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Richard Baker

Aun James

Janine Coesnett

Wesley Reid

Rachel Healy

Martin McEvoy

## RICHARD BAKER



RICHARD BAKER was born in North West London and educated at Kilburn Grammar School and Cambridge University. There, he acted with the Marlow Society, played the piano for the Footlights and managed to graduate in History and Modern Languages.

Music and the spoken word have been among Richard's greatest interests since his schooldays and they have provided the basis of a long and successful career. He began broadcasting for the BBC in 1950 and continues to do so frequently, presenting "Melodies for You" on Radio 2, "Comparing Notes" and "Music in Mind" on Radio 4, and, from time to time, "Mainly for Pleasure" on Radio 3.

Television engagements include the New Year's Day concert from Vienna and the first and last nights of the Proms. Richard Baker is also remembered for many appearances on BBC 2's "Face the Music", TV commentaries on State occasions, his narration of the children's series "Mary, Mungo and Midge", a year as presenter of "Omnibus", 17 years on Radio 4's "Start the Week" and many other programmes, not to mention 28 years as a BBC TV newsreader. He received the Newscaster of the Year Award on three occasions, and in 1984 was the Variety Club's Radio Personality of the Year.

Richard has also developed a career outside the broadcasting studios. Briefly an actor before he joined the BBC, he still relishes contact with a live audience. Since 1987 he has greatly enjoyed returning to the stage to present, under the management of Martin McEvoy, "Richard Baker's Grand Tour to Melody" (a journey through the world of operetta) in which he gets the chance to play the piano, and even to sing a little. He is in demand for his solo autobiographical evening "Music in My Life" and a variety of other entertainments. Pianist Raphael Terroni and guitarist Caroline McCausland are his most frequent partners, but he also appears with Julius Drake and Nicholas Daniel in "Music Menagerie" and takes part in the Shakespeare anthology "Was There Ever Such Stuff?" with Jill Nott-Bower and Robert Spencer. In addition he is often asked to compere or narrate at choral and orchestral concerts.

Richard is a writer too, with six books to his credit. Three of them are about music, and two of the others are naval biographies — a reminder that he served at one time in the Royal Navy. More recently he has written theatre shows about Gilbert and Sullivan ("Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Sullivan") and Giuseppe Verdi ("Viva Verdi"), both of which have been performed with success at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford and elsewhere.

Richard Baker is married and lives in Hertfordshire. He is a Trustee of the D'Oyly Carte Trust and Haddo House Hall Trust, a director of Youth and Music, a governor of the National Youth Orchestra, and a Member of the Broadcasting Standards Council. In 1979 he was awarded the OBE, and has received honorary degrees from the Universities of Aberdeen and Strathclyde. After many years service in the Royal Naval Reserve, he was awarded the Reserve Decoration.





MARTIN McEVOY PRODUCTIONS FOR THE BRIGHT VOICE CO.  
PRESENT

# RICHARD BAKER'S GRAND TOUR TO MELODY

Starring RICHARD BAKER

With

JANE FORD	PATRICK HEALY
ANN JAMES	GARETH JONES
MARTIN McEVOY	MESTON REID
JANINE ROEBUCK	

A musical journey to Paris, Vienna, Berlin  
and London to recall the great days of  
Operetta and Musical Comedy.

Musical Director: Patrick Healy Written by: Michael Bevis Directed by: Tom Hawkes



## ACT I

Scene I

### Paris

We arrive at the "Café de la Paix" and hear music by the latest composers including Mr. Offenbach. We accompany Mr. Orpheus to his underworld where our guide is from "La Vie Parisienne" and we meet a colonel's widow.

Scene II

### Vienna

*The Café Sperl.* The overnight train has taken us to Vienna where we drink champagne with "Die Fledermaus", eat sausages with "The Gypsy Baron" and waltz with "The Merry Widow".

## ACT 2

Scene I

### Berlin

*Café Metropole.* After much drinking we say "Goodbye" to "The White Horse Inn" and we are met by a "Strolling Vagabond" who introduces us to an outrageous couple on their honeymoon and a Tenor who tells us we are his "Hearts Delight".

