

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

{From the GSArchive}

The Yeomen of the Guard, or *The Merryman and His Maid*, opened October 3, 1888, at the Savoy Theatre and ran for 423 performances. It is different from the other Gilbert and Sullivan operas in that it ends with a broken-hearted main character and at least two reluctant engagements, rather than the usual plethora of happy marriages. However, Gilbert finds plenty of opportunity to introduce comedy into his libretto.

Many believe that the score is Sullivan's finest. Indeed, some enjoy *Yeomen* particularly because of its ever-changing emotional balance of joy and despair, love and sacrifice.

The setting of *Yeomen* is the Tower of London in the sixteenth century. The plot concerns Colonel Fairfax, a gentleman, soldier and scientist, who has been sentenced to death on a false charge of sorcery. To avoid leaving his estate to his accuser (a cousin), and with the help of the Lieutenant of the Tower, Fairfax secretly marries Elsie Maynard, a strolling singer. The bride agrees to be blindfolded during the ceremony and expects to be a well-paid widow within the hour. With the help of the Meryll family, Fairfax escapes, throwing the Tower into confusion and the astonished Elsie (and her companion, the jester Jack Point, who is in love with her) into despair. But Fairfax, disguised as Leonard Meryll, woos Elsie, and after a number of plot complications are worked out, she falls in love with Fairfax and leaves Jack Point broken-hearted.

Our three performances are Saturday, October 19th at 2:00pm and 7:30 pm, and Sunday, October 20th at 2:00pm at Valley Regional High School, Deep River, CT.

This is a wonderful show, and we expect a large audience turnout. We greatly appreciate your support. **As a special thank you, if you place a ½ page or larger ad in our program we will give you two comp tickets to the show.**

For further information please call 860-554-1256. To view photos and videos of our past productions visit: www.ctgands.org/on-stage & https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPirOpb_2Rei1SzcbtXd6Q

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