Chicago Stage to Celebrate 'Mikado' Anniversary

Famous Opera Reaches Half Century Mark

Special Costumes for Birthday Production by D'Olyé Carte Troupe.

By Charles Collins.

In the musical annals of opera there are few operas that have achieved such a degree of popular success as "The Mikado," the opera in three acts and six scenes, with music by the great Japanese composer, Sir Arthur Sullivan, and libretto by W. S. Gilbert, presented first in London on March 14, 1885, at the Savoy Theatre. The original production was directed by Sir Henry Irving, and the costume designs were by Charles Kean. The cast featured notable vocalists of the day, including Mrs. John Wilson, as Yum-Yum, and Miss C. E. Holman, as Nanki-Porochichi.

The production of "The Mikado" was a sensation. The music was popular and the lyrics were witty and satirical. The costumes, designed by Charles Kean, were elaborate and colorful, and the sets were lavish. The show ran for 563 performances, a record that was not broken until 1930 with "The Music Man.

The success of "The Mikado" led to the creation of the D'Olyé Carte Troupe, which was formed in 1897 and became one of the most successful touring companies in the history of opera. The company was known for its high-quality productions and its faithful adherence to the original libretto and music of Gilbert and Sullivan. The D'Olyé Carte Troupe performed "The Mikado" in every major city in the United States and Canada, and its productions continued to be popular for many years.

Today, "The Mikado" is still performed by opera companies around the world, and its enduring popularity is a testament to the genius of Gilbert and Sullivan. The opera continues to be a beloved and celebrated part of the operatic repertoire, and its legacy is a lasting testament to the power of music and theater to entertain and delight audiences for generations to come.