VOCAL SCORE

PATIENCE;

OR,

BUNTHORNE'S BRIDE.

Written by

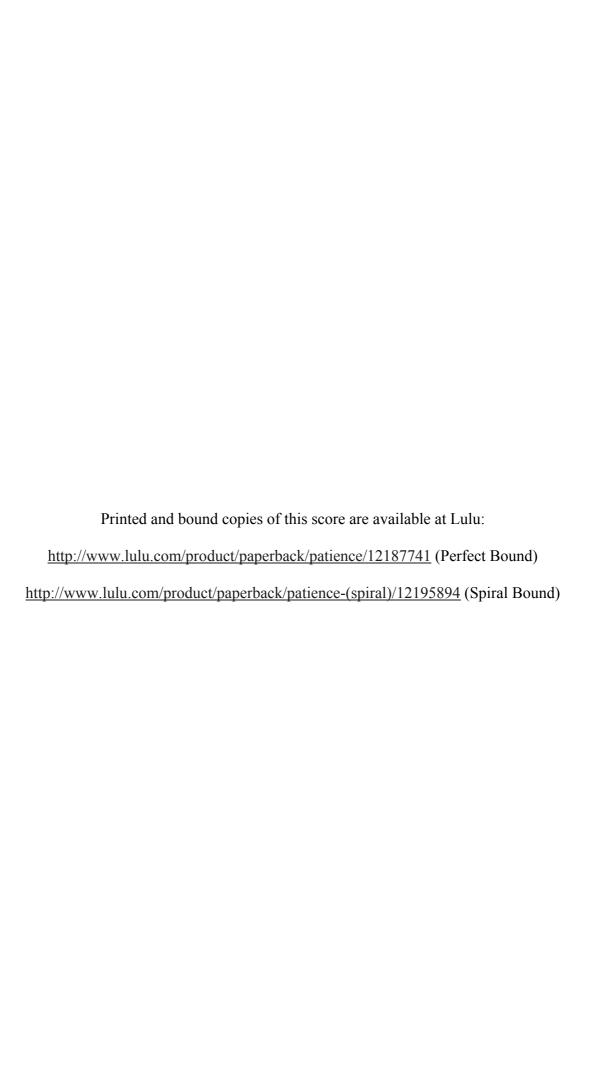
W. S. GILBERT

Composed by

ARTHUR SULLIVAN

The Gilbert & Sullivan Archive

Copyright © 2010 All Rights Reserved



PATIENCE;

OR,

BUNTHORNE'S BRIDE

COLONEL CALVERLEY

MAJOR MURGATROYD

LIEUT. THE DUKE OF DUNSTABLE

REGINALD BUNTHORNE (a Fleshly Poet)

ARCHIBALD GROSVENOR (an Idyllic Poet)

MR. BUNTHORNE'S SOLICITOR

THE LADY ANGELA
THE LADY SAPHIR
(Rapturous
THE LADY ELLA
THE LADY JANE
PATIENCE (a Dairy Maid)

CHORUS OF RAPTUROUS MAIDENS AND OFFICERS OF DRAGOON GUARDS

ACT I. EXTERIOR OF CASTLE BUNTHORNE ACT II. A GLADE

PATIENCE;

OR,

BUNTHORNE'S BRIDE

CONTENTS.

OVE	RTURE		PAGE
OVE	KIUKE		1
	ACT I		
NO.			
1.	CHORUS OF MAIDENS WITH SOLOS (Angela and Ella)	"Twenty love-sick maidens we"	7
2.	RECITATIVE (Patience, Saphir, Angela and Chorus)	"Still brooding on their mad infatuation"	14
	AND SONG (Patience)		
2a.	CHORUS OF MAIDENS (Exit)	"Twenty love-sick maidens we"	23
3.	SOLO (Colonel) AND CHORUS OF DRAGOONS	"The soldiers of our Queen"	24
4.	CHORUS WITH SOLOS (Angela, Ella, Saphir and Bunthorne).	"In a doleful train"	33
4a.	CHORUS OF MAIDENS (Exit)	"Twenty love-sick maidens we"	46
5.	SONG (Colonel)	"When I first put this uniform on"	47
6.	RECITATIVE AND SONG (Bunthorne)	"Am I alone and unobserved"	50
7.	DUET (Patience and Angela)	"Long years ago, fourteen maybe"	60
8.	DUET (Patience and Grosvenor)	"Prithee, pretty maiden"	64
8a.	DUET (Patience and Grosvenor)	"Though to marry you would very selfish l	oe".69
9.	FINALE ACT I	"Let the merry cymbals sound"	70
	ACT II		
10.	CHORUS OF MAIDENS	"On such eyes as maidens cherish"	113
11.	RECITATIVE AND SONG (Jane)		
12.	CHORUS OF MAIDENS		
13.	SONG (Grosvenor and Chorus of Maidens)		
14.	SONG (Patience)		
15.	DUET (Jane and Bunthorne)		
16.	TRIO (Duke, Major and Colonel)		
17.	QUINTET (Angela, Saphir, Duke, Major and Colonel)		
18.	DUET (Bunthorne and Grosvenor)		
19.	SONG (Grosvenor) AND CHORUS OF MAIDENS		
20	FINALE		

PATIENCE

OVERTURE.













ACT I

Scene:—Exterior of Castle Bunthorne. Young maidens dressed in aesthetic draperies are grouped about the stage. They play on lutes, mandolins, etc., as they sing, and all are in the last stage of despair. Angela, Ella and Saphir lead them.













ANG. There is a strange magic in this love of ours! Rivals as we all are in the affections of our Reginald, the very hopelessness of our love is a bond that binds us to one another!

SAPH. Jealousy is merged in misery. While he, the very cynosure of our eyes and hearts, remains icy insensible – what have we to strive for?

ELLA. The love of maidens is, to him, as interesting as the taxes!

SAPH. Would that it were! He pays his taxes.

ANG. And cherishes the receipts!

(Enter LADY JANE.)

SAPH. Happy receipts!

JANE (suddenly). Fools!

ANG. I beg your pardon?

JANE. Fools and blind! The man loves – wildly loves!

ANG. But whom? None of us!

JANE. No, none of us. His weird fancy has lighted, for the nonce, on Patience, the village milkmaid!