Scene II

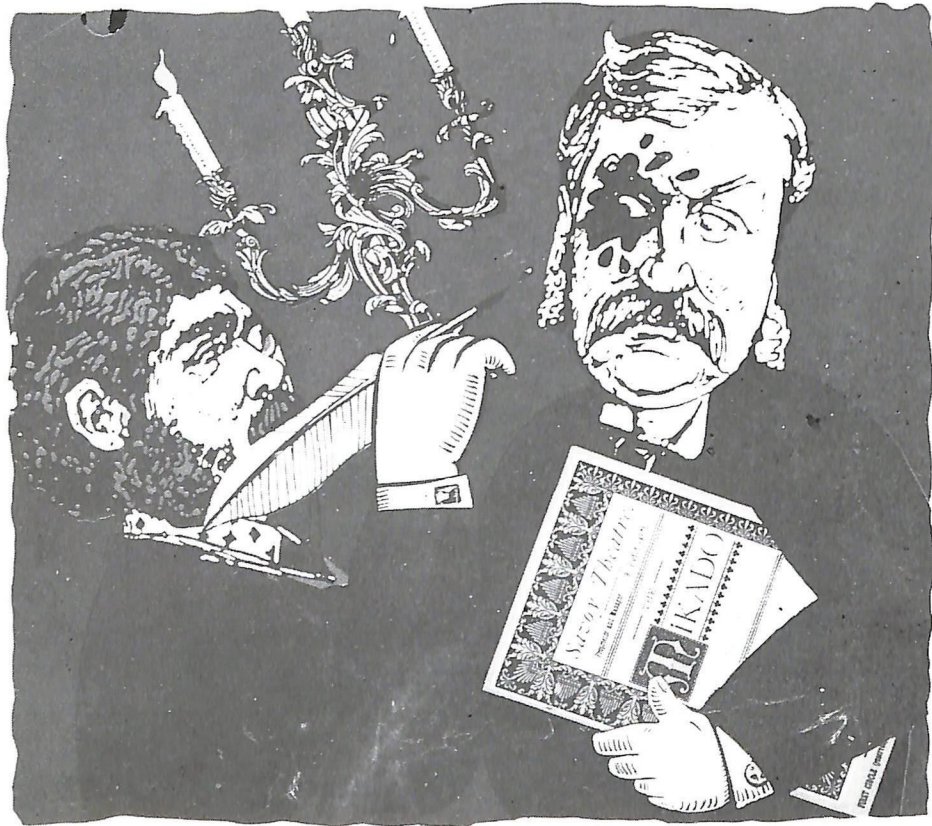
### London

It's "Half Past Two" and "Charming Weather". We "Come to the Ball" and go "Down Piccadilly". We are told "Love Will Find A Way" and a cobbler mends his shoes! We visit "The Stately Homes of England" on a "Glamorous Night". We come home "Perchance to Dream" and think about "The Rose of England".

17, 18, 19 October, 1989



MARTIN M'EOVOY PRODUCTIONS PRESENT  
**THE LIFE OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN**



THOMAS LAWLOR · MESTON REID · ANN JAMES · MARTIN M'EOVOY · JANINE ROEBUCK  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: PATRICK HEALEY DIRECTED BY: THOMAS LAWLOR

The story of Gilbert & Sullivan told in  
words, ballads, songs and snatches.

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**20, 21, 22 October, 1987**

This piece tells the life and times of these two giants of the British musical theatre.

So often we are presented with concerts of "Highlights" of the operas but in this piece we have gone far away from that format. We are not only performing scenes from all the operas but also giving the audience an insight into the nature of the two men and a feel for the times in which the pieces were written, but at all times show is kept witty and full of action.

The piece is set in the style of a simple Victorian Drawing Room and the performers take the roles of Gilbert, Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte. Reference is taken from newspapers of the time and letters between the two.

The cast includes;

Meston Reid former principal tenor with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Co.

Janine Roebuck who broadcasts regularly on radio 2 and is a member of New Sadlers Wells Opera.

Gareth Jones former principal baritone with D'Oyly Carte Opera Co.

Ann James who is a regular guest on the ever popular radio 2 show "Friday Night is Music Night".

Martin McEvoy who has produced the show and has been a principal member of New Sadlers Wells Opera, English music Theatre, and who is a regular broadcaster.

The Musical Director is Patrick Healy.





## ANN JAMES

Studied at the Royal Academy of Music and the Mozarteum, Salzburg and won three scholarships and many prizes including the George Grossmith Prize for Acting in Opera. Whilst still a student she gave a debut recital at the Wigmore Hall followed soon afterwards by debuts at the Purcell Room, the Royal Festival Hall under Sir David Willcocks, and the Albert Hall (Carmina Burana). She was the winner of the Rotary International Award and sang the title role in the British Premiere of Massenet's *Cendrillon* at Sadlers Wells Theatre. Since being selected for BBC TV by Sir Geraint Evans, her television appearances have been numerous, ranging from

*The Magic Flute* to the *Basil Brush Show* and of course, *Stars on Sunday*.

Ann is the soloist with the famous Johann Strauss Gala, undertaking many UK and Irish tours, as well as three Scandinavian tours. She sang the leading role of 'Queen Victoria' in the *Magic of Vienna* at the Barbican, and is the soloist for the Viennese Gala every New Year at the Festival Hall. Her concert work takes her all over the world from a jungle clearing in Belize to the concert platform of the Maltings.

For radio, Ann has been guest star for *Among Your Souvenirs*, *Melodies For You*, *Overture and Beginners* and *Songs From The Shows*, and of course, she is a regular Star Singer for Friday Night is Music Night.



