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GILBERT & SULLIVAN PURIM
SHPIL

Eleanor G. Mlotek

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The *goldene pave*, or golden peacock, is a traditional symbol of Yiddish creativity. The inspiration for our colophon comes from a design by the noted artist Yechiel Hadani of Jerusalem, Israel.

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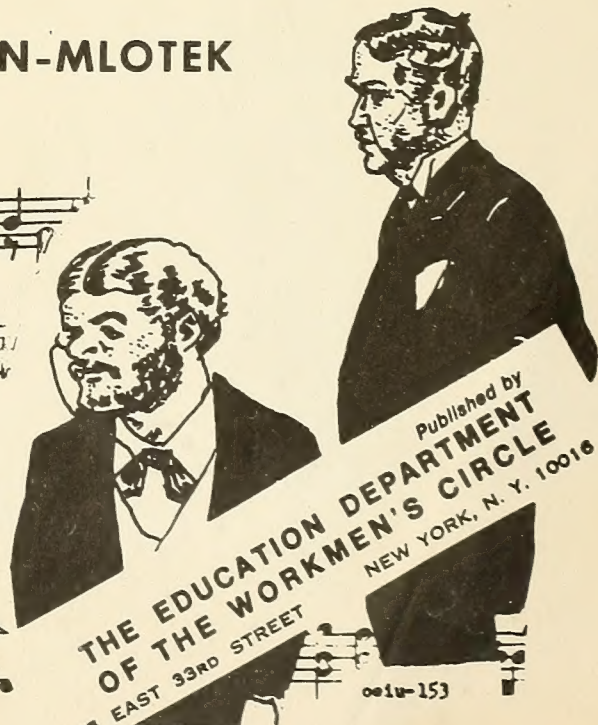
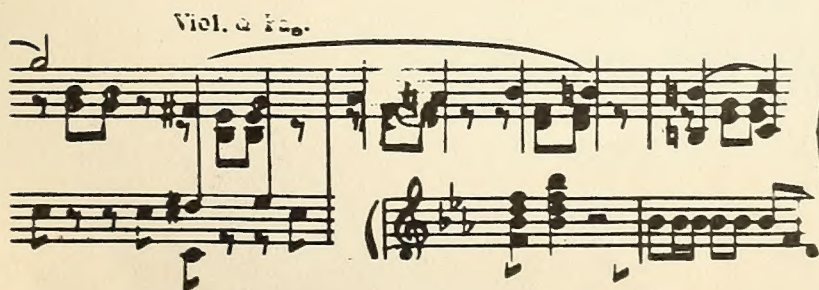
A Gilbert Sullivan

PURIM



SHPIL

by ELEANOR GORDON-MLOTEK



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A Gilbert Sullivan

Purim Shpil

by

Eleanor Gordon Mlotek

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The Education Department of the Workmen's Circle
175 East Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10002



In keeping with Jewish tradition, to celebrate Purim with song, folk-plays and parody, we reissue this Yiddish-English

"GILBERT AND SULLIVAN PURIM SHPIL"

It was originally performed by the mothers of Workmen's Circle School 3 in the Bronx on Purim, 1968 and was enthusiastically received. Subsequently, it was staged by branches and groups all over the country.

Originally, the skit was staged very simply, with the performers acting as both leading characters and chorus. Props were used sparingly, mainly as means to hide the scripts, which were either taped to Akhash-veyresh's goblets, Esther's flower basket, Vashti's hand mirror or Mordkhe's Megillah. Thus, only a few rehearsals were necessary, since the lines were not memorized, and the fun was shared by both performers and spectators.

The tune accompaniments to the narration are optional.

We are sure that other schools and branches will enjoy presenting this parody too. And so we offer it with the traditional dictum to -- "Enjoy Yourself" on Purim.

W. C. Education Department
1st printing - March 1970
2nd printing - November 1976



CHORUS.

Hop, mayne homen-tashn !
Hop, mayne vayse -
Hop, mit mayne homen-tashn
Hot pasirt a mayse -

Hop, mayne homen-tashn !
Hop, mayne vayse - (Break off)

Oy, mit undzer purim-shpil
Hot pasirt a mayse !



NARRATOR: To hert zhe a mayse . . .

On the eve of Ester Tones,
At the break of day,
We took a shpatsir
Through East Broadway
And whom do we meet -
Farblondzhet there?
Reb Gilbert un Reb Sullivan -
Nit veyninker, nit mer !

NARRATOR: Said we:

We invite you, 'tis no lie, suh,
To write us a Purim-maysuh.

NARRATOR: But hast thou fairies - they said -
 hast thou tars?
 Are there pirates to play the stars?
 Have you Gondoliers, Mikados,
 Villains and desperadoes?

NARRATOR: Sirs, our villain, unrehearsed,
 Is undoubtedly the worst.

We will change 'tarantara'
 To 'Zayt zhe yidn shtil un sha!'
 'Taradiddle' will become
 Our lidl 'Tshiri-biri-bam.'

NARRATOR: Oh rapture, modified and gay -
 Give us your groshns - for here
 is your play!

