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Opera: The Mikado, February 8, 1974

George Pinney Director

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Recommended Citation

Pinney, George Director, "Opera: The Mikado, February 8, 1974" (1974). *School of Music Programs*. 5317. <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/somp/5317>

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February 8, 9, 10, 1974
Stroud Auditorium

THE MIKADO

or The Town of Titipu
by William S. Gilbert
and Arthur Sullivan

presented by
The Lowell Mason M.E.N.C.,
Student Chapter of
Illinois State University

Director, George Pinney
Assistant Director, DiAnn Iverson
Musical Director, Marvin Carlton
Set Designer, Jeanne Balber
Lighting Designer, Dan Balber
Costumes by Costumes Unlimited, Ltd.

THE CAST
(Not in order of appearance)

The Mikado of Japan	Jim Royer
Nanki Poo (His son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum)	David Reece
Ko-Ko (The Lord High Executioner of Titipu)	Brad Thacker
Pooh-Bah (Lord High Everything Else)	Terry Leverett
Pish-Tish (A Noble Lord)	Joe Kreger
Yum-Yum (A ward of Ko-Ko)	Madeline Palmasimo
Pitti-Sing (A ward of Ko-Ko)	Beth Straylo
Peep-Bo (Sister of Pitti-Sing and Yum-Yum, a ward of Ko-Ko)	Barb Wakeman
Katisha (An elderly lady, in love with Nanki-Poo)	Shiela Webb

Musical Numbers

ACT I

(Court yard of Ko-Ko's official residence)

1. "If You Want to Know Who We Are" (Opening Chorus and Recitative)
Nanki-Poo and Men
2. "A Wand'ring Minstrel I" (Solo and Chorus)
Nanki-Poo and Men
3. "Our Great Mikado, Virtuous Man" (Solo and Chorus)
Pish-Tush and Men
4. "Young Man, Despair" (Sng) *Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo, and Pish-Tush*
- 4a. "And Have I Journeyed for a Month (Recitative)
Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah
5. "Behold the Lord High Executioner" (Chorus and Solo)
Ko-Ko and Men
- 5a. "As Some Day It May Happen" (Solo and Chorus)
Ko-Ko and Men
6. "Comes a Train of Little Ladies" (Chorus)
Girls
7. "Three Little Maids from School Are We" (Trio and Chorus)
Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, and Girls
8. "So Please You, Sir, We Much Regret" (Quartet and Chorus)
Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, and Girls
9. "Were You Not To Ko-Ko Plighted" (Duet) *Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo*
10. "I Am So Proud" (Trio) *Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko, and Pish-Tush*
11. "With Aspect Stern and Gloomy Stride" (Finale of Act I) *Ensemble*

ACT II

(Ko-Ko's Garden)

12. "Braid the Raven Hair" (Opening Chorus and Solo) *Pitti-Sing and Girls*
13. "The Sun, Whose Rays Are All Ablaze" (Song) *Yum-Yum*
14. "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day" (Madrigal)
Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Nanki-Poo, and Pish-Tush
15. "Here's a How-De-Do!" (Trio) *Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo, and Ko-Ko*
16. "Mi-ya sa-ma" (March of the Mikado's Troops, Chorus and Duet)
Mikado, Girls, and Men
17. "A More Humane Mikado" (Solo and Chorus) *Mikado, Girls, and Men*
18. "The Criminal Cried as He Dropped Him Down" (Trio and Chorus)
Ko-Ko, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, Girls, and Men
19. "See How the Fates their Gifts Allot" (Glee)
Mikado, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko, and Katisha
20. "The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring" (Song)
Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko, Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, and Pooh-Bah
21. "Alone, and Yet Alive!" (Recitative and Song) *Katisha*
22. "Willow, Tit-willow" (Song) *Ko-Ko*
23. "There is Beauty in the Bellow of the Blast" (Duet)
Katisha and Ko-Ko
24. "For He's Gone and Married Yum-Yum" (Finale of Act II) *Ensemble*

Argument

Before the action of the opera begins, Nanki-Poo has fled from the court of his father, the Mikado of Japan, to escape marriage with an elderly lady, named Katisha. Assuming the disguise of a musician, he has then fallen in love with a fair maiden, Yum-Yum; but he has been prevented from marrying her by her guardian, Ko-Ko, who wished to marry her himself. Ko-Ko, however, has been condemned to death for flirting; and, when Act I opens, Nanki-Poo is hastening to the court of Ko-Ko in Titipu to find out whether Yum-Yum is now free to marry him.

From Pooh-Bah (a corrupt and proud public official) and Pish-Tush (a nobleman), Nanki-Poo learns that Ko-Ko has, instead, become Lord High Executioner, thus preventing the sentence of decapitation from being carried out. Ko-Ko is in fact, going to marry Yum-Yum that very afternoon.