## JANINE ROEBUCK

Was born in Yorkshire, and graduated from Manchester University with a B.A. Honours Degree in French Studies. In 1981 she was runner-up in the Miriam Licette Scholarship and spent a year at the Paris Conservatoire as a pupil of Régine Crespin.

Operatic engagements have included appearances in the Buxton Festival production of *Griselda* at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Nini in the new production of Delius' *Margot La Rouge* for the Park Lane Opera Group at the Camden Festival and Tebaldo in *Don Carlos* for Dorset Opera. She was Isabella in *L'italiana in Algeri* for Opera 80. Her roles with New Sadler's Wells Opera have

included *Flora La Traviata*, *Manja Countess Maritza*, *Tessa The Gondoliers*, *Hebe H.M.S. Pinafore* in London, and *Pitti-Sing The Mikado* at the Jerusalem Festival. She made her Scottish Opera debut in their 1985 Rossini double-bill, as *Clarina in The Marriage Contract*, and *Lucille in The Silken Ladder*.



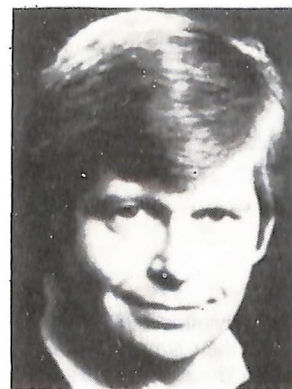
## MESTON REID

Meston Reid comes from Aberdeenshire and arrived in London in 1968 to join Sadlers Wells Opera (now the English National Opera Company). After four seasons he left to play the role of Franz Schubert in a National Tour of *Lilac Time* with John Hanson; *The Desert Song* followed with the same Company.

During this time he was invited to join the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company with a view to becoming principal tenor. He joined this Company in June 1974 and remained until their final season which ended in February 1982. He sang most of the major tenor roles and during the Company's Centenary Season at the Savoy Theatre, London, in 1975 he

also featured in the Decca D'Oyly Carte recordings of *Utopia Limited*, *The Grand Duke* and *The Gondoliers*. He undertook two tours to Canada and the USA and the first tour of Australia and New Zealand in addition to the London and national productions of D'Oyly Carte.

Since the demise of D'Oyly Carte, Meston Reid has been working as a freelance singer, appearing regularly in Gilbert & Sullivan concerts with other former D'Oyly Carte singers in venues throughout the country. He has also undertaken a number of operetta concerts with the Australian singer June Bronhill.



## GARETH JONES

Gareth Jones was a member of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Co., where he played many of the leading baritone roles including Strephon in *Iolanthe*, Giuseppe in *Gondoliers* Captain Corcoran in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and Cox in *Cox and Box* which he also recorded for Decca records. He has subsequently played the roles of Pirelli and Judge Turpin in various productions of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, appeared at the Prince of Wales theatre as Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado* and at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter as Lt. James Haliwell in the premier of the operetta *Katerina*, played at the Connaught Theatre, Worthing as Sir Edward Ramsey in *The King and I*, Mr. Bumble in

*Oliver* and Robert Frome in Coward's *South Sea Bubble* and more recently spent twelve months at the London Palladium where he played Etienne and deputised for George Hearne in the starring role of Albin in *La Cage Aux Folles* on several occasions. On BBC television he played the role of J.C. D'Oyle (the Irish baritone) in Stewart Parkers acclaimed play about James Joyce; *Joyce in June* and has appeared as guest singer on Max Jaffa's *Grand Hotel* on Radio 2.



## PATRICK HEALY

Patrick Healy was born in Dublin, where he began his musical studies. After winning many competitions at the Dublin Feis Ceoil he went to Rome where he studied singing with the famous Italian Soprano, Toti del Monte.

He is now a member of The English National Opera and loves to combine accompanying and singing.

He is well known to listeners of Irish radio, where his many programmes and interviews with music personalities have become a very popular feature over the years.

He has recently been appointed Musical Director for *The Magic of D'Oyly Carte*, performing Gilbert & Sullivan concerts with former members of The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

## JANE FORD



JANE FORD trained at the Royal Academy of Music. Since leaving in 1985 she has appeared in the "Mikado" with New Sadlers Wells Opera on their National Tour. In pantomime she has appeared in "King Charming" at The Players Theatre London and as the Princess in "Aladdin" at the Buxton Opera House with Shirley Ann Field. Jane won great critical acclaim as Maria in "West Side Story" at the Everyman Theatre Cheltenham. She has also appeared as Topsy in "The King & I" at the Queens Theatre Hornchurch. Jane's first appearance on British Television has been as the presenter in the new BBC TV series for children "Into Music". For Travelling Opera Jane has appeared as Diana in "Orpheus in the Underworld" at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on the South Bank and she will make her Radio debut when "...Grand Tour to Melody" is recorded by BBC Radio 2.

The Manoel Theatre Management Committee wishes to thank the following concerns for their kind co-operation.

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