SAPH. On Patience? Oh, it .cannot be!

JANE. Bah! But yesterday I caught him in her dairy, eating fresh butter with a tablespoon. To-day he is not well!

SAPH. But Patience boasts that she has never loved – that love is, to her, a: sealed book! Oh, he cannot be serious!

JANE. Tis but a fleeting fancy 'twill quickly wear away. (*Aside*.) Oh, Reginald, if you but knew what a wealth of golden love is waiting for you, stored up in this rugged old bosom of mine, the milkmaid's triumph would be short indeed!

(PATIENCE appears on an eminence. She looks down with pity on the despondent Maidens.)

No. 2: RECIATIVE (Patience, Saphir, Angela & Chorus)





SONG (Patience)













ANG. Ah, Patience, if you have never loved, you have never known true happiness! (*All sigh*.)

PA. But the truly happy always seem to have so much on their minds. The truly happy never seem quite well.

JANE. There is a transcendentality of delirium – an acute accentuation of supremest ecstasy – which the earthy might easily mistake for indigestion. But it is not indigestion – it is aesthetic transfiguration! (*To the others*.) Enough of babble. Come!

PA. But stay, I have some news for you. The 35th Dragoon Guards have halted in the village, and are even now on their way to this very spot.

ANG. The 35th Dragoon Guards!

SAPH. They are fleshly men, of full habit!

ELLA. We care nothing for Dragoon Guards!

PA. But, bless me, you were all engaged to them a year ago!

SAPH. A year ago!

ANG. My poor child, you don't understand these things. A year ago they were very well in our eyes, but since then our tastes have been etherealized, our perceptions exalted. (*To others.*) Come, it is time to lift up our voices in morning carol to our Reginald. Let us to his door.

(The Maidens go off, two and two, into the Castle, singing refrain of 'Twenty love-sick maidens we', and accompanying themselves on harps and mandolins. Patience watches them in surprise, as she climbs the rock by which she entered.)

No. 2a: CHORUS OF MAIDENS (EXIT.)



(March. Enter Officers of Dragoon Guards, led by MAJOR.)

No. 3: SOLO (Colonel and Chorus of Dragoons)

















COL. Well, here we are once more on the scene of our former triumphs. But where's the Duke?

(Enter Duke. listlessly, and in low spirits.)

DUKE. Here I am! (Sighs.)

COL. Come, cheer up, don't give way!

DUKE. Oh, for that, I'm as cheerful as a poor devil can be expected to be who has the misfortune to be a duke, with a thousand a day!

MAJ. Humph! Most men would envy you!

DUKE. Envy me? Tell me, Major, are you fond of toffee?

Maj. Very!

COL. We are all fond of toffee.

ALL. We are!

DUKE. Yes, and toffee in moderation is a capital thing. But to live on toffee — toffee for breakfast, toffee for dinner, toffee for tea to have it supposed that you care for nothing but toffee, and that you would consider yourself insulted if anything but toffee were offered to you — how would you like that?

Col. I can quite believe that, under those circumstances, even toffee would become monotonous.

DUKE. For 'toffee' read flattery, adulation, and abject deference, carried to such a pitch that I began, at last, to think that man was born bent at an angle of forty-five degrees! Great Heavens, what is there to adulate in me! Am I particularly intelligent, or remarkably studious, or excruciatingly witty, or unusually accomplished, or exceptionally virtuous?

COL. You're about as commonplace a young man as ever I saw.

ALL. You are!

DUKE. Exactly! That's it exactly! That describes me to a T! Thank you all very much! Well, I couldn't stand it any longer, so I joined this second-class cavalry regiment. In the Army, thought I, I shall be occasionally snubbed, perhaps even bullied, who knows? The thought was rapture, and here I am.

Col. (looking off). Yes, and here are the ladies!

DUKE. But who is the gentleman with the long hair?

COL. I don't know.

DUKE. He seems popular!

COL. He does seem popular!

(Bunthorne enters, followed by Maidens, two and turn, singing and playing on harps as before. He is composing a poem, and quite absorbed. He sees no one, but walks across the stage, followed by Maidens. They take no notice of Dragoons — to the surprise and indignation of those Officers.)

No. 4: CHORUS, with SOLOS (Angela, Saphir & Bunthorne)









N.B. The crotchets in this movement are equal to the minims in the preceding one.















COL. Angela! what is the meaning of this?

ANG. Oh, sir, leave us; our minds are but ill-tuned to light love-talk.

MAJ. But what in the world has come over you all?

JANE. Bunthorne! *He* has come over us. He has come among us, and he has idealized us.

DUKE. Has he succeeded in idealizing you?

JANE. He has!

DUKE. Good old Bunthorne!

JANE. My eyes are open; I droop despairingly; I am soulfully intense; I am limp and I cling!

(During this Bunthorne is seen in all the agonies of composition. The Maidens are watching him intently as he writhes. At last he hits on the word he wants and writes it down. A general sense of relief.)

BUN. Finished! At last! Finished!

(He staggers, overcome-with the mental strain, into arms of COLONEL.)

Col. Are you better now?

BUN. Yes – oh, it's you – I am better now. The poem is finished, and my soul had gone out into it. That was all. It was nothing worth mentioning, it occurs three times a day. (Sees PATIENCE, who has entered during this scene.) Ah, Patience! Dear Patience! (Holds her hand; she seem frightened.)

ANG. Will it please you read it to us, sir?

SAPH. This we supplicate. (All kneel.)

BUN. Shall I?

ALL THE DRAGOONS. No!

BUN. (annoyed — to PATIENCE). I will read it if you bid me!

PA. (much frightened). You can if you like!

BUN. It is a wild, weird, fleshly thing; yet very tender, very yearning, very precious. It is called, 'Oh, Hollow! Hollow! Hollow!'

PA. Is it a hunting song?

BUN. A hunting song? No, it is not a hunting song. It is the wail of the poet's heart on discovering that everything is commonplace. To understand it, cling passionately to one another and think of faint lilies. (*They do so as he recites*) —

'OH, HOLLOW! HOLLOW!'

What time the poet hath hymned
The writhing maid, lithe-limbed,
Quivering on amaranthine asphodel,
How can he paint her woes,
Knowing, as well he knows,
That all can be set right with calomel?

