

The overture for Ruddigore (1887) also known as "The Witch's Curse," is a lively and dramatic piece that sets the tone for Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta. "Ruddigore" was first performed in 1887 and is one of the duo's later works. The operetta is a comic satire of the Victorian melodrama genre, and the overture reflects both the humor and the melodramatic elements of the story..

These overtures serve as musical introductions to the operettas, providing a glimpse of the melodies and themes that will be developed further throughout the productions. Gilbert and Sullivan's works continue to be performed and enjoyed for their clever lyrics, engaging stories, and memorable music.

## *Gilbert and Sullivan Overtures*

Orchestra Conducted by Alan Ward

*The Mikado • Iolanthe • Ruddigore • H.M.S. Pinafore  
The Yeomen of the Guard • The Pirates of Penzance*



Gilbert and Sullivan, the famous Victorian-era theatrical duo, composed a series of operettas that are well-known for their wit, humor, and memorable music. Here are some of the overtures from their popular works:

H.M.S. Pinafore (1878): This overture is lively and sets the tone for the nautical-themed operetta. It incorporates several of the main musical themes that will appear throughout the show.

The Pirates of Penzance (1879): The overture for "The Pirates of Penzance" is a lively and energetic piece that captures the spirit of the operetta. It features several melodies from the show, giving the audience a taste of what's to come.

The Mikado (1885): "The Mikado" overture is

known for its bright and catchy tunes. It introduces the audience to the Japanese-inspired world of the operetta and features some of the key melodies from the production.

The overture for The Yeomen of the Guard (1888): composed by Gilbert and Sullivan, is a substantial and serious piece compared to some of their other operetta overtures. Premiered in 1888, "The Yeomen of the Guard" is often considered one of the more operatic works in the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire, with a more intricate and emotionally complex plot.

Iolanthe (1882): The overture for "Iolanthe" is a charming and whimsical composition that captures the fairy-tale atmosphere of the operetta. It sets the stage for the magical and fantastical elements of the story.

# *Gilbert and Sullivan Overtures*

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- 1 The Mikado 7:34
- 2 The Yeomen Of The Guard 5:00
- 3 Ruddigore 6:35
- 4 Iolanthe 7:22
- 5 H.M.S. Pinafore 4:18
- 6 The Pirates Of Penzance 7:40

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Engineer Kenneth Wilkinsont



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