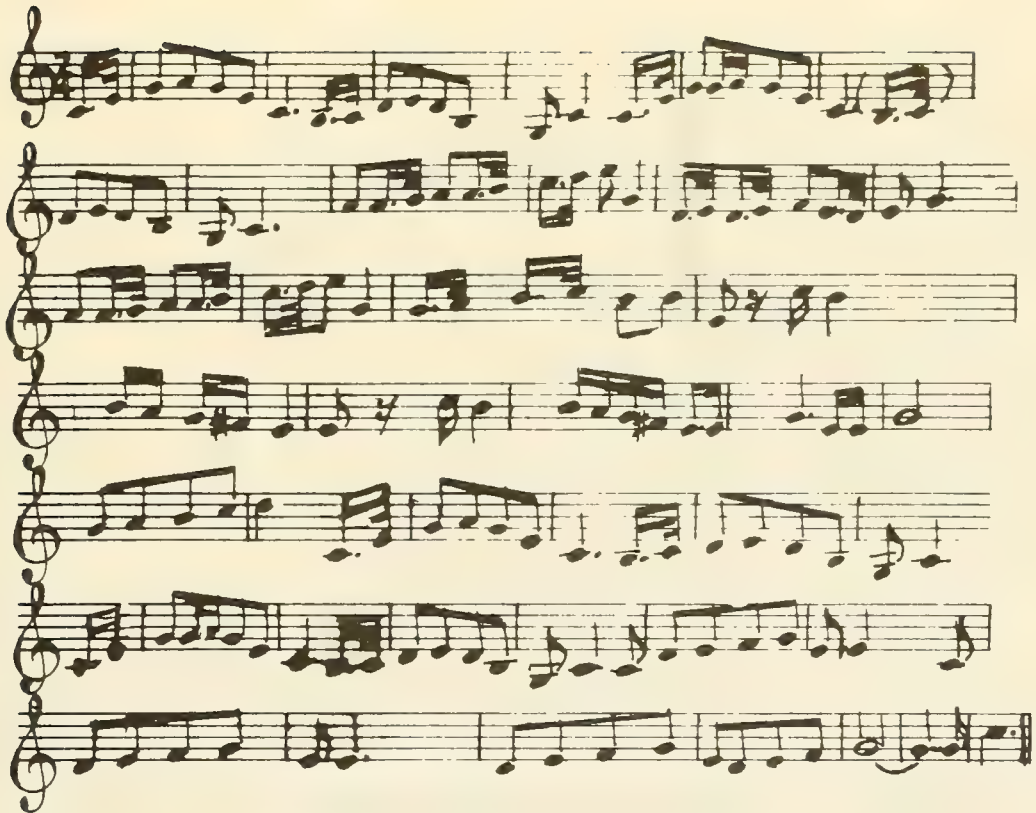
CHORUS. (Tune: 'We Sail the Ocean
 Blue' - Pinafore)

Ir veyst dokh min-hastam
 Az haynt iz purim, brider
 Fun Gilbert un Sullivan
 Zingen mir di lider.

Veyst, ir veyst dokh min-hastam
 Haynt iz purim, brider,
 Zingt zhe ale mit tsum gram -
 Zingt zhe mit di li-i-der -
 Tshiri-biri-bam.

Vi-i-der
 Tshiri-biri-bam
 Zingt stam - tsum gram -
 Tshiri-biri-bam!

Undzer shpil iz nit baym yam,
 Nor in land fun der Megile -
 Fun Gilbert un Sullivan -
 Di nayste purim-shpiler.
 Di nayste purim-shpiler
 In land fun der Megile -
 Zingt zhe, zingt zhe stam
 Tsum gram - mit tam!



NARRATOR: (Tune accompaniment: 'The Flowers
that Bloom in the Spring' - Mikado)

Good Purim that blooms in the Spring, tra-la
Here's a how-de-do -
Let's merrily welcome our king, tra-la -
Though none of us really want to.



(Enter Akhashveyresh)

SONG — AKHASHVEYRESH and CHORUS

(Tune 'I Am the Captain
of the Pinafore' -
Pinafore)

AKH.: Ikh zog befeyresh
Ikh bin Akhashveyresh

CHORUS: Geloybt zol zayn der har !

AKH.: Ikh bin groys, ikh bin meylekh
Ikh bin tomid zeyer freylekh
Barimt bin ikh derfar.

CHORUS: Du bist groys, du bist meylekh
Du bist tomid zeyer freylekh,
Shiker un a nar.

AKH.: Ver es vil mayn khaver zayn
Muz kenen trinken vayn -
Dos iz bay mir der i-ker -
Ikh bin keyn mol nit in kas
Ven trink oys a fule flash -
Un keyn mol ver ikh shiker.

CHORUS: Keyn mol?

AKH.: Afile eyn mol nit

CHORUS: Nit keyn mol?

AKH.: Nu efsher eyn mol.

CHORUS: Shiker is er ale mol.

To zingt a loyb far di aveyres
Fun dem meylekh Akhashveyresh -
Zingt a loyb tsu undzer har
Far
Zayn a tipesh un a nar.

(First time softly,
Second time ff)

The first system of music consists of seven staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef. The second staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment in bass clef. The fifth and sixth staves are piano accompaniment in treble clef. The seventh staff is piano accompaniment in bass clef. The music is in 2/4 time and features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

NARRATOR: (Tune accompaniment: My Object All
Sublime' - Mikado)

His object all sublime
Now that he's had his wine -
Queen Vashti must dance - is his design,
And tell her, if she dares decline -
Oy! will her punishment fit the crime -
Will her punishment fit the crime!