When from the poet's plinth
The amorous colocynth
Yearns for the aloe, faint with rapturous thrills,
How can he hymn their throes
Knowing, as well he knows,
That they are only uncompounded pills?

Is it, and can it be,
Nature hath this decree,
Nothing poetic in the world shall dwell?
Or that in all her works
Something poetic lurks,
Even in colocynth and calomel?
I cannot tell.

(*Exit* BUNTHORNE.)

ANG. How purely fragrant!

SAPH. How earnestly precious!

PA. Well, it seems to me to be nonsense.

SAPH. Nonsense, yes, perhaps — but oh, what precious nonsense!

Col. This is all very well, but you seem to forget that you are engaged to us.

SAPH. It can never be. You are not Empyrean. You are not Della Cruscan. You are not even Early English. Oh, be Early English ere it is too late! (Officers look at each other in astonishment.)

JANE (*looking at uniform*). Red and Yellow! Primary colours! Oh, South Kensington!

DUKE. We didn't design our uniforms, but we don't see how they could be improved.

JANE. No, you wouldn't. Still, there is a cobwebby grey velvet, with a tender bloom like cold gravy, which, made Florentine fourteenth-century, trimmed with Venetian leather and Spanish altar lace, and surmounted with something Japanese — it matters not what — would at least be Early English! Come, maidens.

(Exeunt Maidens, two and two, singing refrain of 'Twenty love-sick maidens we'. The Officers watch them off in astonishment.)

No. 4a: CHORUS OF MAIDENS (EXIT.)



DUKE. Gentlemen, this is an insult to the British uniform — COL. A uniform that has been as successful in the courts of Venus as on the field of Mars!







[The Dragoons go off angrily.

No. 6: RECITATIVE & SONG (Bunthorne)

















(At the end of his song PATIENCE enters. He sees her.)

BUN. Ah! Patience, come hither. I am pleased with thee. The bitter-hearted one, who finds all else hollow, is pleased with thee. For you are not hollow. Are you?

PA. No, thanks, I have dined; but – I beg your pardon – I interrupt you.

BUN. Life is made up of interruptions. The tortured soul, yearning for solitude, writhes under them. Oh, but my heart is a-weary! Oh, I am a cursed thing! Don't go.

PA. Really, I'm very sorry –

BUN. Tell me, girl, do you ever yearn?

PA. (misunderstanding him). I earn my living.

BUN. (*impatiently*). No, no! Do you know what it is to be heart-hungry? Do you know what it is to yearn for the Indefinable, and yet to be brought face to face, daily, with the Multiplication Table? Do you know what it is to seek oceans and to find puddles? – to long for whirlwinds and yet to have to do the best you can with the bellows? That's my case. Oh, I am a cursed thing! Don't go.

PA. If you please, I don't understand you – you frighten me!

BUN. Don't be frightened – it's only poetry.

PA. Well, if that's poetry, I don't like poetry.

BUN. (*eagerly*). Don't you? (*Aside*.) Can I trust her? (*Aloud*.) Patience, you don't like poetry – well, between you and me, *I* don't like poetry. It's hollow, unsubstantial – unsatisfactory. What's the use of yearning for Elysian Fields when you know you can't get 'em, and would only let 'em out on building leases if you had 'em?

PA. Sir. I —

BUN. Patience, I have long loved you. Let me tell you a secret. I am not as bilious as I look. If you like, I will cut my hair. There is more innocent fun within me than a casual spectator would imagine. You have never seen me frolicsome. Bea good girl – a very good girl – and one day you shall. If you are fond of touch-and-go jocularity – this is the shop for it.

PA. Sir, I will speak plainly. In the matter of love I am untaught. I have never loved but my great-aunt. But I am quite certain that, under any circumstances, I couldn't possibly love *you*.

BUN. Oh, you think not?

PA. I'm quite sure of it. Quite sure. Quite.

BUN. Very good.1ife is henceforth a blank I don't care what becomes of me. I have only to ask that you will not abuse my confidence; though *you* despise me, I am extremely popular with the other young ladies.

PA. I only ask that you will leave me and never renew the subject.

BUN. Certainly. Broken-hearted and desolate, I go. (Recites.)

'Oh, to be wafted away

From this black Aceldama of sorrow,

Where the dust of an earthy to-day

Is the earth of a dusty to-morrow!'

It is a little thing of my own. I call it 'Heart Foam'. I shall not publish it. Farewell! Patience, Patience, farewell!

(*Exit* BUNTHORNE.)

PA. What on earth does it all mean? Why does he love me? Why does he expect me to love him? He's not a relation! It frightens me!

(Enter ANGELA.)

ANG. Why, Patience, what is the matter?

PA. Lady Angela, tell me two things. Firstly, what on earth is this love that upsets everybody; and, secondly, how is it to be distinguished from insanity?

ANG. Poor blind child! Oh, forgive her, Eros! Why, love is of all passions the most essential! It is the embodiment of purity, the abstraction of refinement! It is the one unselfish emotion in this whirlpool of grasping greed!

PA. Oh, dear, oh! (Beginning to cry.)

ANG. Why are you crying?

PA. To think that I have lived all these years without having experienced this ennobling and unselfish passion! Why, what a wicked girl I must be! For it is unselfish, isn't it?

ANG. Absolutely! Love that is tainted with selfishness is no love. Oh, try, try to love! It really isn't difficult if you give your whole mind to it.

PA. I'll set about it at once. I won't go to bed until I'm head over ears in love with somebody.

ANG. Noble girl! But is it possible that you have never loved anybody?

PA. Yes, one.

ANG. Ah! Whom?

PA. My great-aunt —

ANG. Great-aunts don't count.

PA. Then there's nobody. At least – no, nobody. Not since I was a baby. But *that* doesn't count, I suppose.

ANG. I don't know. Tell me about it.

No. 7: DUET (Patience and Angela)









PA. It's perfectly dreadful to think of the appalling state I must be in! I had no idea that love was a duty. No wonder they all look so unhappy! Upon my word, I hardly like to associate with myself. I don't think I'm respectable. I'll go at once and fall in love with – (*Enter* GROSVENOR.) A stranger!

No. 8: DUET (Patience and Grosvenor)







GROS. Patience! Can it be that you don't recognize me?

