilo (Count Danilovitsch)	..	..	..	VIC EDWARDS
Baron Zeta	..	..	..	BRIAN DACK
Valencienne	..	..	..	JENNY SPURGEON
Camille (Count de Rosillon)	..	..	..	COLIN THORNE
Njegus	..	..	..	DAVID COLEBECK
St. Brioche	..	..	..	MIKE SPURGEON
Cascada	..	..	..	KEITH REDFERN
Kromov	..	..	..	PETER EDWARDS
Olga	..	..	..	JANE SHAW
Bogdanovitsch	..	..	..	TONY TITCOMBE
Pritsch	..	..	..	HOWARD BROOKS
Sylvia	..	..	..	ANGELA RANKIN
Praskovia	..	..	..	DORIS COWDELL

Ladies of the Chorus:

Margaret Adamson, Susan Bruce, Hilary Brunning, Elizabeth Dack, Barbara Heath, Kathryn Hurren, Judy Jones, Marian Manning, Doreen Potter, Carol Rayner, Janet Ross, Simone Smith, Sue Titcombe, Edna Thomas, June Wenn.

Gentlemen of the Chorus:

Howard Brooks, Peter Edwards, Bob Fairbairn, Reg Griffin, Alan Howard, Eric Lynne, George Osborn, Keith Redfern, John Sparrow, Mike Spurgeon, Len Taylor, Eric Tipple, Tony Titcombe, Alan Tomlinson.

Grisettes:

Margaret Adamson, Hilary Brunning, Hilary Motson, Angela Rankin, Alison Tyrrel, June Wenn.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Time and Place: Paris, at the turn of the century

ACT 1

A Salon in the Pontevedrian Embassy in Paris

The story opens in the Ballroom of the Pontevedrian Embassy in Paris. The Ambassador is fighting to save his country from bankruptcy. One of his subjects is a beautiful heiress, Anna Glavari, a widow, whose lately-deceased husband has left her a fortune of twenty millions. If she is allowed to marry a foreigner her great fortune might be lost to her homeland. The Ambassador has decided that one Count Danilo Danilovitsch, an Embassy attaché would make an ideal husband for Anna, but the playboy Count has not yet arrived at the Ball.

The Ambassador, meanwhile, has failed to notice that an affair is developing between his attractive young wife, Valencienne, and a handsome French officer, Camille. Valencienne is playing "will she, won't she?" with Camille's affections. At this point, Anna arrives, and is immediately courted by all the men.

However, the Ambassador escorts Anna in to supper as Count Danilo arrives from Maxim's. In song, he extols the virtues of the ladies to be found there, and then decides to take a nap.

Valencienne and Camille now return in a state of agitation. Camille has written "I love you" on her fan, which she has since lost. Their search ceases when Anna returns. Danilo awakes, and we discover that Anna and he are old friends. Once Danilo had wanted to marry her, but when his Uncle threatened to disinherit him, Anna married her banker instead. Anna reminds him of her past love, but Danilo says that he will never marry her now because of her vast fortune.

Ambassador Zeta tells Danilo of his plan, but the Count refuses to consider marriage to Anna. As a compromise, however, he agrees to drive away all other suitors and so save the money for Pontevedro. When "ladies' choice" is announced Anna chooses to dance with Danilo, and as the dance progresses realises that her love for him is still very much alive.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT 2

The Gardens of Madame Glavari's Residence—early the following evening

We are at the home of Anna the "Merry Widow". There is dancing and all are in national costume. The lost fan has been found by a member of the Embassy who assumes that it belongs to his own wife! Zeta has calmed him by persuading Valencienne to say that it is hers! The Ambassador shows Danilo the fan and he recognises Camille's writing, but does not know who the lady might be. Anna now finds the fan and believes wishfully that the writing is Danilo's. We find Valencienne and Camille together in the summer house. The Ambassador arrives and discovers the situation—but Anna changes places with Valencienne and is delighted to note Danilo's jealousy.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT 3

The same, in the style of Maxim's—later that night

Anna's house has now been decorated to look like the famous Maxim's, complete with the equally famous Grisettes. Danilo learns the truth about the summer house incident and also learns that, under the terms of Anna's late husband's will, if she re-marries she must forfeit all her money. As he now believes that the barrier of the "Merry Widow's" fortune is now out of the way, Danilo asks Anna to marry him. Having accepted his proposal, she discovers that the money, all twenty millions of it, comes to Danilo as her next husband! So all ends happily.