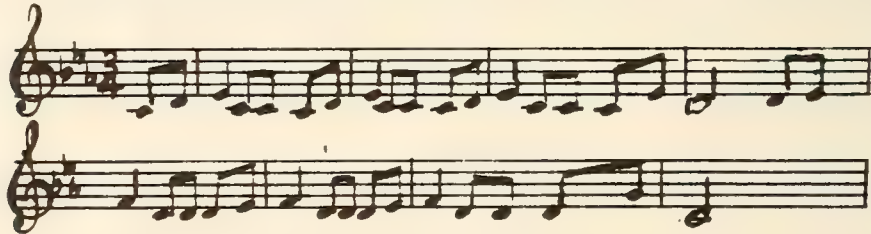
The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The music continues the melody from the first system.

NARRATOR: But the Queen won't dance. She says -

(Tune accompaniment: 'Go Away,
Madam' - Iolanthe)

Don't you dare, sir
To come there, sir
Drinking beer, sir
You drunken-face. . .

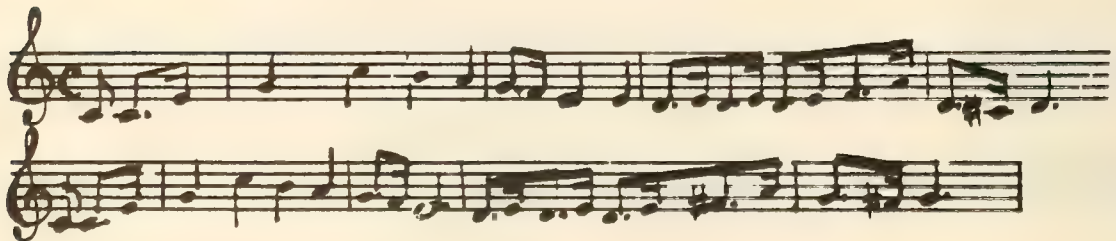
NARRATOR: Moreover. . .
You're a nudnik,
A no-good paskudnik
Intrude-nik, Akhashveysh!



NARRATOR: Oy, a brokh!

(Tune accompaniment: 'Behold the Lord
High Executioner - Mikado)

Take my wife, Lord Executioner,
And stop her from being vital -
Go take her life, Lord Executioner,
So someone else can get her rank and title !



(Enter Vashti)

SONG - VASHTI and CHORUS

(Tune: 'I'm Called Little
Buttercup' - Pinafore)

Ikh heys Vashti di malke
Men ruft mikh di lyalke -
Ikh veys nit far vos un far ven -
Men ruft mikh a lyalke,
Di tayere Malke
Keyn shenere hot men gezen.

Bashert iz mir nebekh
Minutn bloyz leb ikh,
Ikh muz fun der bine arop.
Yedn yor purim
Di zelbe yesurim -
Ikh darf shoy'n oyshtrekn mayn kop.

Keyner vet troyern,
Keyner badoyern,
Mikh vet men hengen un shisn.
Der meylekh, ot shteyt er,
Mistame, ot greyt er
A tsveyte - glaykh tsu bagrisn.

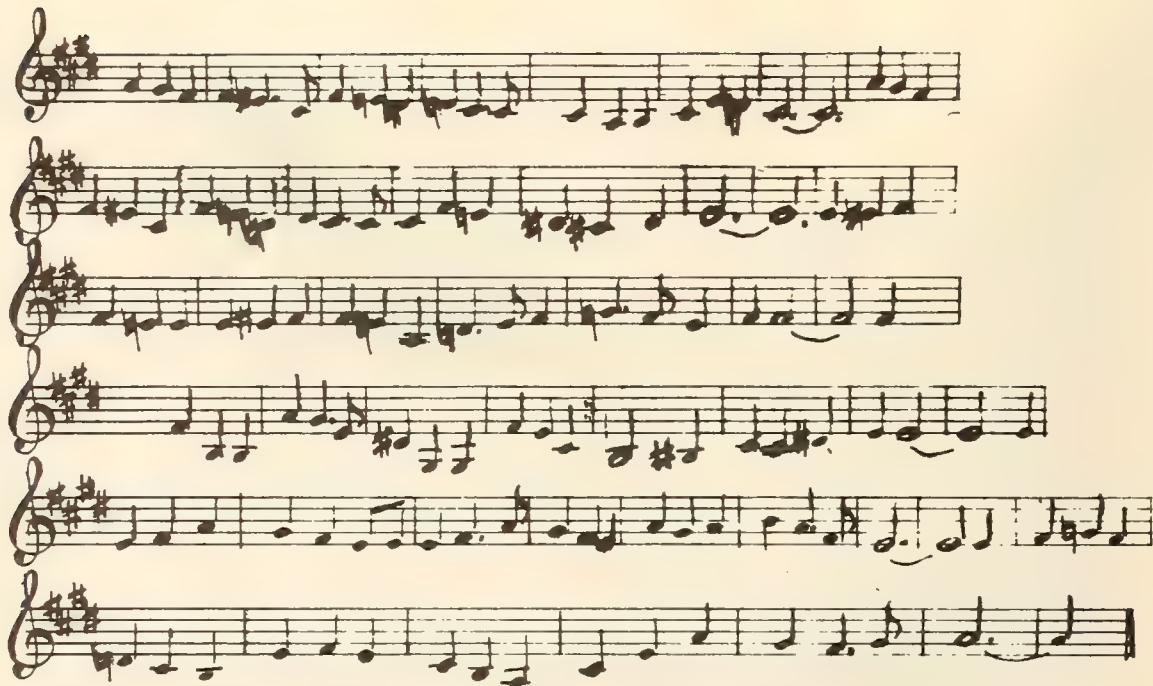
Baveynt zhe di malke
Di umshuldike lyalke,
Lozt nokh ir faln a trer -
Far Vashti dem korbn
Umshuldik geshtorbn
Fun meylekh, dem lekish-ber.