PA. Recognize you? No, indeed I don't!

GROS. Have fifteen years so greatly changed me?

PA. Fifteen years? What do you mean?

GROS. Have you forgotten the friend of your youth, your Archibald? – your little playfellow? Oh, Chronos, Chronos, this is too bad of you!

PA. Archibald! Is it possible? Why, let me look! It is! It is! It must be! Oh, how happy I am! I thought we should never meet again! And how you've grown!

GROS. Yes, Patience, I am much taller and much stouter than I was.

PA. And how you've improved!

GROS. Yes, Patience, I am very beautiful! (Sighs.)

PA. But surely that doesn't make you unhappy?

GROS. Yes, Patience. Gifted as I am with a beauty which probably has not its rival on earth, I am, nevertheless, utterly and completely miserable.

PA. Oh - but why?

GROS. My child-love for you has never faded. Conceive, then, the horror of my situation when I tell you that it is my hideous destiny to be madly loved at first sight by every woman I come across!

PA. But why do you make yourself so picturesque? Why not disguise yourself, disfigure yourself, anything to escape this persecution?

GROS. No, Patience, that may not be. These gifts – irksome as they are – were given to me for the enjoyment and delectation of my fellow-creatures. I am a trustee for Beauty, and it is my duty to see that the conditions of my trust are faithfully discharged.

PA. And you, too, are a Poet?

GROS. Yes, I am the Apostle of Simplicity. I am called 'Archibald the All-Right' – for I am infallible!

PA. And is it possible that you condescend to love such a girl as I?

GROS. Yes, Patience, is it not strange? I have loved you with a Florentine fourteenth-century frenzy for full fifteen years!

PA. Oh, marvellous! I have hitherto been deaf to the voice of love. I seem now to know what love is! It has been revealed to me – it is Archibald Grosvenor!

GROS. Yes, Patience, it is!

PA. (as in a trance). We will never, never part!

GROS. We will live and die together!

PA. I swear it!

GROS. We both swear it!

PA. (*recoiling from him*). But – oh, horror!

GROS. What's the matter?

PA. Why, you are perfection! A source of endless ecstasy to all who know you!

GROS. I know I am. Well?

PA. Then, bless my heart, there can be nothing unselfish in loving *you*!

GROS. Merciful powers! I never thought of that!

PA. To monopolize those features on which all women love to linger! It would be unpardonable!

GROS. Why, so it would! Oh, fatal perfection, again you interpose between me and my happiness!

PA. Oh, if you were but a thought less beautiful than you are!

GROS. Would that I were; but candour compels me to admit that I'm not!

PA. Our duty is clear; we must part, and for ever!

GROS. Oh misery! And yet I cannot question the propriety of your decision. Farewell, Patience!

PA. Farewell, Archibald! But stay!

GROS. Yes, Patience?

PA. Although I may not love you – for you are perfection – there is nothing to prevent your loving me. I am plain, homely, unattractive!

GROS. Why, that's true!

PA. The love of such a man as you for such a girl as I must be unselfish! GROS. Unselfishness itself!

No 8a: DUET (Patience and Grosvenor)



(At the end, exeunt despairingly, in opposite directions.)

(Enter Bunthorne, crowned with roses and hung about with garlands, and looking very miserable. He is led by Angela and Saphir, each of whom holds an end of the rose-garland by which he is bound, and accompanied by a procession of Maidens. They are dancing classically, and playing on cymbals, double pipes, and other archaic instruments.)

No. 9: FINALE -ACT I









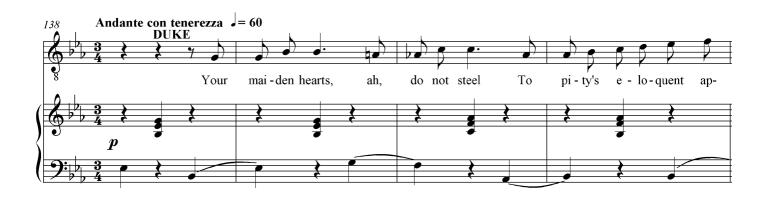


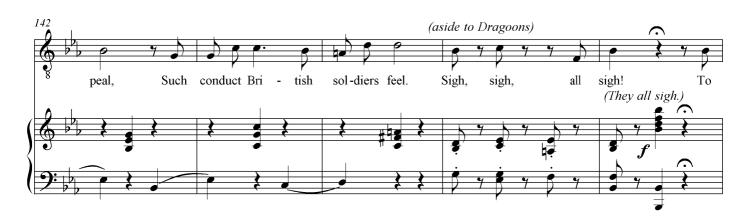


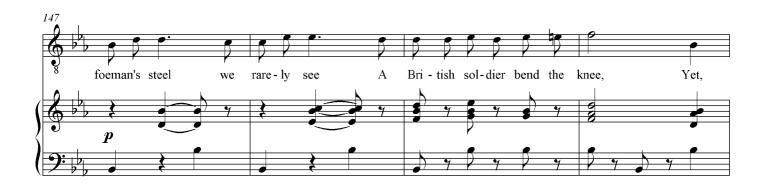


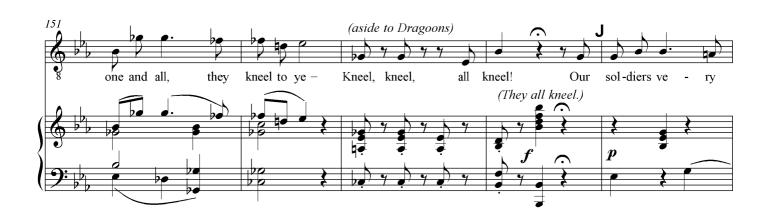












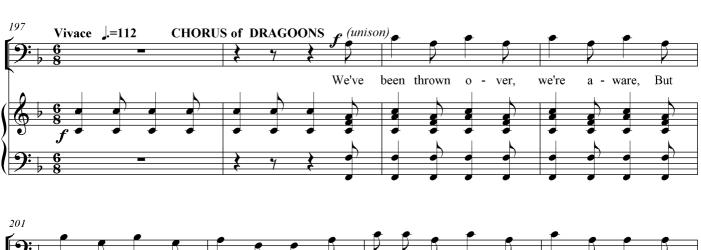








(Maidens crowd up to purchase tickets; during this Dragoons dance in single file round stage, to express their indifference.)





