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Patricia Cope Returns For Pirates

THE presentation of "THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE" by the Gilbert and Sullivan Group at the Cork Opera House next week should prove one of the greatest attractions at the theatre for a long time.

The main attraction will be, of course, the return of Patricia Cope, who is the possessor of one of the most magnificent soprano voices ever heard here in a work of this kind. This recommendation will be readily endorsed by those fortunate enough to have heard her on her only previous visit here, in the *Gilbert and Sullivan For All* concert in October, 1975.

Born in Leicester, she studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under Fabian Smith. She won many awards around that time, including the Riccardi prize for opera and the Peter Latham Scholarship. She studied opera for three years under Villem Tausky and has sung principal roles in operas such as *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *The Magic Flute*, as well as in many of the works of Gilbert and Sullivan.

She has worked extensively in the field of concerts and oratorio, and has performed frequently on T.V. and radio. She has also appeared with the Glynebourne Festival Opera in France.

A very strong local cast will be headed by that master of Gilbert and Sullivan, James N. Healy as Major-General Stanley; Donal Kenneally as Frederick; Maurice McMahon as the Sergeant of Police; Maureen Hayden as Ruth; Elizabeth Ingle, Michael Herley, Mary Foley and Aideen Dynan. Richard Mason, for many years a prominent member of the company, makes a welcome return to Cork to play the Pirate King.

The performance of *The Pirates* will, in fact, be a "concert version", which merely means that some of the dialogue, which is a little dated in parts, will be omitted and replaced by a racy running commentary, in modern idiom, which will be given by Donal O'Donovan as narrator.

Playing with *The Pirates* each night will be a full



performance of *Trial By Jury*, which is a light-hearted travesty of a breach of promise case. Here we find James N. Healy masquerading as a judge, Anne Brennan as the Plaintiff, and Fionn O'Leary as the Defendant, ably supported by Donal Healy, Tony Morrissey, Fred Hegarty, Charles Ginnane, Helen Lannin and Angela Bolton.

Both presentations are produced by James N. Healy and settings are by Patrick Murray. In charge of the

musical direction is Conor O Ceallachain, B.Mus., while the chorus has been prepared by Emelie Fitz-Gibbon, B.Mus.

The performance will commence on Monday next at the Opera House and will run for one week only, with a matinee on Saturday afternoon.

Those who were fortunate to be among the packed audience at the Sunday night concert at the Cork Opera House in October, 1975, will remember the magnificent soprano voice of Patricia Cope.