

THE OTTERSHAW SCHOOL
MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC SOCIETIES



present

THE
QUAKER'S OPERA

A BALLAD OPERA BY
THOMAS WALKER

at 7.15 p.m.

Friday, March 14th

and

Saturday, March 15th, 1958

THE QUAKER'S OPERA

A Ballad Opera with songs set to old English airs by

THOMAS WALKER

The Libretto revised and adapted and the Accompaniments composed
and orchestrated by

DONALD PITCHER

After the unprecedented run (62 nights) of John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera" early in 1728, one of the actors who had taken the part of Captain Macheath—Thomas Walker—determined to emulate Gay by putting on a show of his own. He adapted a farce by an anonymous author—"The Prison-Breaker"—which was based on the sensational escapes from Newgate of Jack Shepard, the notorious thief who had been hanged at Tyburn in 1724 when only twenty-one years old. This play already included two of the stock comic characters of the time—an Irishman and a Quaker. Walker added the Prologue, the hero's two lady-friends, and lyrics to be sung to well-known popular tunes.

"The Quaker's Opera" was produced later in 1728 in an open-air booth, hence the allusion when Shepard sings :

"Would you, my friends, be great and fortunate? Be Gay :

Your outside must show fairer than your covered play."

Walker's hopes were ill-founded, however, and the opera was not a success. It was soon forgotten and remained so until it was revived in 1950 by Leighton Park School. For this revival the libretto was edited and the ending changed, but the dialogue remained much as Walker or his predecessor had written it. No music appeared in the original printed copy, except twenty-six airs. Mr Donald Pitcher, Musical Director of Leighton Park, omitted three of these and made the total up to thirty-eight by the inclusion of fifteen more from other eighteenth-century ballad operas, including one by Arne and one by Handel. The original overture having been lost, Mr Pitcher devised a new one from airs in the opera, and all the accompaniments and orchestration are his work.

Characters in order of their appearance

An Elderly Quaker	...	...	...	...	D. J. R. BARNARD
A Player	...	...	...	...	H. F. WHITAKER
Mrs Poorlean, <i>a woman of Newgate</i>	...	...	...	...	D. W. GHOST
Chorus of Women of Newgate	R. A. ALLEN, J. W. ALLWORK, M. A. BULL, P. F. FISHER, B. W. STREVS				
Rust, <i>Master-failer of Newgate</i>	...	...	...	...	C. R. STEVENS
Careful	} <i>Failers</i>	...	...	...	F. R. WELLER
Lockfast		...	...	...	F. P. MALE
Bolt		...	...	...	K. R. JEFFERY
Jonathan Wild, <i>an Informer and Thief-Taker</i>					H. F. WHITAKER
Aminadab Prim, <i>a Quaker</i>	...	...	...	...	D. A. PALMER
Blunder, <i>an Irishman</i>	...	...	...	...	J. S. BREBNER
Dr Anatomy, <i>a Surgeon</i>	...	...	...	...	C. P. G. GALE
Jack Shepard, <i>a condemned Thief</i>	...	...	...	...	M. P. WHITEHEAD
Molly Frisky, <i>his Sweetheart</i>	...	...	...	...	T. B. SHERRINGTON
Chorus of Women of the Town	C. P. BARKE, L. A. BOURNER, H. K. FORD, B. L. PAWLEY, J. K. SURTEES, S. K. WILSON				
Nym	} <i>Members of Shepard's Gang</i>	...	...	...	J. WOODCOCK
File		...	...	...	H. SIMMONS
Hempseed					D. T. HOWELL
Tommy Padwell					T. J. EARLAND
Thieves		...	...	R. BARNARD, R. G. ROBERTSON	
Bulk		...	...	...	P. S. TOOTAL
Coaxthief, <i>a Receiver of Stolen Goods</i>	...	...	...	...	M. KENWORTHY
Nan Hackabout, <i>Frisky's Rival</i>	...	...	...	...	S. F. RICHARDS
Nodfast, <i>a Watchman</i>	...	...	...	...	M. E. WICKS
Authority Hardhead, <i>a Constable</i>	...	...	...	...	J. L. ROMER
Watchmen	...	...	...	S. D. FRANCIS, R. A. SMITH	
Cobblecause, <i>a Welsh Lawyer</i>	...	...	...	...	J. S. CHALLIS
Jane, <i>his Maidservant</i>	...	...	...	...	B. KENNEDY
Peg, <i>Coaxthief's Wife</i>	...	...	...	...	J. A. COOPER

The action takes place in London in September, 1724

PROLOGUE AND OVERTURE

- Act I, Scene 1. The Lodge in Newgate Prison
Scene 2. A Cell in Newgate
Scene 3. A Street behind Newgate

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES

- Act II, Scene 1. A Room in Coaxthief's House
Scene 2. A Street near Newgate
Scene 3. A Street on Saffron Hill

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES

- Act III, Scene 1. A Street
Scene 2. A Room in Coaxthief's House
Scene 3. A Street
Scene 4. Newgate Lodge

Producer : Mr R. G. WHITE

Stage Manager : Mr J. H. S. BURROW

Set and Furniture constructed in the School Workshops under the direction of Mr A. A. OETTINGER and painted by Mr J. H. S. BURROW
J. L. ROMER and D. F. BASSETT

Lighting : Mr T. A. CHRISTOPHER, S. JEE and R. P. ING

Make-up : Mr A. F. BUTTERY, Mrs J. DERRICK, Mr J. DERRICK,
D. F. J. NOKES, T. J. NAGLE and A. G. HUTCHISON

Wardrobe : Mrs R. G. WHITE, Mrs D. J. N. HALL, Miss M. E. D. BIGGS

Property Manager : D. J. R. BARNARD

Business Manager : Mr D. J. N. HALL

Front of House : Mr P. M. CUNNINGHAM

Costumes and Wigs by Saxon Snell and Citizen House, Bath

THE ORCHESTRA

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Miss E. OGLETHORPE

Mr J. ADCOCK

D. CLARK

T. WILLIAMS

Second Violins

Mr W. WARREN

Mr R. WILMOT

C. BRUCE

A. THOMAS

Violas

Mrs A. WEST

Miss A. SWEET

'Cellos

Dr A. WEST

Mr W. BLAKE

Double Bass

Mr D. JONES

Flute

Mrs P. HARTLEY

Oboe

P. JONES

Clarinet

Mr R. LOCK

Bassoon

Mr G. HARTLEY

French Horn

Mr P. ARNHOLD

Trumpet

I. FALLON

G. WILLIAMS

Timpani and Percussion

D. KENNEDY

Piano

M. HAINSSSELIN

Conductor : MARK WIGRAM

The Dramatic and Musical Societies extend their warmest thanks to
the visiting members of the orchestra

PAST PRODUCTIONS
of the DRAMATIC SOCIETY

THE CRIMSON COCOANUT	<i>Ian Hay</i>	} 1950
LOVE—THE DOCTOR	<i>Molière</i>	
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER	<i>Goldsmith</i>	1951
TWELFTH NIGHT	<i>Shakespeare</i>	1952
ARMS AND THE MAN	<i>Shaw</i>	1953
THE RIVALS	<i>Sheridan</i>	1954
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST	<i>Wilde</i>	1955
THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING	<i>Fry</i>	1956
TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL	<i>Bridie</i>	1957

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