

# THE TOPSY TURVY WORLD OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN

Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 2pm via Zoom

(The zoom invitation will be sent out 48 hours in advance and log in will be from 1.45pm)



Our July speaker is Jim Stebbings. Jim has a great interest in musicals and entertainment. He has experienced producing music festivals, directing and participating in various forms of musical and dramatic entertainment.

William Gilbert wrote the words, and Sir Arthur Sullivan wrote the score for their 14 operas in a collaboration that lasted 25 years.

Their works were known as Operettas – which are a cross between opera and a musical. They tended to be shorter than opera, and mixed song with spoken words.

They were brought together by Richard D'Oyly Carte, who was an hotelier, composer, theatre manager and talent agent, with a great enthusiasm for their “light opera” style.

In 1881, D'Oyly Carte built the Savoy Theatre to showcase their work. It brought many innovations to theatre: numbered seating, free programmes, and a “no tipping” rule for the cloakroom. It was also the first public building to be lit entirely by electricity, making “Iolanthe” the first ever show to use electricity in the staging.

*Jim will talk us through The English institution that is Gilbert & Sullivan: their work and their lives. A tale of brilliant success, complex relationships, drugs, sex and controversy!*

*With grateful thanks to English National Opera for our background information. <https://eno.org/discover-opera/beginners-guide-gilbert-sullivan/>*

