

SHOW NOTES

Cast (in order of appearance):

Carol Seim.....as Jenny
Elizabeth Karre.....as Mrs. Boden
J Roth.....as Mr. Boden
Wesley Stone.....as Lars
Ella Dolynchukas Violet
Paulette Day.....as Auntie

*Story by J Roth & Elizabeth Karre

HISTORY OF THE MUSIC AND READINGS

The **Bach Prelude** is from *The Well-Tempered Clavier* and is dated to 1722. This prelude, along with Bach's other compositions in the *Clavier* collection, are regarded as some of the most influential works in the history of Western classical music.

Three Gilbert & Sullivan operas are heard from in our show: first (briefly) **"I'm Called Little Buttercup"** from *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which opened in London in May 1878 and ran for 571 performances, the second-longest run of any musical theatre piece up to that time. *H.M.S. Pinafore* was the fourth opera of Gilbert and Sullivan and their first international sensation.

Next comes **"With Catlike Tread"** from *Pirates of Penzance*. The opera's official premiere was in New York City in December 1879. This was Gilbert and Sullivan's fifth opera together.

Last, but not least, is heard: **"Now to the Banquet We Press"** from *The Sorcerer* (their third opera together). *The Sorcerer* opened in November 1877 in the Strand in London, where it ran for 178 performances.

The **Coventry Carol** dates from the 16th Century. The carol was performed in Coventry, England as part of a mystery play called *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*. The play depicts the Christmas story from chapter two in the Gospel of Matthew. The carol refers to the Massacre of the Innocents, in which Herod orders all male infants under the age of two in Bethlehem to be killed. It is the only carol that has survived from this play. The author is unknown. The oldest known text was written down in 1534.

Over *Coventry* is read **"Ring Out, Wild Bells"**, a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Published in 1850, it forms part of *In Memoriam*, Tennyson's elegy to Arthur Henry Hallam, his sister's fiancé who died at the age of twenty-two.

"Dance of the Candy Fairy" is from *The Nutcracker* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composed in 1891-92. Alexandre Dumas Père's adaptation of the story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by E. T. A. Hoffmann was set to music by Tchaikovsky.

The suite was first performed, under the composer's direction, on March 19, 1892 at an assembly in St. Petersburg. The suite became instantly popular, but the complete ballet did not begin to achieve its great popularity until around the mid-1950s.

A **Christmas Carol** (originally: *A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas*) was written by Charles Dickens. The book was first published in 1843 and quickly met with success and acclaim. Our reading from the book is fittingly paired with **"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"**; here mentioned in *A Christmas Carol*: "...at



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