

THE GLEE CLUB . . .

H. M. S. PINAFORE

by Laurie Allison

The popularity of the works of Sir Arthur Sullivan is as much due to the sprightly humor of the libretos of his collaborator William S. Gilbert as to the composer's superbly fitting music. The words of the texts and the accompanying melodies were so fused as to appear inseparable to the listener. This was the fundamental problem involved in the Glee Club interpretation of H.M.S. Pinafore. The fact that the chorus and orchestra overcome this obstacle gave Dalhousie the finest musical production ever presented by a student group here.

Geoff Payzant, the choral director and producer after months of enthusiastic and apparently untiring rehearsals with his soloists and chorus, excited the same spirit of vitality and humor into his performers. The cradle into which vocal parts fitted was successfully supplied by the concert orchestra, under the direction of Frank Padmore. This accompaniment was all it should have been -- an identification with the vocal parts, and the balance between the two, with a few exceptions was extremely well knit together. The pompous humour of the overture and the opening scene established a mood which carried through each performance, lifting the audiences along with it.

Of those who appeared as soloists, six were most outstanding:

Lloyd Soper, as Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., lived up to his part magnificently offering his lines with the precision and directness required. His outward appearance and ease on the stage, coupled with a superb feeling for his part, made Soper's performance the most outstanding.

The part of Josephine called for a very pretty actress with a beautiful voice. Eileen Cantwell filled the bill, successfully injecting into her performance the innocence, daintiness, and mental conflict needed as the lass who loved a sailor.

Tenor Maynard Taylor, as the humble Ralph Rackstraw appeared far too humble. Although possessing a fine voice, his acting was poor, with the result that many of his lines were merely recited. However, his vocal efforts, coupled with his position in the play between Josephine and Sir Joseph more than made up for this defect.

The excellent stage appearance and superb diction of Alan Wilson, in his role of Captain Corcoran, together with a heavy but very warm voice, added much to his pleasing presentation of the part.

Of all the soloists, Julie Kaplan expressed more feeling in her part than any other, and from her first and difficult entrance she carried her audience along. Although the volume of her voice dropped too low at times for the listener to follow, Julie compensated for it by her appearance and her heartwarming version of the role. Her last comic scene with Alan Wilson showed that both these performers possess the acting ability necessary in a complete performance of Pinafore.

Displaying a fine sense of rhythm and voice projection, Bernie Creighton played Dick Deadeye. But his stage action was animated to such a point as to harm the value of the speech of other players, and furthermore, to show the uneven balance of acting throughout the whole play.

Among the minor soloists, Stan Pearson proved to be just the type of boatswain the comedy called for, and his pleasing stage appearance, especially in the dance scenes, "was greatly to his credit". Anne Thexton gave a pleasing presentation of the Cousin Hebe. Occasionally her delicate interpretation of the part lacked the projection needed to fill the gymnasium.

The Chorus supplied all that Pinafore required in mass vocal parts. The male chorus was given more scope for action on the stage, and when the girl's chorus entered from the wings, the smooth precision of their action was well nigh miraculous, in view of the small amount of room available. Their projection on the whole was excellent, with the exception of a few sluggish cues, which unfortunately caught them off guard. The entire chorus formed a comfortable background for all the musical action which took place in front of them. Much credit is due to the soloists and chorus who gave so much of their time to make the performance a success.

The amount of work done by the stage crew, that seldom seen and seldom thanked group, without whom no show could go on, was certainly noteworthy in this show. For the care and the energy put into the construction of the stage settings, credit is due Ukie Velkoff and his crew of helpers. The girls in the make-up and costume departments gave unhesitatingly of their time, especially in the making of extra dresses for the girl's chorus. Few students realize the part the electrician played in last week's performance, in addition to his fine handling of lighting effects. Ray Fiske is the man who went into this business in minute detail, and was responsible for the accoustical miracles created in the gymnasium with the new speaker system, so that an even balance of sound projected through the entire hall. H.M.S. Pinafore proved the value of the work he put into this project.

It is interesting to note how far the concert orchestra has come along since last year's performance of "Trial By Jury". Notable in this sense is the string section. Although small, their tone and pitch was good, and their volume strong. However, there is still a lack of co-ordination between the string section and the wind and brass sections. In addition, a lack of confident balance between the orchestra and the singers on stage existed. These defects were remedied a great deal with each night's performance, and did not hinder the interpretation of the operetta.

Again it is noteworthy to remember that H.M.S. Pinafore was entirely student performed and directed, and Dalhousie should be proud that, even though we possess no formal music department, we have enough talent among the student body to present successfully such an ambitious effort.

EDITOR'S
MAIL BOX

The Editor:

The executive of the DAAC for 1948-49 will be Bob Knickle, President; Bob MacDonald, Vice-president; Larry Levine, Secretary; all elected by acclamation. I feel that the circumstances should be explained to the students so that every one will know about it.

The nominating committee had great difficulty in finding qualified students who would take on the onerous tasks. Six were nominated, two for each position as per the constitution but three of them declined. We called for nominations from the floor at the Student's Forum, for presentation at the DAAC forum, but none were forthcoming.

The managing committee do not feel that an unhealthy condition exists, for if the students were not satisfied with the progress of the DAAC and the candidates, there would be a relative show of controversy.

We feel that the new executive is the best we could possibly

Munro Day Program

- 10:30 --- Special Convocation Service
- 1:00 --- Hockey Game (Girls vs Faculty)
- 2:00 --- Basketball Game (Interfaculty Finals)
- 3:30 --- Quartet Contest & Beard-Judging.
- 4:30 --- Parade & Judging of Campus Queens.
- 5:15 --- Supper & Supper Dance at Men's Residence.
- 7:00 --- Presentation of New Council and Alumni Address.
- 7:15 --- Presentation of Awards.
- 8:15 --- Munro Day show.
- 9:15 --- Crowning of Campus Queen.
- 9:45 --- Dancing.

have and we wish them all the luck in the world in their intention not only to carry on the programme started this year but to bring Dalhousie to greater athletic heights.

Sincerely,

T. B. (Windy) O'Neill
President, D.A.A.C.

NOTICE

The lateness of the Gazette this week is due to the decision to include a Munro Day insert, thereby causing extra work for the staff.



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