CHORUS: Baveynt zhe di malke
Di umshuldike lyalke,
Lozt nokh ir faln a trer -

VASHTI: Far Vashti dem korbn
Umshuldik geshtorbn -

V. and CHORUS: Fun meylekh, dem lekish-ber.



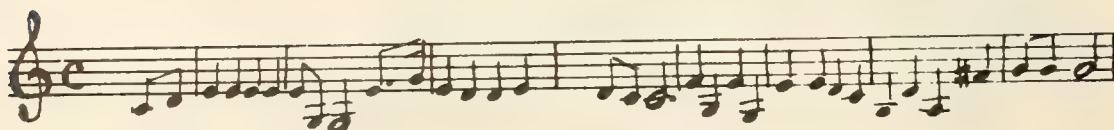


NARRATOR: Alas oh me, alas oh my!
 Oh, Gilbert and Sullivan, hear her sigh,
 Is it right that she should die
 Just because she did defy
 And Akhashveyresh did deny? . . .

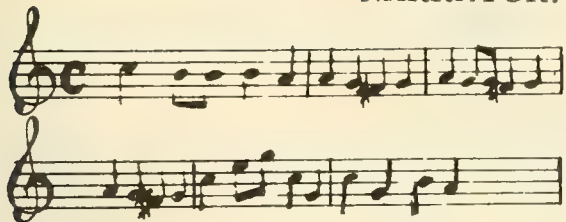
NARRATOR: Take the noose from off her head -
 And let us banish her instead.

(Tune accompaniment; 'Here's a First-
 Rate Opportunity' - Pirates of Penzance)

We have a first rate opportunity
 To send Vashti to a new community.
 Vashti, out of pity -
 We will banish to Moon City!



NARRATOR: (Tune: 'Three Little Maids' - Mikado)



And all little maids, who are so pretty
From the Bronx and from the City -

Come sign up without delay



(Tune: 'Loudly Let the Trumpets Bray' -
Iolanthe)

And loudly let the trumpets bray
For the king will choose a wife today. . .

NARRATOR: (Tune accompaniment: 'When a Felon's
Not Engaged in His Employment' - Pirates)

Meanwhile...back at the palace. . .

While the king is still engaged in his
employment

CHORUS: (spoken) His employment

NARRATOR: Watch the villain Homen plot and scheme
his plans

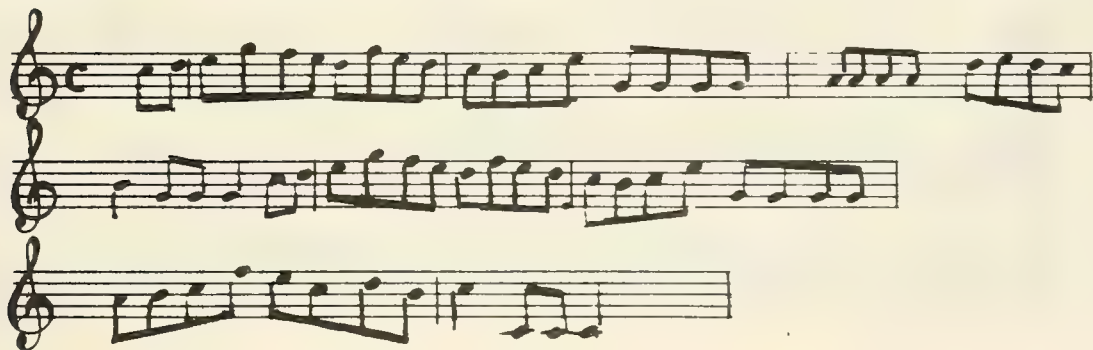
CHORUS: Scheme his plans. . .

NARRATOR: Let the monarch have his innocent enjoyment.

CHORUS: 'Cent enjoyment. . .

NARRATOR: But beware! For Homen's crimes are
worse than any man's

CHORUS: Any man's. . .



(Enter Homen)

SONG - HOMEN and CHORUS

(Tune: 'When I Was a Lad' -
Pinafore)

Ven ikh bin geven a kleyner yat
Miese zakhn hob ikh lib gehat -
Tsu baysn un tsu shlepn
kinder bay di hor
Un a knayp ton hob ikh lib gehat
biz gor.
Spetsyel bin ikh ale mol
geven tsufridn
Tsu raysn un tsu baysn un tsu
shmaysn di yidn.

CHORUS: Spetsyel iz er ale mol etc.