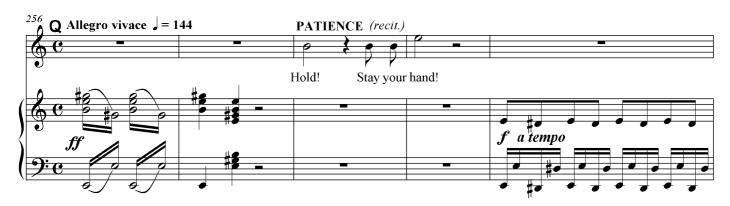








(Jane puts her hand in bag to draw ticket. Patience enters and prevents her doing so.)



















(Exeunt Patience and Bunthorne. Angela, Saphir and Ella take Colonel, Duke and Major down, while Maidens gaze fondly at other Officers.)











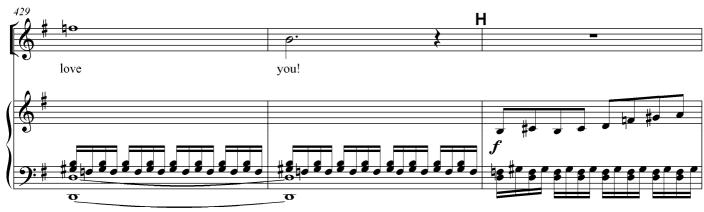




(As the Dragoons and Maidens are embracing, enter Grosvenor, reading. He takes no notice of them, but comes slowly down, still reading. The Maidens are all strangely fascinated by him, and gradually withdraw from the Dragoons.)



























END OF ACT I

ACT II

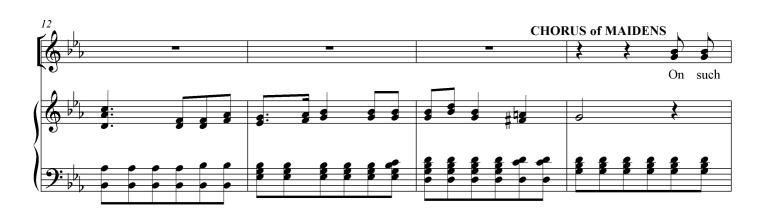
Scene:— A glade. Jane is discovered leaning on a violoncello, upon which she presently accompanies herself. Chorus of Maidens are heard singing in the distance.

No. 10: CHORUS OF MAIDENS











JANE. The fickle crew have deserted Reginald and sworn allegiance to his rival, and all, forsooth, because he has glanced with passing favour on a puling milkmaid! Fools! Of that fancy he will soon weary — and then I, who alone am faithful to him, shall reap my reward. But do not dally too long, Reginald, for my charms are ripe, Reginald, and already they are decaying. Better secure me ere I have gone too far!











[Exit JANE.

(Enter Grosvenor, followed by Maidens, two and two, each playing on an archaic instrument, as in Act I. He is reading abstractedly, as Bunthorne did in Act I, and pays no attention to them.)

No. 12: CHORUS OF MAIDENS





(He sits – they group round him.)

GROS. (aside). The old, old tale. How rapturously these maidens love me, and how hopelessly! Oh, Patience, Patience, with the love of thee in my heart, what have I for these poor mad maidens but an unvalued pity? Alas, they will die of hopeless love for me, as I shall die of hopeless love for thee!

ANG. Sir, will it please you read to us?

GROS. (sighing). Yes, child, if you will. What shall I read?

ANG. One of your own poems.

GROS. One of my own poems? Better not, my child. They will not cure thee of thy love.

ELLA. Mr Bunthorne used to read us a poem of his own every day.

SAPH. And, to do him justice, he read them extremely well.

GROS. Oh, did he so? Well, who am I that I should take upon myself to withhold my gifts from you? What am I but a trustee? Here is a decalet – a pure and simple thing, a very daisy – a babe might understand it. To appreciate it, it is not necessary to think of anything at all.

ANG. Let us think of nothing at all!

GROSVENOR recites.

Gentle Jane was as good as gold, She always did as she was told; She never spoke when her mouth was full, Or caught bluebottles their legs to pull, Or spilt plum jam on her nice new frock, Or put white mice in the eight-day clock, Or vivisected her last new doll. Or fostered a passion for alcohol.

And when she grew up she was given in marriage To a first-class earl who keeps his carriage!

GROS. I believe I am right in saying that there is not one word in that decalet which is calculated to bring the blush of shame to the cheek of modesty.

ANG. Not one; it is purity itself.

GROS. Here's another.

Teasing Tom was a very bad boy, A great big squirt was his favourite toy; He put live shrimps in his father's boots, And sewed up the sleeves of his Sunday suits; He punched his poor little sisters' heads, And cayenne-peppered their four-post beds, He plastered their hair with cobbler's wax, And dropped hot halfpennies down their backs.

The consequence was he was lost totally, And married a girl in the corps de bully!

ANG. Marked you how grandly – how relentlessly the damning catalogue of crime strode on, till Retribution, like a poisèd hawk, came swooping down upon the Wrong-Doer? Oh, it was terrible!

ELLA. Oh, sir, you are indeed a true poet, for you touch our hearts, and they go out to you!

GROS. (aside). This is simply cloying. (Aloud.) Ladies, I am sorry to appear ungallant, but this is Saturday, and you have been following me about ever since Monday. I should like the usual half-holiday. I shall take it as a personal favour if you will kindly allow me to close early to-day.

SAPH. Oh, Sir, do not send us from you!

GROS. Poor, poor girls! It is best to speak plainly. I know that I am loved by you, but I never can love you in return for my heart is fixed elsewhere! Remember the fable of the Magnet and the Churn!

ANG. (*wildly*) But we don't know the fable of the Magnet and the Churn. GROS. Don't you? Then I will sing it to you.

No. 13: SONG (Grosvenor and Chorus of Maidens)











(They go off in low spirits, gazing back at him from time to time.)

GROS. At last they are gone! What is this mysterious fascination that I seem to exercise over all I come across? A curse on my fatal beauty, for I am sick of conquests!

(PATIENCE appears.)

Pa. Archibald!

GROS. (turns and sees her). Patience!

