

St David's Players 'The Grand Duke' October 2019

Schedule for blocking rehearsals 2nd - 30th July 2019

- The schedule below gives the libretto page numbers as well as the musical items which will be covered because we shall be blocking the chorus reactions to the dialogue as we go through the show.
- For that reason, if you are able to look at the appropriate libretto section in advance of each rehearsal, you will know what is happening while you are on stage (the libretto is available on the website). Note that there are significant cuts to the dialogue - these are listed in the document in the members' area.
- It will also be helpful if you can do some 'homework' on the relevant sections of the score so that you really know the music and the words - you can't dance with a book in your hand!
- What follows is the initial proposal, but at this point, I have not taken it beyond July so that we see how quickly we can move through things. We are not likely to move faster than this because there is a lot to learn and we shall consolidate as we go along.
- Please bring a pencil (and a rubber) if you want to make any notes as we go - but I will try to get blocking details out to you (so that you can practise the moves to your CDs in front of your bedroom mirrors!)
- We are also planning to film sections once the blocking is reasonably 'stable' and to make these available via a private link
- All of the rehearsals listed below are at Preston Street
- All starts are 7:30 unless indicated otherwise in bold.
- In the 'members called' column - 'Full chorus' includes the 5 'girls' - Olga, Gretchen, Bertha, Elsa, Martha
- The page numbers for the score and the libretto below indicate sections which will be covered for the first time each evening (several sessions also include re-runs and consolidation of what has been done before)

Date	Lib ps	Musical numbers	Tasks	Members called
Tue 2 July	1-6	Score Overture page viii Score pages 1-14 1. Chorus with solos 'Won't it be a pretty wedding' 2. Solo Ludwig with chorus 'By the mystic regulation.'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory comments (eg style of production and set) • Overture curtain call • Base positions for opening chorus • Blocking for first song • Reactions to dialogue - entrance of notary and comments about the sausage roll sign • Positions for 'the sausage roll box' • Movements across song 2 • Run both songs • Block dialogue about eating sausage rolls and Ernest's entrance with principals 	Full chorus Lisa Ludwig Ernest Notary
Tue 9 July	6-7	Score pages 15-17 3. Solo - Ernest with chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes from and additions to blocking from last week • Re-run sections blocked 2nd July • Chorus to hear and react to the dialogue between score numbers 2 and 3 • Explanation of vocabulary in number 3 • Sing through score number 3 • Allocation of cameo parts for number 3 • Blocking of number 3 • R-run of whole section covered to date (numbers 1, 2 and 3 including dialogues) 	Full chorus Lisa Ludwig Ernest Notary
Tue 16 July	11-13	Score pages 23-30 5. Chorus plus Ludwig's solo 'My goodness me'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the setting of song 3 and check the opening words of the song • Sing the song through • Block entrances for the song • Block moves for the song • Run song with moves • Block chorus exit • Re-run moves for song 2 from 9th July 	Full chorus Ludwig Ernest Lisa Julia Notary

Tue 23 July	19-21	Score pages 49-53 9. Entrance of Chamberlains and Grand Duke 9a - Song Grand Duke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain scene change at this point • Explain overall structure of this section • Sing number 9 • Block entrances and set positions for number 9 • Run number 9 • Block exit for gentlemen and line up for chamberlains • Block moves across Grand Duke's song • Run 9a • Block Grand Duke's speech about his wedding preparations • Block exit for chamberlains • Run the whole section • Run all sections blocked to date (overture curtain call, 1, 2, 3 and 5) • Sing through the finale pages 66-79 (or 82) 	<p>7:30 Men's chorus Chamberlains Maximillian Grand Duke</p> <p>8:30 Additionally Ladies' chorus Ludwig Lisa Ernest Notary (Julia would only be required for no 5, so presence not essential!)</p>
Tue 30 July	28 - 33 (or 34)	Score pages 66-79 (or 82) 12. Finale Duel section (12a Song Ludwig with chorus ending just before Julia's entrance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing through the music of the whole section to be covered • Reminders of the cuts to this section and allocation of lines to the girls • Block positions in hiding for first chorus lines • Block entrance and positioning of chorus • Block in sections through the rest of number 12 • Block exit of the Grand Duke • Block transition to Ludwig's song - 12a • Block moves across Ludwig's song • Run all finale sections covered 	Full chorus (including chamberlains and Maximillian) Ludwig Grand Duke Notary Lisa
<p>Note re blocking on 30th July There is a great deal to cover in the first half of the finale - hence including 12a is ambitious! but we shall try to cover all elements of the finale up to Julia's entrance.</p>				