

## **The Lady Jane**

Large role. Contralto. Range: G3 – E5 (opt.F#5)

**Audition Music: Recit. “Sad is that woman’s lot” and Song. “Silvered is the raven hair” – both verses**

Music found in Chappell Score pg 101-104

Or G&S Archive edition pg 115-118 [here](#)

Fair amount of dialogue, solo song, solo lines and comic duet.

A rapturous maiden in love with *Bunthorne* and ‘aestheticism’. She is ‘older’ (read: not ancient!) than the other maidens and is something of a self-appointed matriarch figure. She was not engaged to a Dragoon Guard in the previous year and was the ‘original super-fan’ of *Bunthorne* when he first adopted aestheticism, frequently reminding the other maidens of this fact. She is **not** well liked, but is tolerated because of her knowledge of aestheticism.

Jane is fiercely independent, self-reliant and strong. But she is a hopeless romantic who wants to be wanted.

Ideally we would like to cast someone who knows how to play an instrument – traditionally this is a cello, but we are happy to consider other things...

**Audition Dialogue (please prepare both):**

1. **“The fickle crew have deserted Reginald” – “Better secure me ere I have gone too far!”**
2. **“(singing) In a doleful train, one and one I walk all day...” – P36: “I dare say!”**

Dialogue found on following pages:

**1.**

**JANE.** The fickle crew have deserted Reginald and sworn allegiance to his rival, and all, forsooth, because he has glanced with passing favour on a puling milkmaid! Fools! Of that fancy he will soon weary – and then, I, who alone am faithful to him, shall reap my reward. But do not dally too long, Reginald, for my charms are ripe, Reginald, and already they are decaying. Better secure me ere I have gone too far!

2.

**JANE.** *sings.*

In a doleful train  
One and one I walk all day;  
For I love in vain –  
None so sorrowful as they  
Who can only sigh and say,  
Woe is me, alackaday!

**BUN.** Crying, eh? What are you crying about?

**PATIENCE.** I've only been thinking how dearly I love you!

**BUN.** Love me! Bah!

**JANE.** Love him! Bah!

**BUN.** *(to JANE)* Don't you interfere.

**JANE.** He always crushes me!

**PATIENCE.** *(going to him)* What is the matter, dear Reginald? If you have any sorrow, tell it to me, that I may share it with you. *(Sighing.)* It is my duty!

**BUN.** *(snappishly)* Whom were you talking with just now?

**PATIENCE.** With dear Archibald.

**BUN.** *(furiously)* With dear Archibald! Upon my honour, this is too much!

**JANE.** A great deal too much!

**BUN.** *(angrily to JANE)* Do be quiet!

**JANE.** Crushed again!

**PATIENCE.** I think he is the noblest, purest, and most perfect being I have ever met. But I don't love *him*. It is true that he is devotedly attached to me, but I don't love him. Whenever he grows affectionate, I scream. It is my duty! *(Sighing.)*

**BUN.** I dare say!

**JANE.** So do I! I dare say!

**PATIENCE.** Why, how could I love him and love you too? You can't love two people at once!

**BUN.** Oh, can't you, though!

**PATIENCE.** No, you can't; I only wish you could.

**BUN.** I don't believe you know what love is!