PA. I have escaped with difficulty from my Reginald. I wanted to see you so much that I might ask you if you still love me as fondly as ever?

GROS. Love you? If the devotion of a lifetime – (Seizes her hand.)

PA. (*indignantly*). Hold! Unhand me, or I scream! (*He releases her*.) If you are gentleman, pray remember that I am another's! (*Very tenderly*.) But you *do* love me, don't you?

GROS. Madly, hopelessly, despairingly.

PA. That's right! I never can be yours; but that's right!

GROS. And you love this Bunthorne?

PA. With a heart-whole ecstasy that withers, and scorches, and burns, and stings! (*Sadly*.) It is my duty.

Gros. Admirable girl! But you are not happy with him?

PA. Happy? I am miserable beyond description!

GROS. That's right! I never can be yours; but that's right!

PA. But go now. I see dear Reginald approaching. Farewell, dear Archibald, I cannot tell you how happy it has made me to know that you still love me.

GROS. Ah, if I only dared — (Advances towards her.)

PA. Sir! this language to one who is promised to another! (*Tenderly*.) Oh, Archibald, think of me sometimes, for my heart is breaking! He is so unkind to me, and you would be so loving!

GROS. Loving! (Advances towards her.)

PA. Advance one step, and as I am a good and pure woman, I scream! (*Tenderly*.) Farewell, Archibald! (*Sternly*.) Stop there! (*Tenderly*.) Think of me sometimes! (*Angrily*.) Advance at your peril! Once more, adieu!

(GROSVENOR sighs, gazes sorrowfully at her, sighs deeply, and exits. She bursts into tears.)

(Enter Bunthorne, followed by Jane. He is moody and preoccupied.)

JANE sings.

In a doleful train,
One and one I walk all day,
For I love in vain –
None so sorrowful as they
Who can only sigh and say,
Woe is me, alackaday!
Woe is me, alackaday, and woe!

BUN. (seeing PATIENCE). Crying, eh? What are you crying about?

PA. I've only been thinking how dearly I love you!

BUN. Love me! Bah!

JANE. Love him! Bah!

BUN. (to JANE). Don't you interfere.

JANE. He always crushes me!

PA. (*going to him*). What is the matter, dear Reginald? If you have an sorrow, tell it to me, that I may share it with you. (*Sighing*.) It is my duty!

BUN. (snappishly). Whom were you talking with just now?

PA. With dear Archibald.

BUN. (furiously). With-dear Archibald! Upon my honour, this is too much!

JANE. A great deal too much!

BUN. (angrily to JANE). Do be quiet!

JANE. Crushed again!

PA. I think he is the noblest, purest, and most perfect being I have ever met. But I don't love him. It is true that he is devotedly attached to me, but indeed I don't love him. Whenever he grows affectionate, I scream. It is my duty! (*Sighing*.)

BUN. I dare say!

JANE. So do I! I dare say!

PA. Why, how could I love him and love you too? You can't love two people at once!

BUN. Oh, can't you, though!

PA. No, you can't; I only wish you could.

BUN. I don't believe you know what love is!

PA. (*sighing*). Yes, I do. There was a happy time when I didn't, but a bitter experience has taught me.

(Exeunt BUNTHORNE and JANE.)

No. 14: SONG (Patience)





[At the end of ballad exit PATIENCE, weeping.

(*Enter* BUNTHORNE *and* JANE.)

BUN. Everything has gone wrong with me since that smug-faced idiot came here. Before that I was admired – I may say, loved.

JANE. Too mild – adored!

BUN. Do let a poet soliloquize! The damozels used to follow me wherever I went, now they all follow him!

JANE. Not all! I am still faithful to you.

BUN. Yes, and a pretty damozel you are!

JANE. No, not pretty. Massive. Cheer up! I will never leave you, I swear it! BUN. Oh, thank you! I know what it is; it's his confounded mildness. They find me too highly spiced, if you please! And no doubt I am highly spiced.

JANE. Not for my taste!

BUN. (*savagely*). No, but I am for theirs. But I will show the world I can be as mild as he. If they want insipidity, they shall have it. I'll meet this fellow on his own ground and beat him on it.

JANE. You shall. And I will help you.

BUN. You will? Jane, there's a good deal of good in you, after all!

No. 15: DUET (Jane and Bunthorne)



















(Enter Duke, Colonel and Major. They have abandoned their uniforms, and are dressed and made up in imitation of Aesthetics. They have long hair, and other outward signs of attachment to the brotherhood. As they sing they walk in stiff, constrained and angular attitudes – a grotesque exaggeration of the attitudes adopted by Bunthorne and the Maidens in Act I.)

No. 16: TRIO (Duke, Major and Colonel)













COL. (attitude). Yes, it's quite clear that our only chance of making a lasting impression on these young ladies is to become as aesthetic as they are.

MAJ. (*attitude*). No doubt. The only question is how far we've succeeded in doing so. I don't know why, but I've an idea that this is not quite right.

DUKE. (attitude). I don't like it. I never did. I don't see what it means. I do it, but I don't like it.

COL. My good friend, the question is not whether we like it, but whether they do. They understand these things – we don't. Now I shouldn't be surprised if this is effective enough – at a distance.

MAJ. I can't help thinking we're a little stiff at it. It would be extremely awkward if we were to be 'struck' so!

COL. I don't think we shall be struck so. Perhaps we're a little awkward at first – but everything must have a beginning. Oh, here they come! 'Tention!

(*They strike fresh attitudes, as* ANGELA *and* SAPHIR *enter.*)

ANG. (*seeing them*). Oh, Saphir – see – see! The immortal fire has descended on them, and they are of the Inner Brotherhood – perceptively intense and consummately utter. (*The Officers have some difficulty in maintaining their constrained attitudes*.)

SAPH. (*in admiration*). How Botticellian! How Fra Angelican! Oh, Art, we thank thee for this boon!

Col. (apologetically). I'm afraid we're not quite right.

ANG. Not supremely, perhaps, but oh, so all-but! (*To* SAPHIR.) Oh, Saphir, are they not quite too all-but?

SAPH. They are indeed jolly utter!

MAJ. (*in agony*). I wonder what the Inner Brotherhood usually recommend for cramp?

