



Programme 10p

THE COVENTRY SAVOY OPERA SOCIETY

present

'THE GONDOLIERS'
or 'The King of Barataria'.

The Duke of Plaza-Toro (a Grandee of Spain)	John Fenner
Iniz (his attendant)	David Valentine
Don Alhambra Del Bolero (the Grand Inquisitor)	Brian Daniels
Narco Palmieri	Stuart Hopkins
Giuseppe Palmieri	Robert James
Antonio	William Bosworth
Francesco	Edward Cookson
Georgio	Jeffrey de Lange
Amiballo	Paul Washbrook
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro	Penelope Lacey
Castilda (her Daughter)	Andrey Daniels
Gianetta	Virginia Cronshaw
Tessa	Fay Taylor
Fiametta	Joyce Garratt
Vittoria	Janet Cox
Giulia	Vicki Russell
Inez (The King's Foster Mother)	Dorothy Dillan

Gentlemen of The Chorus

Robert Baker, John Bowen, John Cox, Neville Davis, John Foster, Harold Haynes, Richard Pheasey, George Suddens, Chris Thatcher

Ladies of The Chorus

Jean Barker, Dorothy Clarke, Lynda Fenner, Alethea Foster, Pat Gibbons, Jean Holmes, Susan Lee, Cathy McCoskey, Susan Martin, Margaret Newey, Anne Oliver, Alison Stanley, June Stewart, Muriel Tibba, Sue Washbrook, Barbara Weeks, Anne Wheeler, Marilyn Withers.

Drummer Boy

John Daniels
Mark Hawkins

Producer
Musical Director
Costumes
Scenery

Dorothy Dillan
Tony Ayres
S. H. Watts & Co. Ltd.
Midland Stage Decor

Scenes : ACT 1 The Piazzetta, Venice
ACT 2 The Palace of Barataria

Animated
trip with
'Gondoliers'

THE GONDOLIERS - Coventry Technical College Theatre, until Saturday.

I'M not going to pretend that the Coventry Savoy Opera Society have solved all their problems. But this show represents several giant strides forward on their displays over the last two annual productions.

They have acquired some very useful new singers, some of whom can act, and there is a great deal more animation in the chorus than we have seen recently.

The improvement is the more significant in that one of the principal singers, Andrey Daniels, lost her voice and had to mime her songs to the voice of June Walters who was sitting in the orchestra pit.

Miss Daniels did her job well.

By DAVID ISAACS

and Miss Walters lent a fine singing voice to the role.

There are times during the first act when the production, by Dorothy Dillan, tends to nod off, but there is a spirited opening to the second half thanks to the singing of Nigel Hopkins and Robert James. Mr. James is also a useful actor and Mr. Hopkins will no doubt learn to economise on his more extravagant gesticulating.

Plum role

Virginia Cronshaw and Fay Taylor have, however, if not each has an easy and assured command, from which considerable numbers of the society could learn.

John Fenner, in the plum role

THEATRE

of the Duke of Plaza-Toro, seems to get into top gear only near the end of the show and, for the most part, is handicapped by a tendency to sing through his nose and to emit a peculiar little snarl at the end of each of his speaking lines.

Brian Daniels does quite well as the Grand Inquisitor without really filling the role, but there are few distinguished performances from some of the minor principals.

Orchestra

The chorus seem to have yearned for a better show last year - but hardly enough. They need a stronger hand from the producer - and perhaps a more imaginative one.

The production has the distinct advantage of the British Empire Buildings under the direction of Tony Ayres, who are justly establishing quite a reputation.

They received a warm round of applause last night after the overture - a fact which is surprising only because 70 per cent of the audience chatted noisily throughout its being played.