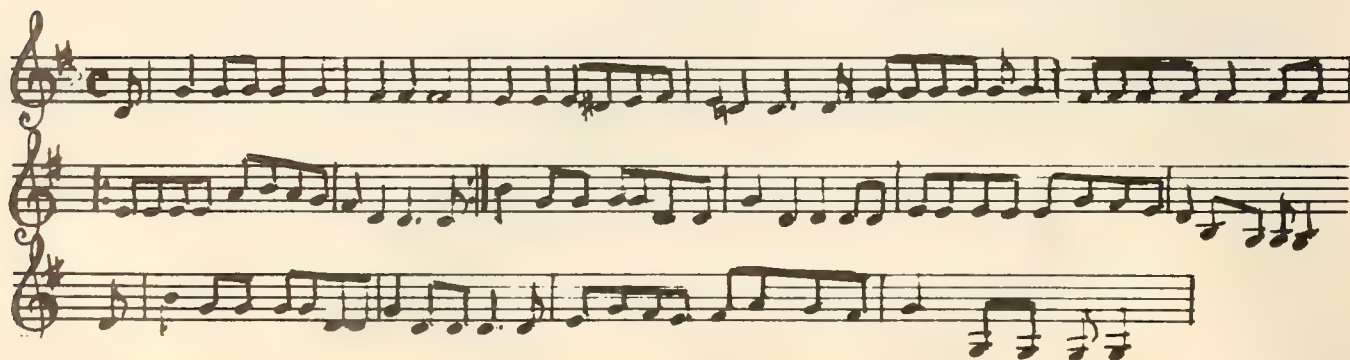
HOMEN: Vos greser kh'bin gevorn hob ikh mer shtudirt
Vegn vos keyn roshe hot nokh nit prubirt.
Mayn nomen iz gevorn azoy vayt bakant
Az baym meylekh kh'bin gevorn di rekhte
hant.

Di velt hot gevust az ven ikh
bin tsufridn
Zaynen mayne taynign -
paynikn di yidn.

CHORUS: Di velt hot gevust etc.

HOMEN: Nu, soyne-yisrol, vu ir zolt zikh nit gefinen
Nemt mayne verter gut arayn in zinen -
Oyb ir vilt dergreykh dem hekhstn shpits,
Vet mayn eytse kumen aykh tsu nits.
Nor eyn zakh in der velt
makht reshoyim tsufridn: -
Avade -
Raysn, un baysn, un shmaysn di yidn.

CHORUS: Nor eyn zakh in der velt etc.



(Enter Mordkhe and Esther)

NARRATOR: Mordkhe, tell the king Esther's
pedigree
And describe her family tree,
And if good enough it be -
Why, then, Esther, I think he'll
marry thee!

MORDKHE: Pedigree, shmedigree. You mean her yikhes!

SONG - MORDKHE and CHORUS

(Tune: 'I Am the Very
Model of a Modern Major
General' - Pirates)

S'iz Borokhov un Shin Dubnov un Kadye Malado-ovski
Ignatov un Marinof, Minkov un Zhitlo-ovski;
Ash un Apota-ashu, Yehoyash un Varsha-afski
Lutski, Slutski un Prilutski, Beyz Yud Byalosto-otski.

Alef Glants un Ernkrants, Anski un Mira-anski
Nadir, Bader, un avade, Grade un Smila-anski
Edlishtat un Yankev Pat, Pinski un Kami-inski
Perlov, Di-imov, ov-ov? Of Korsakov, Rumshi-inski (3x)

CHORUS: Perlov, Dimov, Korsakov, Dubinski un Rumshi-inski (3x)

MORDKHE: Roznfeld, Gros un Held, Sigl, Shpigl, Bya-alik,
Kopilov un Leo Lyov un Maystro Eugene Ma-alek.

Mani Leyb un Moyshe Leyb un Yitskhok Leybush Pe-erets,
Itst veystu shoy n ir yikhes, iz hob zhe derekh-e-erets.

CHORUS: Mani Leyb etc.

MORDKHE: Aynshteyn, Vaynshteyn - gib undz Ray Shtayn
Palefski, Tomashe-efski
Abramovitsh, Rabinovitsh, Ravitsh un Vinche-efski.

Alef Katz - Yankev Glats -
shteyn un Katsene-elson
Ver iz klug azoy vi Frug - Genug s'iz undzer Mendelson.

Zivin, Libin, ver geblibn? Tsivyen nit farge-esn
Zalmen Shneyer, Ayzik Meyer - Dik un Bikl, Lye-esin

Rokhl Korn un Arn Torn un yo, vi heyst er, ey-kh im
Eyshe meyshe un Boreyshe, Sho-olem Aley-eykhim.

CHORUS: Eyshe Meyshe un Boreyshe, Sho-olem Aley Khim (3x)
Yoyl Slonim, yo ikh kon im, Khazn Kusevi-itski
Oyerbakh un nokh un nokh, Di briderlekh Oli-itski.

Dos iz Esters yikhes, dos iz Esterls nada-a-an
Dem meylekh Akhashveyresh vet zi krign far a ma-a-an.

CHORUS: Dos iz Esters yikhes etc.

(Encore)

Libe layt, Arn Tsaytlin darf men oykh dermanen,
Avrom Reyzin ale veysn, Leyvik un oykh Khanin.
Dos gezang fun Itsik Mangers lid fun der megi-ile
Vi a vunder iz Sekunde un zayn shtile tfi-ile.

Mish dem gold fun Goldfaden un Zilbertsvayg tsuza-amen
Adler, Kesler, Lebedev un Hirshbeyn mit di dra-amen.

Segal, Segalovitshn - s'iz nokh nit kayn ek -
Shvarts un Vays un Grinberg un a Bisele Mlotek.