Col. Ladies, we will not deceive you. We are doing this at some personal inconvenience with a view of expressing the extremity of our devotion to you. We trust that it is not without its effect.

ANG. We will not deny that we are much moved by this proof of your attachment.

SAPH. Yes, your conversion to the principles of Aesthetic Art in its highest development has touched us deeply.

ANG. And if Mr. Grosvenor should remain obdurate –

SAPH. Which we have every reason to believe he will –

MAJ. (aside, in agony). I wish they'd make haste.

ANG. We are not prepared to say that our yearning hearts will not go out to you.

Col. (as giving a word of command). By sections of threes – Rapture! (All strike a fresh attitude, expressive of aesthetic rapture.)

SAPH. Oh, it's extremely good – for beginners it's admirable.

MAJ. The only question is, who will take who?

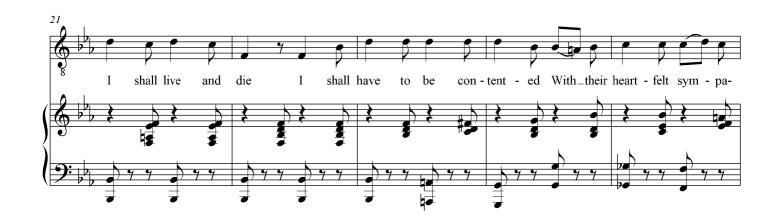
Col. Oh, the Duke chooses first, as a matter of course.

DUKE. Oh, I couldn't think of it – you are really too good!

Col. Nothing of the kind. You are a great matrimonial fish, and it's only fair that each of these ladies should have a chance of hooking you.

No. 17: QUINTET (Angela, Saphir, Duke, Major and Colonel)







(Duke dances with Saphir, Colonel with Angela, Major dances alone.)

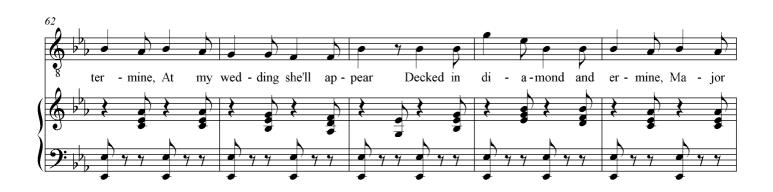


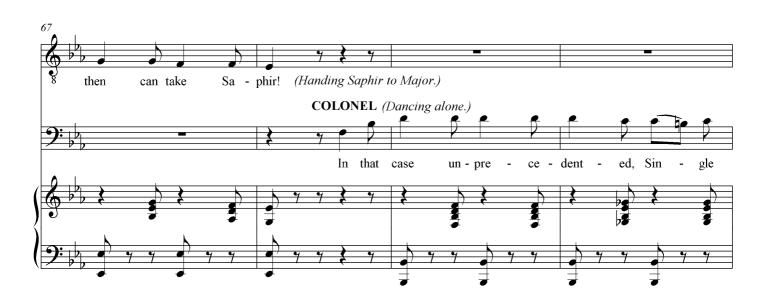
















(Duke dances with Angela, Major with Saphir, Colonel dances alone.)













(At the end, Duke, Colonel and Major and two girls dance off arm-in-arm.)

(Enter GROSVENOR.)

GROS. It is very pleasant to be alone. It is pleasant to be able to gaze at leisure upon those features which all others may gaze upon at their good will! (*Looking at his reflection in hand-mirror*.) Ah, I am a very Narcissus!

(Enter BUNTHORNE, moodily.)

BUN. It's no use; I can't live without admiration. Since Grosvenor came here, insipidity has been at a premium. Ah, he is there!

GROS. Ah, Bunthorne! come here – look! Very graceful, isn't it!

BUN. (taking hand-mirror). Allow me; I haven't seen it. Yes, it is graceful.

GROS. (re-taking hand-mirror). Oh, good gracious! not that – this –

BUN. You don't mean that! Bah! I am in no mood for trifling.

GROS. And what is amiss?

BUN. Ever since you came here, you have entirely monopolized the attentions of the young ladies. I don't like it, sir!

GROS. My dear sir, how can I help it? They are the plague of my life. My dear Mr. Bunthorne, with your personal disadvantages, you can have no idea of the inconvenience of being madly loved, at first sight, by every woman you meet.

Bun. Sir, until you came here I was adored!

GROS. Exactly – until I came here. That's my grievance. I cut everybody out! I assure you, if you could only suggest some means whereby, consistently; with my duty to society, I could escape these inconvenient attentions, you would earn my everlasting gratitude.

BUN. I will do so at once. However popular it may be with the world at large, your personal appearance is highly objectionable to *me*.

GROS. It is? (*Shaking his hand*.) Oh, thank you! thank you! How can I express my gratitude?

BUN. By making a complete change at once. Your conversation must henceforth be perfectly matter-of-fact. You must cut your hair, and have a back parting. In appearance, and costume you must be absolutely commonplace.

GROS. (decidedly). No. Pardon me, that's impossible.

BUN. Take care! When I am thwarted I am very terrible.

GROS. I can't help that. I am a man with a mission. And that mission must be fulfilled.

BUN. I don't think you quite appreciate the consequences of thwarting me.

Gros. I don't care what they are.

BUN. Suppose – I won't go so far as to say that I will do it – but suppose for one moment I were to curse you? (GROSVENOR *quails*.) Ah! Very well. Take care

GROS. But surely you would never do that? (In great alarm.)

BUN. I don't know. It would be an extreme measure, no doubt. Still –

GROS. (*wildly*). But you would not do it – I am sure you would not. (*Throwing himself at* BUNTHORNE's *knees, and clinging to him.*) Oh, reflect, reflect! You. had a mother once.

BUN. Never!

GROS. Then you had an aunt! (BUNTHORNE *affected*.) Ah! I see you had! By the memory of that aunt, I implore you to pause ere you resort to this last fearful expedient. Oh, Mr. Bunthorne, reflect, reflect! (*Weeping*.)

BUN. (aside, after a struggle with himself). I must not allow myself to be unmanned! (Aloud.) It is useless. Consent at once, or may a nephew's curse –

GROS. Hold! Are you absolutely resolved?

BUN. Absolutely.

GROS. Will nothing shake you?

BUN. Nothing. I am adamant.

GROS. Very good. (Rising.) Then I yield.

