



# The Authentic Gilbert & Sullivan Songbook (Dover Vocal Scores)

*W. S. Gilbert, A. S. Sullivan, Opera and Choral Scores*

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The songs of Gilbert & Sullivan, as with many near-legendary works adopted by an enthusiastic, uncritical public, have not always survived in the most reliable form. A word gets lost or blurred, a strophe is dropped, and the song evolves along uncontrollable lines. Fortunately many of the early vocal scores authorized by Sir Arthur Sullivan still exist — and are reprinted here, in the most complete and authentic anthology of Gilbert & Sullivan currently available.

Ninety-two songs from all fourteen operettas are reproduced in the form Sullivan approved. Each number in this collection — solo, chorus, patter song, ballad, etc. — is presented uncut, unedited, in the original key, in Sullivan's original piano arrangements. The memorable ditties from the pair's 25-year collaboration (1871–96) appear, along with many not so well known, including a piece from their first joint effort, *Thespis* (1871), the entire score of which has been lost except for two numbers.

Contents include:

*Thespis* "Little Maid of Arcadee"

*Trial by Jury* "O gentlemen, listen I pray"

*The Sorcerer* "Welcome joy! Adieu to sadness!"

*HMS Pinafore* "When I was a lad; He is an Englishman!"

*The Pirates of Penzance* "Poor wand'ring one; With cat-like tread"

*Patience* "Prithee, pretty maidens; Sad is that woman's lot"

*Iolanthe* "Oh foolish fay; What I went to the Bar"

*Princess Ida* "Expressive glances"

*The Mikado* "A wand'ring minstrel I; Three little maids"

*Ruddigore* "I once was a very abandoned person"

*The Yeomen of the Guard* "Oh! A private buffoon"

*The Gondoliers* "I stole the Prince"

*Utopia, Limited* "Society has quite forsaken all her wicked courses"

*The Grand Duke* "So ends my dream"

Malcolm Binney and Peter Lavender collected these rare, complete vocal scores suitable for amateur and professional performance or reading; James Spero has added complete title and premiere information and a plot synopsis for each operetta. Gilbert & Sullivan lovers and all who delight in an irresistible lyric will find the authentic best in English light opera between these sturdy covers.

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