SONG - ESTER and CHORUS(Tune: 'I Am the Monarch
of the Sea' - Pinafore)

Di Malke Ester dos bin ikh
 Gebrakht hob ikh mit zikh
 Di shvester un di brider un di gantse mishpokhe
 Tsu zingen un tsu vintshn aykh
 brokhe un hatslokhe -
 Zingen mir a nigndl mit mazl un mit brokhe.

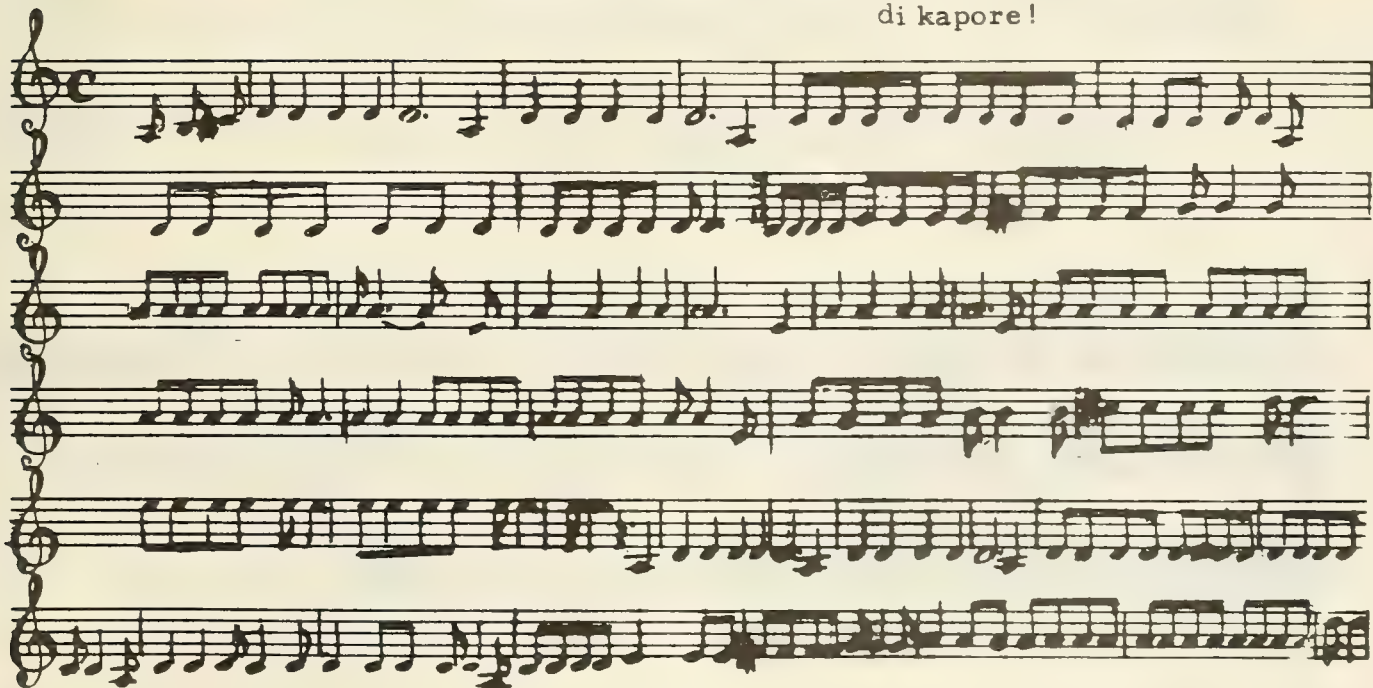
CHORUS: A nigndl mit mazl un mit brokhe.

ESTER: Un oyb bist nit getray,
 Veln zey do shteyn derbay
 Di shvester un di brider, dayne naye
 makhatonim,
 Vey tsu yenem vos farmogt azoyne sonim.

CHORUS: Mir veln dikh farshvartsn dayn nomen un
 dayn ponim
 Un fun der Megile oysmekn dayn nomen -
 omeyn.

ESTER: To zay a guter man,
 Anit vet mayn Dayan -
 Mit di shvester un di brider, zagt zhe
 kayn eyn-hore
 In zeks teg shlogn mit dir di kapore.

CHORUS: Mir vintshn dir fil glik vi es shteyt in
 der gemore
 Anit s'iz a svore
 Veln mir shlogn, veln mir shlogn
 di kapore!



NARRATOR: Homen thinks the king has had enough
 enjoyment. . .
 And starts to hatch his not so
 innocent plans. . .