BUN. Ha! You swear it?

GROS. I do, cheerfully. I have long wished for a reasonable pretext for such a change as you suggest. It has come at last: I do it on compulsion!

BUN. Victory! I triumph!

No. 18: DUET (Bunthorne and Grosvenor)

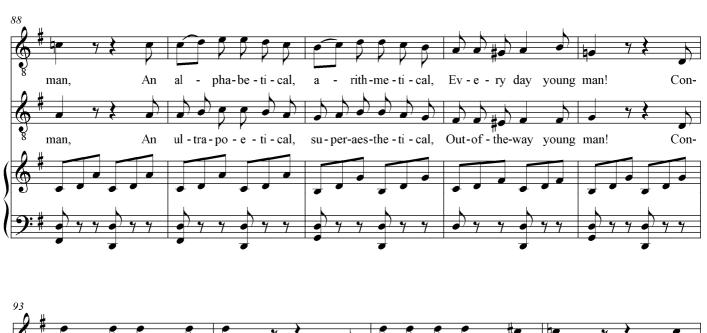


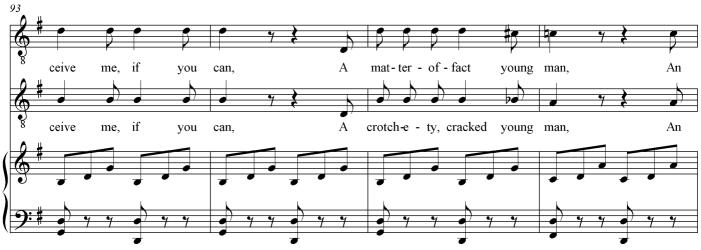


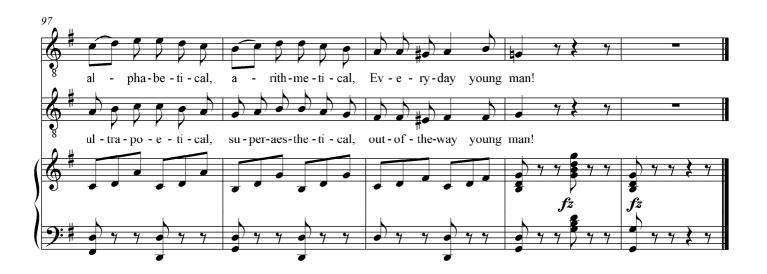












(At the end, Grosvenor dances off. Bunthorne remains.)

BUN. It is all right! I have committed my last act of ill-nature, and henceforth I'm a changed character. (*Dances about stage, humming refrain of last air.*)

(Enter Patience. She gazes in astonishment at him.)

PA. Reginald! Dancing! And – what in the world is the matter with you? BUN. Patience, I'm a changed man. Hitherto I've been gloomy, moody, fitful – uncertain in temper and selfish in disposition –

PA. You have, indeed! (Sighing.)

BUN. All that is changed. I have reformed. I have modelled myself upon Mr. Grosvenor. Henceforth I am mildly cheerful. My conversation will blend amusement with instruction. I shall still be aesthetic; but my aestheticism will be of the most pastoral kind.

PA. Oh, Reginald! Is all this true?

BUN. Quite true. Observe how amiable I am. (Assuming a fixed smile.)

PA. But, Reginald, how long will this last?

BUN. With occasional intervals for rest and refreshment, as long as I do.

PA. Oh, Reginald, I'm so happy! (*In his arms*.) Oh, dear, dear Reginald, I cannot express the joy I feel at this change. It will no longer be a duty to love you, but a pleasure – a rapture – an ecstasy!

BUN. My darling!

PA. But – oh, horror! (*Recoiling from him.*)

BUN. What's the matter?

PA. Is it quite certain that you have absolutely reformed – that you are henceforth a perfect being – utterly free from defect of any kind?

BUN. It is quite certain. I have sworn it.

PA. Then I never can be yours!

BUN. Why not?

PA. Love, to be pure, must be absolutely unselfish, and there can be nothing unselfish in loving so perfect a being as you have now become!

BUN. But, stop a bit! I don't want- to change – I'll relapse – I'll be as I was – interrupted!

(Enter GROSVENOR, followed by all the 'every-day young girls', who are followed by Chorus of Dragoons. He has had his hair cut, and is dressed in an ordinary suit of dittoes and a pot hat. They all dance cheerfully round the stage in marked contrast to their former languor.)

No. 19: SONG (Grosvenor) and Chorus of Maidens





BUN. Angela – Ella – Saphir – what – what does this mean?

ANG. It means that Archibald the All-Right cannot be all-wrong; and if the All-Right chooses to discard aestheticism, it proves that aestheticism ought to be discarded.

PA. Oh, Archibald! Archibald! I'm shocked – surprised – horrified!

GROS. I can't help it. I'm not a free agent. I do it on compulsion.

PA. This is terrible. Go! I shall never set eyes on you again. But oh, -joy! GROS. What is the matter?

PA. Is it quite, quite certain that you will always be a commonplace young man?

GROS. Always – I've sworn it.

PA. Why, then, there's nothing to prevent my loving you with all the fervour at my command!

GROS. Why, that's true.

PA. My Archibald!

GROS. My Patience! (They embrace.)

BUN. Crushed again!

(Enter JANE.)

JANE. (who is still aesthetic). Cheer up! I am still here. I have never left you, and I never will!

BUN. Thank you, Jane. After all, there is no denying it, you're a fine figure of a woman!

JANE. My Reginald!

BUN. My Jane!

(Flourish. Enter COLONEL, DUKE, and MAJOR.)



Col. Ladies, the Duke has at length determined to select a bride! (*General excitement*.)

DUKE. I have a great gift to bestow. Approach, such of you as are truly lovely. (*All come forward, bashfully, except* JANE *and* PATIENCE.) In personal appearance you have all that is necessary to make a woman happy. In common fairness, I think I ought to choose the only one among you who has the misfortune to be distinctly plain. (*Girls retire disappointed*.) Jane!

JANE (*leaving* BUNTHORNE'S *arms*). Duke! (JANE *and* DUKE *embrace*. BUNTHORNE *is utterly disgusted*.)

BUN. Crushed again!

No. 20: FINALE









END OF OPERA