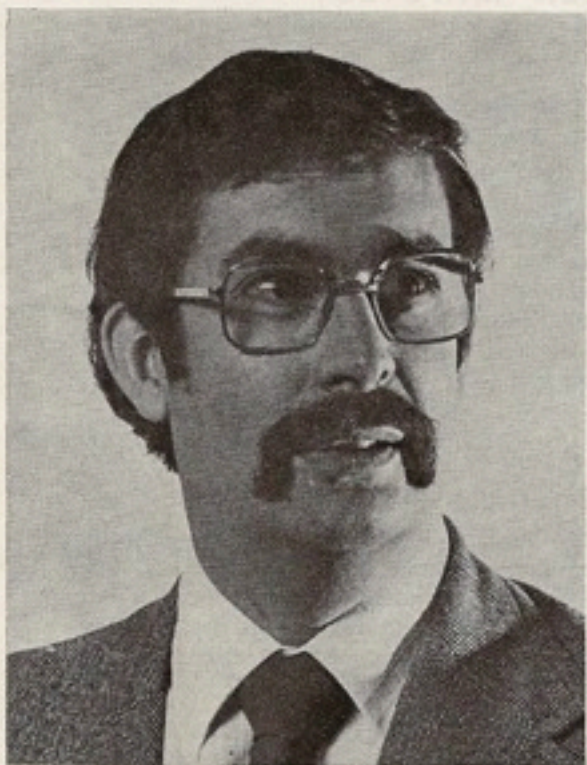
The use of photographic or sound recording equipment during the performance is prohibited.



Valencienne
JENNY SPURGEON



Camille
COLIN THORNE



Baron Zeta
BRIAN DACK



Njegus
DAVID COLEBECK

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Overture	
<i>Pontevedro in-Paree</i>	Cascada, Zeta and Ensemble
Melos	
<i>A highly respectable wife</i>	Valencienne and Camille
<i>So many men admire me</i>	Anna and Male Ensemble
Melos (Ballroom Waltz)	
<i>You'll find me at Maxim's</i>	Danilo and Ladies
<i>It goes to show</i>	Anna and Danilo
Finale, Act 1	Anna, Valencienne, Danilo, Camille, St. Brioche, Cascada and Chorus

ACT 2

Opening	
<i>Vilia</i>	Anna and Ensemble
Reprise	Chorus
<i>Driving in the park with you</i>	Anna and Danilo
<i>Women! Women! Women!</i>	Zeta, Danilo, St. Brioche, Cascada, Kromov, Pritsch, Bogdanovitsch
Introduction to the waltz scene	Anna and Danilo
<i>The Waltz Scene</i>	Anna and Danilo
Melos	
Romance: <i>Flow'rs are awakened in Maytime</i>	Valencienne and Gamille
Finale: Part one	Anna, Valencienne, Danilo, Camille, Zeta and Njegus
Part two	Ensemble
Part three	Anna, Valencienne, Danilo and Ensemble
Part four	Anna, Danilo and Ensemble
Part five	Ensemble

ACT 3

Opening Dance	
Melos	
The Grisettes' Song	Valencienne and the Grisettes
Reprise: <i>You'll find me at Maxim's</i>	Grisettes and Danilo
The Merry Widow Waltz	Anna and Danilo
Finale	Ensemble

MAY WE INTRODUCE—Number Seven

Edna Thomas



Many of our friends and patrons have remarked over the years on the high quality of performance which the Society has maintained as show has succeeded show. Such comments have, of course, filled us all with a quiet pride and understandable satisfaction and we do not need to seek far for the reason. For an Operatic Society in a relatively small town we can count among our members a significant number of performers of genuinely high standard—and over the years nobody would question the consistent talent of Edna Thomas.

Edna undertook her first singing role, she tells me, at the tender age of five years as the Fairy Queen in a school play, and by fourteen was playing Principal Boy in pantomime. She joined the ranks of C.A.O.S. in 1951 with three great ambitions in her mind: to play the part of Teresa in "Maid of the Mountains", to undertake the role of Marianne in "The New Moon" and to be cast as Anna in Rodgers and Hammerstein's great musical "The King and I". I am sure that nobody will be surprised to learn that she has achieved all three! However, "The King and I" in 1964 was, she tells me, her most favourite show—and as one who had the real pleasure of playing a minor part on that occasion, I am not one whit surprised, for hers was a truly marvellous performance.

Edna, who is a ladies' hairdresser in the town, has had many successes in talent contests up and down the country, and was once placed sixth in the All England Search for Stars Contest. We might indeed, have lost her to the ranks of the professionals. How fortunate we are that she has continued to give us the benefit of her undoubted talents—long may she grace our stage, where her splendid voice has brought pleasure and delight to so many of her friends.—K.W.R.

THE CLACTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

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Mr. P. Emmerson	Mr. L. G. Lee		

If you would like to become a Patron of the Society which, for £2-50 a year, entitles you to two tickets a year plus pre-box office booking concession for all our shows, get in touch with Mike Freeman, 2 Albany Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 6QW.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society wishes to acknowledge with thanks the help of the following:

- Mr. G. Watton, Mr. R. Foster and staff of the Princes Theatre.
- Turpins Engineering Ltd., for workshop facilities.
- Robin Plant Hire, for services.
- Francis Golightly, for loan of additional lighting equipment.
- Kenneth Smith, for the programme cover design.
- Mr. W. J. McNamara, for the theatre display poster.
- Clacton Garden Centre, for the loan of furniture.
- Colchester Operatic Society, for the loan of properties.
- Arthur Westwood, for box office facilities.
- St. John Ambulance Brigade.
- Stewards, programme sellers, and all others whose contributions and efforts have made this production possible.