

## Putteridge Bury Gilbert & Sullivan Society

# The Grand Duke

QMT Hitchin, 20<sup>th</sup> ~23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018



### AUDITION MATERIAL & CHARACTER NOTES

#### RUDOLPH

*Baritone – B to top F*

Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpennig, miserly yet pompous and moralistic. Despised by the people who plot to depose him. Is due to marry Baroness von Krakenfeldt, but he was betrothed in infancy to the Princess of Monte Carlo but that engagement is "practically off." He loses the statutory duel against Ludwig, and goes in exile, before returning as a 'ghost' and reclaiming his title on a technicality, and marries the now, extremely wealthy Princess of Monte Carlo. Fickle!

**Lib:** P.21-24. (Dialogue Act 1 between No's 9 & 10)

**V.S.:** Act 1 No. 11 **When You Find You're a Broken-down Critter** (1<sup>st</sup> Verse, P.62-63, Fig C)

#### ERNEST DUMMKOPF

*Tenor – C to top A flat*

A theatrical manager, in love with Julia. A leader. It is assumed that Ernest will become Grand Duke following the coup, but loses a statutory duel with Ludwig and so is technically dead. He returns to haunt Julia and express his feelings. He comes back to life on a technicality and marries Julia as his leading lady.

**Lib:** P.7-9. (Dialogue Act 1 between No's 3 & 4)

**V.S.:** Act 1 No.3. **Were I A King In Very Truth** (P.15 – 16, 1<sup>st</sup> Verse)

#### LUDWIG

*Baritone - B flat to top F*

The theatre company's leading comedian. In love with Lisa and is due to marry her. He reveals the secret plot and is an avid sausage roll eater. He wins the statutory duels against Ernest and Rudolph, and becomes leader of the theatrical company and assumes the position of Grand Duke, which means he is betrothed to three Grand Duchesses and loses Lisa. Many comings and goings, dressed as a Roman Centurion, and when all resolved he gets Lisa back as his bride. Needs to be good at patter with good comic timing.

**Lib:** P.5-6. (Dialogue Act 1 between No's 2 & 3.)

**V.S.:** Act 1, No. 2. **By the Mystic Regulation.** (P.11 -14 – complete)

Act 2, No. 16. **Now Julia Come Consider It Done** (P.112 – 113, 2<sup>nd</sup> stave.)

#### DR TANNAÜSER

*Tenor – C to top G*

A Notary. The theatre company's solicitor. He explains the rules of and initiates the *statutory duels*. He reappears at end of Act 2 to reveal that the Act regulating statutory duels specifically states that the ace shall count as lowest, so Ludwig never did win, was never Grand Duke, and cannot have revived the act. He marries everyone at the end.

**Lib:** P.14. (Dialogue Act 1 between No's 5 & 6)

**V.S.:** Act 1 No. 6. **About A Century Since.** (P.31 - 1<sup>st</sup> Verse, into 2<sup>nd</sup> time bar, end top P.34, before concerted bit.)

#### THE PRINCE OF MONTE CARLO

*Baritone - Bottom C to top F*

Father of the Princess. Full of razzle-dazzle He has reversed his fortunes by inventing a game called roulette, which has allowed him to pay his debts. Ends up with the Baroness. Appears towards the end of Act 2.

**Lib:** P.57-58. (Dialogue Act 2 between No's 25 & 26)

**V.S.:** Act 2 No. 27. **Take My Advice When Deep In Debt** (P.153 – 155, 1<sup>st</sup> verse)

#### BEN HASHBAZ

*Baritone - C to D*

A costumier. Extremely flamboyant, in a designer sort of way, (one could say camp!).

**No audition required, please indicate any expression of interest for consideration**

#### HERALD

*Baritone – B to E*

Heralds the arrival of the Prince & Princess of Monte Carlo. French accent. Ends up with Ben Hashbaz.

**Lib:** No Lib

**V.S.:** Act 2 No. 23. **The Prince of Monte Carlo.** (P.141 – 144, complete)

### **THE PRINCESS OF MONTE CARLO**

*Soprano – mid C to top A*

Betrothed to Rudolph in childhood. Daughter of the Prince. She is shocked and upset when she discovers that Ludwig, as Grand Duke, already has three Grand Duchesses, but points out that her claim predates the others', and Ludwig is obliged to marry her. After much shenanigans, she marries Rudolph. Appears towards the end of Act 2.

