

The Pittsburgh Savoyards Present

# Utopia, Limited;

or,

# The Flowers of Progress

A Comic Operetta in Two Acts

Music by Sir Arthur S. Sullivan

Libretto by Sir William S. Gilbert



## Study Guide: Utopia Production Synopsis, Cast, Musical Numbers

© 2014 Annette Bransby Frontz created for the Pittsburgh Savoyards Inc.

## **SYNOPSIS: Utopia, Limited or, The Flowers of Progress**

The lovely South Seas island of Utopia is populated by a peaceful, languid people who are happy to be ruled by their benevolent king. In theory, he is an absolute monarch. But in practice, he himself is governed by two Wise Men, judges who have the power to denounce him for any impropriety to the Public Exploder, who then has the authority to explode him right then and there.

The present king is an avid admirer of all things British, including the British governess he has employed to train his youngest twin daughters to be proper English ladies. However, the governess wants nothing at all to do with him, owing to the scandalous articles the king has been forced by the Wise Men to write about himself and publish in the tabloid newspaper, *The Palace Peeper*. Lady Sophy believes the king to be too far below her in terms of respectability and spurns his advances.

Meanwhile, the king's eldest daughter, Princess Zara, is returning home after graduating from an English college. She is distraught by her father's current position and formulates a plan. She has brought back with her to Utopia six Flowers of Progress, including Captain Fitzbattleaxe, with whom she is in love. They are shining examples of English culture, and it is their task to completely reform and Anglicize Utopia and all its institutions. One of these Flowers of Progress is a Company Promoter. Under his advice, every citizen of Utopia declares himself to be a Company Limited, complete with Prospectus, and is now liable only for the amount of his declared capital... which does **not** include explosion.

The Wise Men and Public Exploder are displeased when they realize what has happened, and rouse the Utopian citizenry to revolt. They argue that under the new governance, the citizenry is so healthy that the doctors are being put out of work. Everyone is so well-behaved that the lawyers have nothing to do. The new laws are so effective that crime has been extinguished, making law enforcement officers redundant.

Princess Zara, however, realizes that something very important has been left out governance by party! She argues that once they implement a party system, no political measures will endure because they will constantly be undone by the opposite party, ensuring plenty of sickness, lawsuits, criminals, and incarceration.

Satisfied, the Utopians agree and the Wise Men are led off in defeat. As is customary in Gilbert and Sullivan, everyone gets married and they all live happily ever after.

## **Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)**

Phylla - *Utopian Maiden*

Calynx - *Utopian Vice-Chamberlain*

Salata - *Utopian Maiden*

Melene - *Utopian Maiden*

Tarara - *Public Exploder*

Scaphio - *Judge of the Utopian Supreme Court*

Phantis - *the same*

King Paramount of Utopia

Princess Nekaya - *Younger sister to Princess Zara*

Princess Kalbya - *Youngest sister to Princess Zara*

Lady Sophy - *their English Governess*

Princess Zara - *Eldest of King Paramount's daughters*

Captain Fitzbattleaxe - *of the First Life Guards*

Sir Bailey Barre QC, MP - *British Lord Chamberlain*

Lord Dramaleigh - *a British Lord Chamberlain*

Mr Blushington - *of the County Council*

Mr Goldbury - *Company promoter*

Capt. Sir Edward Corcoran KCB - *of the Royal Navy*

# Utopia Limited Musical Numbers

*as performed in our Production*

## ACT I. A Utopian Palm Grove

1. Opening Chorus and Solo (*Phylla*) - "In lazy langour - motionless"
2. Chorus: "O make way for the Wise Men"
3. Duet (*Scaphio and Phantis*): "In every mental lore"
4. Duet (*Scaphio and Phantis*): "Let all your doubts take wing"
5. Chorus: "Quaff the nectar"
6. Song and Recit (*King*) with Chorus: "A King of autocratic power we"
7. Chorus: "How fair! How modest! How discreet!"
8. Duet (*Nekaya and Kalyba*): "Although of native maids the cream"
9. Recit and Song (*Lady Sophy*) with Chorus: "Bold Faced Ranger"
10. Song (*King*): "First you're born"
11. Duet (*King and Lady Sophy*): "Subjected to your heavenly gaze"
12. Chorus w Solos (*Zara, Fitz, and Troopers*) "Oh, maiden rich in Girton lore"
13. Duet (*Zara and Fitzbattleaxe*): "Ah! Gallant soldier brave and true"
14. Quartet (*Fitz, Zara, Scaphio and Phantis*): "It's understood, I think, all round"
15. Duet (*Zara and Fitzbattleaxe*): "Oh admirable art!"
16. Finale Act I - "Although your royal summons to appear"

---

Note: The following musical number from Act I was removed from the original performance in 1983 to enhance the production.

- Song (*Zara*) "Youth is a boon avowed" was cut after the opening night

# **Utopia Limited Musical Numbers**

## *as performed in our Production*

### **ACT II.**

#### **Throne Room in King Paramount's Palace**

17. Recit and Song (*Fitzbattleaxe*): "A tenor all singers above"
18. Duet (*Zara and Fitzbattleaxe*): "Words of love too loudly spoken"
19. Song (*King with Flowers of Progress*): "Society has quite forsaken"
20. Instrumental - "Entrance of the Court" followed by "Drawing Room Music"
21. Recit with Unaccompanied Chorus: "Eagle high in cloudland soaring"
22. Duet (*Scaphio and Phantis*): "With fury deep we burn"
23. Trio (*Scaphio, Phantis and King*): "If you think when banded in unity"
24. Trio (*Scaphio, Phantis and Tarara*): "With wily brain upon the spot"
25. Song (*Mr. Goldbury*): "A wonderful joy our eyes to bless"
26. Quartet (*Nekaya, Kalyba, Dramaleigh, Goldbury*): "Then I may sing and play?"
27. Recit and Song (*Lady Sophy*): "When but a maid of fifteen year"
28. Recit and Duet (*King and Lady Sophy*): "Oh, the rapture unrestrained"
29. Chorus: "Upon our sea-girt land"
30. Finale: "There's a little group of isles beyond the wave"

---

Note: The following musical number from Act II was removed from the original performance in 1983 to enhance the production.

- Chorus: "When the fire-flies dance in the dark" was cut during the rehearsals