SONG - HOMEN, AKHASHVEYRESH and CHORUS
 (Tune: 'Kind Captain, I've
 Important Information' -
 Pinafore)

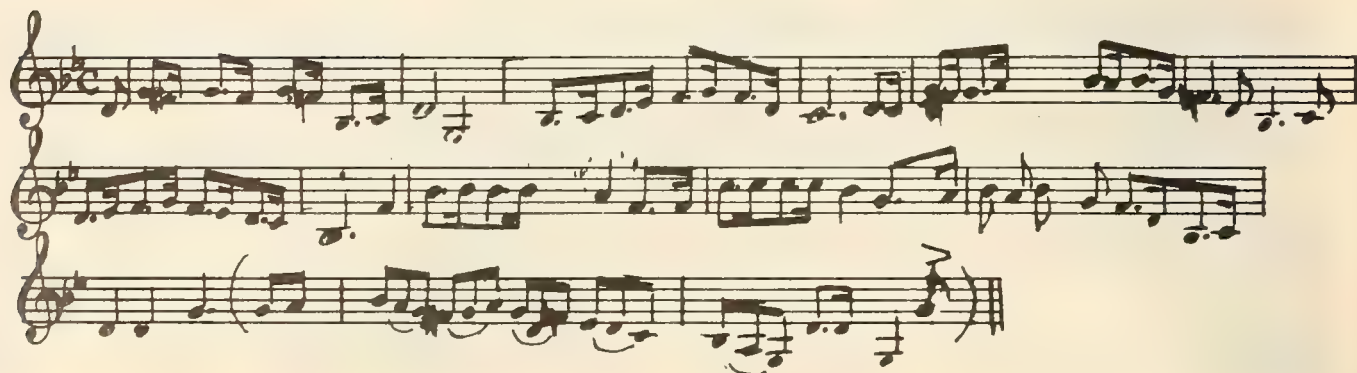
HOMEN: Mayn har, ikh hob azelkhes tsu dertseyln.
 Oy, iz dos a tipesh un a nar -
 Kh'bin zikher az di nays vet aykh gefeln,
 Zingt, hey, di yidn zaynen,
 Zingt, hey, di yidn zaynen,
 Zingt, hey, di yidn zaynen in gefar.

AKH.: Zog zhe gikher vos iz dayn bakoshe
 Un vifl vestu tsoln mir derfar?
 Zog mir vos du vilst, Homen Haroshe,
 Un vifl vestu tsoln mir dem skhar.
 Vifl vestu tsoln, vifl vestu tsoln,
 Vifl vestu tsoln mir dem skhar?

HOMEN: A kleynikeyt, di yidn bloyz umbrengen
 Zey zaynen dayne sonim do, mayn har.
 Oyf a tlie loz mikh ale zey ufhengen
 Un toyznt rendlekh gib ikh dir derfar.
 Oy, toyznt rendlekh. . . .

AKH.: Ikh vel zikh itst nit dingen far a groshn
 Nor eyder ikh loz durkhfirn dem gzar,
 Vil ikh zen dos gelt Homen Haroshe
 Itst, khotsh kh'bin shiker, kh'bin keyn nar.

CHORUS: Oy iz er a shiker, Oy iz er a shiker,
 Oy iz er a shiker, un a nar.



NARRATOR: The Purim dice will set the date
 When the Jews will seal their fate
 At a Purim masquerade.
 We will have a Mardi Gras
 And Homen - Boo - will
 shout Hurrah
 Or some other je ne sais
 quoi.

NARRATOR: Go proclaim, the king is willin'
 To let Homen, the fiendish villain
 Invite the town to his Purim 'kill-in'.

NARRATOR: Ester fair
 Ere
 The sun's ablaze in living glory
 You better tell his Majesty to listen
 to your story.

(Tune Accompaniment;
 'Nightmare' - Iolanthe)

While he's lying awake with a dismal headache
 From a hangover and impropriety,
 He will hardly refuse any wish you may choose
 To rescue us from our anxiety.



SONG - ESTHER and CHORUS(Tune: 'Tit-Willow' -
Mikado)

ESTER: Oyfn veg shteyt a boym aygeboygn
un veynt

CHORUS: Oy vey, oy vey, oy vey.

ESTER: Freg ikh bay dem boym, oy zog vos dos meynt

CHORUS: Oy vey, oy vey, oy vey.

ESTER: Efsher hot men di tsvaygelekh dayne gemakht
Far a suke a kleyne mit skhakh oyfn dakh?
Mit a zifts un a krekhts, er hot gornit gelakht.

CHORUS: Oy vey, oy vey, oy vey.

ESTER: Ikh veyn oyf mayn dolye, ikh veyn oyf mayn payn.

CHORUS: Oy vey. . .

ESTER: Hot der boym ayngeroymt mir in oyer arayn. . .

CHORUS: Oy vey. . .

ESTER: Ikh muz itster vern - es iz Homens plan
A tliye tsu hengen yedn yidishn man.
Tsi bin ikh geboyrn a tliye tsu zayn!

CHORUS: Oy vey. . .

ESTER: Ikh bet dir, mayn har, zolst alts ton atsind.

CHORUS: Oy vey. . .

ESTER: Farhitn dem roshe fun ton aza zind.

CHORUS: Oy vey. . .