**Lib:** P.57-58. (Dialogue Act 2 between No's 25 & 26)

**V.S.:** Act 2, No. 25. **We're Rigged Out In Magnificent Array.** (P.148 – 149, 1<sup>st</sup> verse into 1<sup>st</sup> Time bar.)

### **THE BARONESS VON KRAKENFELDT**

*Contralto - Bottom A to top E*

Betrothed to Rudolph, and due to marry him the following. She is rich, but miserly, She is upset by the news that Rudolph was betrothed in infancy to the Princess of Monte Carlo, but he explains that the engagement is "practically off." In Act 2, at the wedding party the Baroness enjoys the rare pleasure of drinking "when somebody else pays the bill" and gets drunk! She ends up with the Prince of Monte Carlo.

**Lib:** P.21-24. (Dialogue Act 1 between No's 9 & 10)

**V.S.:** Act 2, No. 21. **Come, Bumpers.** (P. 136 – 138, 1<sup>st</sup> verse.)

### **JULIA JELLCOE**

*Soprano – Mid C to top A (plus optionals!)*

A famous English comedienne. As leading lady of the company, she is bound by contract to play the leading-lady role in any production, so ruthlessly assumes the role of Grand Duchess and Ludwig's betrothed, following Rudolph's demise. Her career ends when the baroness has the prior claim on the Grand Duke's hand in marriage. She ends up marrying Ernest. The gag is that as the only English person in a German theatrical company, she has a German accent.

**Lib:** P.7-9. from Enter Julia Jellicoe, (Dialogue Act 1 between No's 3 & 4)

**V.S.:** Act 2, No. 16. **Now Julia Come, Consider It Done.** (P.114 -115 ~ the mad scene!)

Act 2, No. 19. **So Ends My Dream** (P.124 – complete)

### **LISA**

*Soprano – (Mid C to top G*

A Soubrette. Young and enthusiastic member of Dummkopf's theatrical company. Madly in love with Ludwig, and is betrothed to marry him, but she is displaced by Julia. She is devastated but must obey. However, she gets her man in the end.

**Lib:** No Lib

**V.S.:** Act 1, No. 1a. **Pretty Lisa** (from fig. G, P.7 to P.8,)

Act 1, No. 12d. **Finale Act I - The Die Is Cast** (P.90 – P.91)

**OLGA** – Mezzo/Alto D to E

**GRETCHEN** – Soprano – D to top F sharp

**BERTHA** – Mezzo/Alto – Mid C to D

**ELSA** – Soprano – E to D

**MARTHA** – Non singing

Members of Ernest Dummkopf's company

**Lib:** No Lib

**V.S.:** Act 1, No. 12. **Finale Act 1** (from P.75 to P.76, end 2<sup>nd</sup> stave. Sing all parts & pick a harmony line on P.76)

**All page numbers refer to the published Chappell Vocal Score & libretto. (But beware of the cuts!)**

# The Grand Duke

## *Or The Statutory Duel*

### Synopsis

#### ACT I

In the Market Place of Speisesaal (the capitol of the Grand Duchy of Pfennig Halbpennig), the members of Ernest Dummkopf's theatrical company are discovered enjoying a repast in honor of the nuptials of Ludwig, his leading comedian and Lisa, his soubrette. This is taking place before the wedding, since Grand Duke Rudolph has convened all the clergy to discuss the details of his upcoming wedding to the Baroness von Krakenfeldt. All the members of the theatrical company are part of a conspiracy to dethrone the Grand Duke, and all have promised to vote for Ernest Dummkopf as his successor since he will fill all the positions at court with members of the troupe, "according to professional precedence."

Ernest, however, is not happy even with this magnificent promotion, for he is head over heels in unrequited love with Julia Jellicoe, an English actress in his troupe "whose dramatic ability is so overwhelming that our audiences forgive even her strong English accent." When she comes to him and announces that she must play the leading role in his "production" of the conspiracy—that is, the wife of the Grand Duke-- he is overjoyed. This is cut short when the members of his troupe rush on chasing Ludwig around town, because he inadvertently detailed the entire plot to the Grand Duke's detective.

