



Roberta Morrell

Born West Bromwich, West Midlands 1950

Contralto Roberta Morrell studied singing at the Birmingham School of Music and the Royal College of Music, London, before joining the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company chorus in April 1972. She appeared as Inez in *The Gondoliers*, Kate and Isabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Hebe in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and Peep-Bo in *The Mikado*. While with the Company she appeared as Peep-Bo in the 1981 Oscar winning film *Chariots of Fire*. She may be heard on the Company's "*Last Night*" album in that part as well.

Since 1982 Miss Morrell has worked as a freelance performer and stage director, working with professional and amateur operatic societies in the United Kingdom and North America with over 100 productions to her credit. She has directed most of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Her credits also include Broadway, and light opera favorites such as *Die Fledermaus*, *The Merry Widow*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *La Belle Helene*, *Waltzes from Vienna*, *The Arcadians*, *Oliver!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Anything Goes*, *My Fair Lady*, *Oklahoma*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Me and My Girl*, *Half a Sixpence*, *Carousel*, *Viva Mexico*, *Cinderella*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and more.

She directed the Savoy Company of Philadelphia in productions of *Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Ruddigore*, and *Iolanthe*. Other North American productions include *Iolanthe* – Toronto G & S Society; *The Grand Duke* – Washington Savoyards; *HMS Pinafore* and *Ruddigore* in San Francisco for the Buxton International G&S Festival. She was stage director for *The Magic of Gilbert & Sullivan* appearing with her D'Oyly Carte colleagues at such prestigious venues as The Barbican and Royal Festival Halls, London; Symphony Hall, Birmingham; the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester; St. David's Hall, Cardiff; the National Concert Hall, Dublin. She has been guest speaker at Gilbert & Sullivan conferences in Buxton, Toronto, Harrogate and Philadelphia, has appeared in numerous television programs, and has evaluated and coached drama students at the Birmingham School of Speech Training and Dramatic Arts. She is also the director of *Roberta's G&S Weekend* a fun-filled weekend of sing-alongs, Master Classes and talks of the musicals and Gilbert & Sullivan, featuring former members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

Roberta Morrell is the author of the biography "Kenneth Sandford: merely corroborative detail" "Vengeance Dire", and her latest book "D'Oyly Carte: The Inside Story" which looks at the life of the historic D'Oyly Carte Opera Company between 1950 and its final days in 1982.