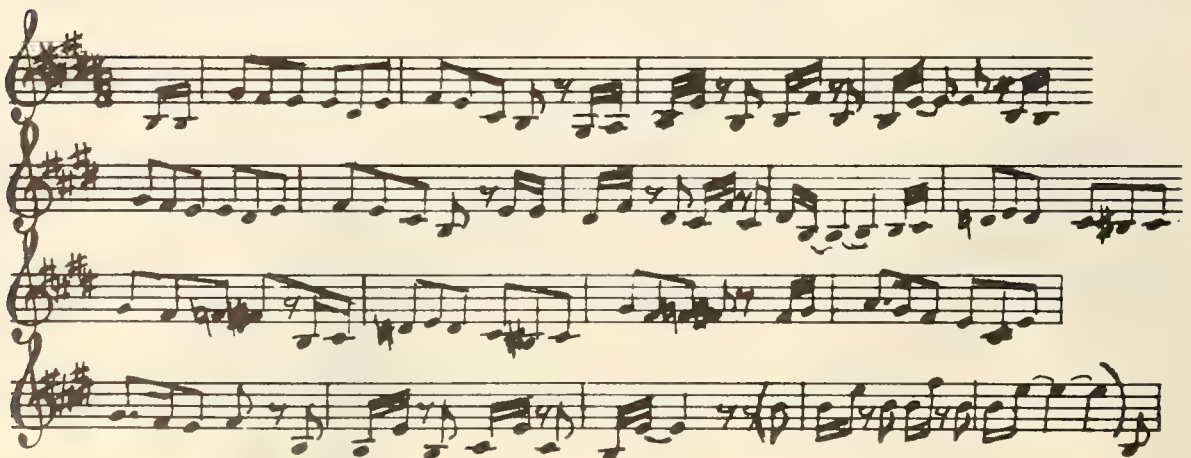
ESTER: Es vart oykh di tliye far mir, vey un vind.

Rateve mikh mit mayn gantsn gezind.

Vayl ikh bin dokh oykhet a

yudishes kind!

CHORUS: Oy vey, oy vey, oy vey!



NARRATOR: Poor king.
 Things are seldom what you hear
 Especially when your head's full of beer.
 He simply cannot make up his mind -
 When Esther said 'veyn', did she mean 'Vayn'?

Did he hear 'keyser' or was it 'koyse'
 Is he to make a 'choice' or have a
 'chaser'?

Will it be 'lo' or will it be 'keyn'?
 The one means 'yo', the other 'neyn'.

Oh poor old king, just think 'champagne'
 Of course Esther meant 'Vayn' when she
 said 'Veyn'.

NARRATOR: And anyway, it's better far that Homen
 should die
 Than Esther should ever be made to cry
 Homen will hang and will be shot -
 'Cause Esther is pretty and he is not.

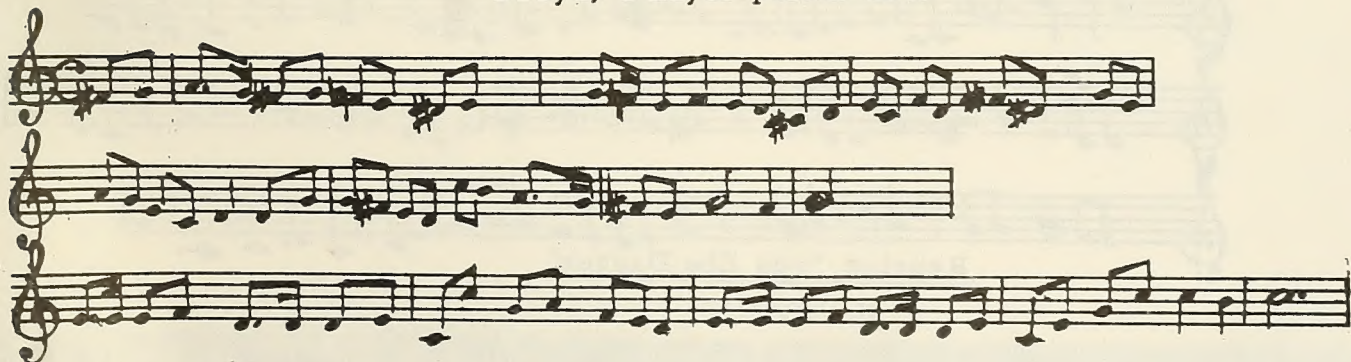
So spread the noose about the town -
 That Mordkhe goes up and Homen falls
 down.

CHORUS.

(Tune: 'Never Mind the Why
 and Wherefore' - Pinafore)

Vos zhe daygen, vos zhe zorgn
 Es iz undz baglikt der morgn.
 Homens plan iz nit gerotn
 Un s'iz take gut azoy.
 Homen firt men tsu der tliye
 Un di yidn zaynen fray.

A lekhayim - lomir shrayen -
 Haynt iz purim - nit farges.
 A mekhaye - s'iz a naye
 Freyd, a nayer purim-nes.



NARRATOR: (a la Gallagher and Sheen)

Before Sir Gilbert, mm mm
 Oh Mr. Gilbert, mm mm
 And Sir Sullivan, we thank the both of you -
 For finishing the play
 Exactly in the way
 That we hoped and wanted you to do.

Oh Mr. Sullivan mm mm
 And Mr. Gilbert -
 One more song we ask you to insert -
 To express our admiration
 To the man who saved our nation -
 Mordkhe, Mordkhe
 T'is he who saved our shirt.

Finale

CHORUS.

(Tune: 'He is an
 Englishman' - Pinafore)

Vayl er iz a guter yid.

Mordkhen zol men loybn
 Zayn nomen hoykh derhoybn
 Vayl er iz a guter yid.
 Vayl er iz a guter yid.

Er hot fun beyzn roshn
 Gemakht a Homen-toshn
 Vayl er iz a guter yid.
 Vayl er iz a guter yid.

Ver veys Mordkhe? er iz eyner
 Vi Mordkhe iz nit keyner
 Vayl er iz a guter yid.
 Vayl er iz a gu-u-u-u-u-u-u-u-ter yid.

Reprise 'Vos Zhe Daygen'

(CURTAIN)

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