Dr. Tannhauser, a Notary, explains that an obscure law will solve the problem. Although duels with weapons have been outlawed in Pfennig Halbpennig, a statutory duel has been instituted: the two disputants draw cards from a pack, and the person with the higher card wins. The person with the lower card becomes a legal ghost, and all his relations, debts, bets, and obligations pass on to the winner. Ludwig will duel with Ernest under this act, and the winner will go to Rudolph and denounce the loser as the mastermind of the plot. He will be pardoned for giving King's evidence, and since the loser is legally deceased, no further action can be taken against him. When the Act expires (coincidentally, at 3:00 the next afternoon), the "dead" man returns to life, and all will be well again. The duel takes place, and Ernest draws a king before Ludwig pulls an ace.

Meanwhile, the Grand Duke's detective has given his report to the Baroness von Krakenfeldt to give to the Grand Duke. She delivers the letter, but before Rudolph reads it he and the Baroness discuss how well they can live without spending much money at all. When the Grand Duke is once more alone, he reads his detective's report, and learns of the plot against him. He despairs, not knowing how

to counter it, when Ludwig comes to confess and be pardoned. Before he can do so, the Grand Duke declares his own despondency, and Ludwig sees a way out of the situation: he will engage Rudolph in a rigged Statutory Duel, and become Grand Duke in his place. He explains this (neglecting to mention his own part in the plot), and the Grand Duke agrees.

This second duel takes place in front of all the townspeople. After Ludwig once more draws an ace, everyone taunts Rudolph, and he threatens massive reprisals when he returns to life the next day. But Ludwig revives the law for a hundred years, and everything seems settled until Julia announces to the company that she must become Ludwig's bride, displacing his fiancée Lisa. The latter is devastated, but must obey as the Notary points out: "Though marriage contracts--or whate'er you call 'em--are very solemn, dramatic contracts (which you all adore so) are even more so."

## ACT II

Ludwig and the members of the theatrical company have taken over the court, dressed in the new costumes which Ernest had purchased for an upcoming revival of *Troilus and Cressida* (because these are the only clothes which are even remotely appropriate), and Ludwig describes how he will run Pfennig

Halbfennig as if it were a modern revival of classical Athens, to fit their costumes, if for no other reason.

When they are alone, Ludwig and Julia discuss how she should play the part of the Grand Duchess. He prefers her to stay in the background, leaving him free to do whatever he wishes, while she explains that her strengths lie in highly dramatic situations. They still have not resolved this when the Baroness von Krakenfeldt arrives for her wedding with Grand Duke Rudolph, fuming because she has not been given the respect she is due by these new courtiers. When she is informed that he has perished, she reminds Ludwig that when he won the duel he also took on all of the previous Grand Duke's commitments, including herself. Julia does not want to give up her role, but the Baroness does have the law on her side.

In the midst of this wedding celebration, a herald appears to announce the imminent arrival of the Prince of Monte Carlo. Not impressed by this formality, Ludwig instructs the members of the troupe to spring out upon the visitors in a manner that is, to say the least, unsuited to a dignified court. Nonplussed by this, the Prince manages to explain that his daughter had been betrothed in infancy to the Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbfennig, and that he has brought her to the Grand Duchy just before she came of age (when the agreement would have become null and void) because he didn't have the money to do so until recently, when he invented the game of roulette.

It is now the Baroness's turn to be distraught, as her marriage to Ludwig is frustrated because the Princess of Monte Carlo has a prior claim. However, before any other marriage can occur, Rudolph and Ernest arrive from the cemetery, accompanied by the Notary who has reread the law and discovered that in statutory duels, the ace invariably counts as the lowest card in the pack. Thus, Ernest and Rudolph ought never to have died, and Ludwig's revival of the act for a hundred years was not valid. Rudolph resumes his throne, and finds that the Princess of Monte Carlo is quite attractive (and no longer poor). Julia and Ernest are reunited, and when the original Act expires so are Lisa and Ludwig.

