

## CHARACTERISATIONS FOR "THE MIKADO".

### **THE MIKADO:** (Bass)

The fearsome Emperor of Japan - truly regal and terrifying. He commands the deepest respect from everyone (apart from Katisha). He only appears in Act II. His sole number in the opera is "A more humane Mikado", but it is a real show-stopper. Requires someone with a loud, deep voice. Middle-aged.

### **NANKI-POO:** (Tenor)

The Mikado's son, the handsome and charming young hero of the piece. He is desperately in love with Yum-Yum, and their scene in Act I must be played in great earnest (the more seriously it is performed, the funnier it is). A large role, with lots of opportunity for acting, singing and comedy.

### **KO-KO:** (Baritone)

The Lord High Executioner of Titipu. Not a clown, but a timid little man who has been promoted beyond the level of his own incompetence. It is clear that he is out of his depth in most situations. A large role, with a great deal of opportunity for comedy. However, this is NOT a "nudge nudge, wink wink" part: we must laugh **at** Ko-Ko, not with him. Ageless.

### **POOH-BAH:** (Bass)

Lord High Everything Else. Proud, pompous, avaricious and self-serving. The perfect opportunist and an unutterable snob. He is extremely haughty, and looks down on everyone (apart from The Mikado and Katisha). He treats Ko-Ko with utter disdain. A large role, with excellent opportunities for comedy. Middle-aged.

### **PISH-TUSH:** (Baritone)

A Noble Lord. A small and not over-rewarding role, but a good deal can be made of it. He must never forget that he is a dignified nobleman. He is a likeable person, and is friendly towards Nanki-Poo. Middle-aged.

### **YUM-YUM:** (Soprano)

One of the 'three little maids' and Ko-Ko's bride-to-be. The pretty young heroine of the show. She is rather an arch character and is very aware of her own charms. She has much lovely music to sing and there is a good deal of comedy in this role.

### **PITTI-SING:** (Mezzo-soprano)

One of the 'three little maids' and the comedienne of the piece. A lovely role to play, with lots of scope for fun (particularly in Act II). Very matter-of-fact. Young.

### **PEEP-BO:** (Soprano)

One of the 'three little maids'. A smaller role than the other two, but she has some extremely amusing lines at the beginning of Act II. Young.

### **KATISHA** (Contralto)

A middle-aged lady of The Mikado's court and in love with Nanki-Poo. The traditional "woman scorned"- bitter with frustration. She is very domineering and an extremely forceful character, but also displays a softer side towards the end of Act II. She must dominate whenever she is on stage. Plain, rather than grotesque, and desperate for affection. Nothing fazes her.