

'Pirates' For Cork Opera House



For their forthcoming spring production, the Gilbert and Sullivan Group have chosen two of the most popular, "The Pirates of Penzance" and "Trial by Jury".

These delightful shows will be presented at the Opera House for one week only, commencing on Monday March 14.

The group are conscious, of course, that, while the music is still as enchanting as when first presented, that some of the dialogue is a little dated and that some of its references might not mean as much today as in the past.

With the object of ensuring a most enjoyable evening for audiences, the group have, therefore, decided to present "The Pirates" in concert version.

This means that the musical score will be presented in its entirety, exactly as Sullivan wrote it; but some of the dialogue will be omitted and, in its place, there will be a storyline told by a narrator to keep the audience aware of the progress of the story.

The narration will, of course, be in a style and mood very much in accord with Gilbert's original dialogue.

To sing the female lead of Mabel, the group have engaged Patricia Cope, the well known D'Oyly Carte star, who was such a wonderful favourite with Cork audiences on her visit for the Sunday night concert at the Opera House last year. Her return will be warmly greeted.

Familiar faces will be seen playing their old roles in the persons of James N Healy as the Major General; Donal Kenneally as Frederick; Maurice McMahon as the Sergeant of Police; and Elizabeth Ingle as Edith.



Richard Mason, whose bass voice made him a great favourite with Cork audiences some years ago, returns to sing the Pirate King in "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Cork Opera House with the Gilbert and Sullivan Group for one week only, commencing Monday, March 14.

Donal O'Donovan will act as narrator and other leading parts will be played by Michael Herley, Mary-Foley and Aideen Dynan.

There will be a special guest appearance by Richard Mason as the Pirate King after a long absence from Cork.

The performance of "The Pirates" will be followed by a full scale presentation of "Trial by Jury", which was the first successful collab-

oration between Gilbert and Sullivan.

This delightful travesty of a breach of promise case is undoubtedly one of the most tuneful and most humorous short entertainments ever written.

Its non stop music, abundance of favourite melodies, clever lyrics and delightful absurdities make it an ideal choice to round off a memorable evening's entertainment.