## **Rudolph & Baroness**

**RUD.** I hope I'm not doing a foolish thing in getting married. After all, it's a poor heart that never rejoices, and this wedding of mine is the first little treat I've allowed myself since my christening. Besides, Caroline's income is very considerable, and as her ideas of economy are quite on a par with mine, it ought to turn out well. Bless her tough old heart, she's a mean little darling! Oh, here she is, punctual to her appointment!

*(Enter BARONESS VON KRAKENFELDT.)*

**BAR.** Rudolph! Why, what's the matter?

**RUD.** Why, I'm not quite myself, my pet. I'm a little worried and upset. I want a tonic. *(He sits by her and tries to put his arm round her waist.)*

**BAR.** Rudolph, don't! What in the world are you thinking of?

**RUD.** I was thinking of embracing you, my sugar-plum. Just as a little cheap treat. What's that?

**BAR.** *(unfolding paper, which contains a large letter, which she hands to him).* It's a letter which your detective asked me to hand to you. I wrapped it up in yesterday's paper to keep it clean.

**RUD.** Oh, it's only his report! That'll keep. But, I say, you've never been and bought a newspaper?

**BAR.** My dear Rudolph, do you think I'm mad? It came wrapped round my breakfast.

**RUD.** *(relieved)* I thought you were not the sort of girl to go and buy a newspaper! Well, as we've got it, we may as well read it. What does it say?

**BAR.** Why – dear me – here's your biography! "Our Detested Despot!"

**RUD.** Yes – I fancy that refers to me.

**BAR.** And it says – Oh, it can't be!

**RUD.** What can't be?

**BAR.** Why, it says that although you're going to marry me tomorrow, you were betrothed in infancy to the Princess of Monte Carlo!

**RUD.** Oh yes – that's quite right. Didn't I mention it?

**BAR.** Mention it! You never said a word about it!

**RUD.** Well, it doesn't matter, because, you see, it's practically off.

**BAR.** Practically off?

**RUD.** Yes. By the terms of the contract the betrothal is void unless the Princess marries before she is of age. Now, her father, the Prince, is stony-broke, and hasn't left his house for years for fear of arrest. Over and over again he has implored me to come to him to be married – but in vain. Over and over again he has implored me to advance him the money to enable the Princess to come to me – but in vain. I am very young, but not as young as that; and as the Princess comes of age at two tomorrow, why at two tomorrow I'm a free man, so I appointed that hour for our wedding, as I shall like to have as much marriage as I can get for my money.

**BAR.** I see. Of course, if the married state is a happy state, it's a pity to waste any of it.

**RUD.** Why, every hour we delayed I should lose a lot of you and you'd lose a lot of me!

**BAR.** My thoughtful darling! Oh, Rudolph, we ought to be very happy!

**RUD.** If I'm not, it'll be my first bad investment. Still, there *is* such a thing as a slump even in Matrimonials.

**BAR.** I often picture us in the long, cold, dark December evenings, sitting close to each other and singing impassioned duets to keep us warm, and thinking of all the lovely things we could afford to buy if we chose, and, at the same time, planning out our lives in a spirit of the most rigid and exacting economy!

**RUD.** It's a most beautiful and touching picture of connubial bliss in its highest and most rarefied development!

## Ernest & Julia

(Enter JULIA JELICOE.)

**JULIA.** Herr Dummkopf, a word with you, if you please.

**ERN.** Beautiful English maiden –

**JULIA.** No compliments, I beg. I understand that the conspiracy in which we are all concerned is to develop to-morrow, and that the company is likely to elect you to the throne on the understanding that the posts about the Court are to be filled by members of your theatrical troupe, according to their professional importance.

**ERN.** That is so.

**JULIA.** Then all I can say is that it places me in an extremely awkward position.

**ERN.** (*very depressed*) I don't see how it concerns you.

**JULIA.** Why, bless my heart, don't you see that, as your leading lady, I am bound under a serious penalty to play the leading part in all your productions?

