

# Auditions for The Pirates of Penzance

Monday, 03 January 2022 20:57

---



Auditions for



**Hull Savoyards** are to perform Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* or *The Slave of Duty* in June 2022. Auditions are to be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 and anyone interested in being a Major General, Pirate King, Sergeant of Police etc. please apply to [secretary@hullsavoyards.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hullsavoyards.co.uk)

**Pirates of Penzance** is a comic opera in two acts, with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W.S. Gilbert. The work premiered with a single performance in Paignton, England, on December 30, 1879, and in New York City on December 31, 1879. Its London debut was on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1880, at the Opera Comique, London.

**Synopsis** - The story concerns Frederic who, having completed his 21st year, is released from his apprenticeship to a band of tender-hearted pirates. He meets Mabel, the daughter of Major-General Stanley, and the two young people fall instantly in love. Frederic finds out however, that he was born in a Leap Year, the 29th of February and so, technically, he only has a birthday every four years, each Leap Year on February 29th. His apprenticeship indentures state that he remains apprenticed to the pirates until his 21st birthday, and so he must serve for another 63 years. Bound by his own sense of duty, Frederic's only solace is that Mabel agrees to wait for him faithfully.

There are also other sub-plots at work: the Pirates, upon seeing Mabel's sisters at play, decide to capture them, so that they may then take them to the nearest clergyman and marry them on the spot. The Major General, the girls' father, saves them from this fate by claiming he is an orphan, and, as the Pirates make it a practice of never "mistreating" an orphan, they are compelled to let him go.

Ruth, Frederic's nursery maid, wants to marry Frederic but he rebuffs her after seeing the younger, more beautiful Mabel. So she teams up with the Pirates when they attack Major-General Stanley's home, after learning Major-General Stanley was never an orphan. The constabulary, led by their bumbling Police Sergeant, try to defend the castle but are easily overcome. The Pirates are persuaded to yield to the Police Sergeant in Queen Victoria's name when Ruth reveals that the Pirates are all "noblemen who have gone wrong." All is forgiven and Frederic and the Pirates can marry the daughters!

The roles available are as follows;

The Pirate King – Baritone  
Mabel – soprano  
Frederic – Tenor  
Major General Stanley – Baritone  
Ruth – Contralto  
Sergeant of Police – Bass  
Samuel – Baritone  
Edith – Soprano  
Kate – Mezzo-soprano  
Isabel – Soprano  
Chorus of Daughters – Contraltos and Sopranos  
Chorus of Pirates/Constables – Baritones and Tenors

All those attending an audition **MUST** be vaccinated for Covid-19 (unless exempt).

The Society's rehearsals are at the Bricknell Avenue Methodist Church on Thursday evenings between 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

If you are interested in helping with set building, props, costume etc. please email [secretary@hullsavoyards.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hullsavoyards.co.uk) your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

To learn more about Hull Savoyards please visit [www.hullsavoyards.co.uk](http://www.hullsavoyards.co.uk) or Facebook.