Everything seems to be going well for Ko-Ko, but suddenly a letter comes from the Mikado ordering him to execute somebody or else lose his position of Lord High Executioner. He is in a quandary to find someone to execute, when Nanki-Poo appears, bent upon suicide because he cannot marry Yum-Yum. By conceding to him the right to marry Yum-Yum for a month, Ko-Ko persuades Nanki-Poo to be the subject for the public execution when that month is up. There is general rejoicing in this apparent solution to the problem, marred only by the unexpected appearance of Katisha, in quest of the vanished object of her affections, Nanki-Poo. She is driven away, but threatens to go to the Mikado about the matter.

Act II Opens with Yum-Yum preparing for her marriage with Nanki-Poo. As all are singing a "merry madrigal", Ko-Ko comes in with the news that he has just discovered a law stating that when a married man is executed his wife must be buried alive. To save Yum-Yum from that fate, Nanki-Poo decides to kill himself at once. But this again throws Ko-Ko into a quandary to find someone to execute (especially as he has heard that the Mikado is at that moment on his way to Titipu). Nanki-Poo magnanimously offers himself for immediate decapitation, but Ko-Ko is unable to perform the act without some practice.

Another way out of the difficulty presents itself: Ko-Ko has Pooh-Bah make a false affidavit that Nanki-Poo has been executed, and bids Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum leave the country.

The Mikado soon appears. Ko-Ko thinks that the object of this visit is to see whether the execution has taken place. He accordingly produces the affidavit and describes with gusto the execution. But the Mikado has actually come at the prompting of Katisha in search of his lost son. When the fact transpires that the person whom Ko-Ko has supposedly executed is really the Mikado's son, Ko-Ko and his accomplices are declared guilty of "compassing the death of the Heir Apparent". The only hope for them is to admit the falsehood of the affidavit and produce Nanki-Poo alive. But, as Nanki-Poo has already married Yum-Yum and so cannot marry Katisha, Katisha will surely insist on the execution of Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum. Ko-Ko solves the problem by offering his hand to Katisha; and, after he sings her the touching ballad of "Willow, tit-willow", she accepts him. The end of the opera comes with Nanki-Poo's discovering himself as the son of the Mikado.

THE CHORUS

(Schoolgirls and Nobles)

Pam Wilcox
Bruce Senesac
Carol Almen
Ruth Sowers
Dennis Morrissey
Jim Yarbrough
Steven Schwall
Skip Buss
Kent Parrish

Tom Stefan
Jim Thorp
Ted Waltmire
Chyrl Munn
Kathy Leake
Barb Kommick
Deb Trutter
Gloria Mindock
Marsha Voight
Richard Jackson

THE ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Pam Combs
Debbie Selin
Cindy Streid
James Roderick

Cello

Jeanne Foster
John Sperry
Kathy Watson

Bassoon

Grant Gillett

Violin II

Darcy Drexler
Tom Watkins
Pam Page
Duncan Miller

Bass

Steve Hayes

Horn

Chris Vandre

Viola

Helen Zamie
Joel Reeves
Richard Weyhrich

Flute

Candice Hildebrandt

Trumpet

Harve Burns

Oboe

Pat Seino

Trombone

David Kotowski

Clarinet

Sue Waldorf

Timpani and Percussion

Ted Parge

THE MIKADO COMMITTEES

Set Construction

Karen Flaxman
Pat Seino
Teresa Pierson
Libby Maxfield
Ruth Sowers
Pat L'Heureux
Cheryl Munn
Marge Smith

Costumes

Pat L'Heureux
Candy Hildebradt
Karen Flaxman

Programs

Marvin Carlton
Marge Smith
Pat Seino

Special Thanks to:

Mr. Fred Omer
Mr. Benny Kemp
Dr. James Roderick
Mr. Duncan Miller
Mrs. Irwin Balber

Tickets

Pat Seino
Karla Haacke
Anita Abel
Gabriel Breitske

Props

Sue Waldorf

Publicity

Bob Eckert
Ted Brown
Mary Andrews
Karen Flaxman
Marsha Voight

PRODUCTION STAFF

Make-up Designer	Dan Balber
Program Chairperson	Marvin Carlton
Publicity Chairperson	Marsha Voight
Ticket Chairperson	Gabriel Breitzke
Properties Chairperson	Sue Waldorf
Rehearsal Pianists	Jan Sullivan Al Fricke
Wardrobe Mistress	Pat L'Heureux
Assistants to Set Designer	Mikel Streid Herbert Wade
Orchestrations by	Peter Murray
Additional Orchestration by	Marvin Carlton J. Richard Loredo
House Manager	Gabriel Breitzke