**ERN.** Well?

**JULIA.** Why, of course, the leading part in this production will be the Grand Duchess!

**ERN.** My wife?

**JULIA.** That is another way of expressing the same idea.

**ERN.** (*aside – delighted*) I scarcely dared even to hope for this!

**JULIA.** Of course, as your leading lady, you'll be mean enough to hold me to the terms of my agreement.

**ERN.** Oh, certainly!

**JULIA.** Oh, that's so like a man! Well, I suppose there's no help for it – I shall have to do it! You may be quite sure that (however distasteful the part may be) if I undertake it, I shall consider myself professionally bound to throw myself into it with all the ardour at my command.

**ERN.** (*aside – with effusion*) I'm the happiest fellow alive! (*aloud*) Now – would you have any objection – to – to give me some idea – if it's only a mere sketch – as to how you would play it? It would be really interesting – to me – to know your conception of – of – the part of my wife.

**JULIA.** How would I play it? Now, let me see – let me see. (*considering*) Ah, I have it!

## Ludwig

**NOT.** Well now, about *Troilus and Cressida*. What do you play?

**LUD.** (*struggling with his feelings*) If you'll be so obliging as to wait until I've got rid of this feeling of warm oil at the bottom of my throat, I'll tell you all about it.

(LISA gives him some brandy.) Thank you, my love; it's gone. Well, the piece will be produced upon a scale of unexampled magnificence. It is confidently predicted that my appearance as King Agamemnon, in a Louis Quatorze wig, will mark an epoch in the theatrical annals of Pfennig Halbpennig. I endeavoured to persuade Ernest Dummkopf, our manager, to lend us the classical dresses for our marriage. Think of the effect of a real Athenian wedding procession cavorting through the streets of Speisesaal! Torches burning – cymbals banging – flutes tootling – citharae twanging – and a throng of fifty lovely Spartan virgins capering before us, all down the High Street, singing "Eloia! Eloia! Opoponax, Eloia!" It would have been tremendous!

**NOT.** And he declined?

**LUD.** He did, on the prosaic ground that it might rain, and the ancient Greeks didn't carry umbrellas! If, as is confidently expected, Ernest Dummkopf is elected to succeed the dethroned one, mark any words, he will make a mess of it.

(Exit LUDWIG with LISA.)

## **Dr. Tannhäuser/Notary**

**LISA.** *(To NOTARY, who has been smiling placidly through this.)* What are you grinning at?

**NOT.** It is always amusing to the legal mind to see a parcel of laymen bothering themselves about a matter which to a trained lawyer presents no difficulty whatever.

**ALL.** No difficulty!

**NOT.** You two men fight a Statutory Duel.

**ERN.** A Statutory Duel?

**JULIA.** A Stat-tat-tatutory Duel! Ach! what a crack-jaw language this German is!

**LUD.** Never heard of such a thing.

**NOT.** It is true that the practice has fallen into abeyance through disuse. But all the laws of Pfennig Halbpennig run for a hundred years, when they die a natural death, unless, in the meantime, they have been revived for another century. The Act that institutes the Statutory Duel was passed a hundred years ago, and as it has never been revived, it expires tomorrow. So you're just in time.

**LISA.** But what is the use of talking to us about Statutory Duels when we none of us know what a Statutory Duel is?

**NOT.** Don't you?

**ALL.** No!

**NOT.** Then I'll explain

## **PRINCE & PRINCESS OF MONTE CARLO**

**PRINCE.** Well, my dear, here we are at last – just in time to compel Duke Rudolph to fulfil the terms of his marriage contract. Another hour and we should have been too late.

**PRINCESS.** But, papa, where in the world is the Court? There is positively no one here to receive us! I can't help feeling that Rudolph wants to get out of it because I'm poor. He's a miserly little wretch – that's what he is.

**PRINCE.** Well, I shouldn't go so far as to say that. I should rather describe him as an enthusiastic collector of coins – of the realm – It's a pretty hobby: I've often thought I should like to collect some coins myself.

**PRINCESS.** Papa, I'm sure there's some one behind that curtain. I saw it move!

**PRINCE.** Then no doubt they are coming. Now mind, you Peers – haughty affability combined with a sense of what is due to your exalted ranks, or I'll fine you half a franc each – upon my soul I will!