

The Lady Saphir

Small-Medium role. Mezzo/Soprano. Range: D4 (opt.C#4) – F5 (opt.G5)

Audition Music: Solos “Mystic poet hear our prayer” AND “Though so excellently wise” from In a Doleful Train

Music found in Chappell Score pg 33-35

Or G&S Archive edition pg 36-38 [here](#)

Fair amount of dialogue, solo lines and ensemble singing.

A rapturous maiden. *Saphir* was engaged to *Major Murgatroyd* a year ago but has since become obsessed with *Bunthorne* and his embodiment of ‘aestheticism’. She is one of the ‘leaders’ of the female chorus and is dramatic and a little ditzy. The other maidens view her as Romantic and will often copy her dramatic aesthetic poses.

She is a bit of a gossip, but good-natured and likeable.

Audition Dialogue:

“How Botticellian!” – “Oh, it’s extremely good – for beginners it’s admirable.”

Dialogue on following pages.

ANGELA. Oh, Saphir – see – see! The immortal fire has descended on them, and they are of the Inner Brotherhood – perceptively intense and consummately utter.

SAPHIR. (*in admiration*) How Botticelcian! How Fra Angelican! Oh, Art, we thank thee for this boon!

COLONEL. (*apologetically*) I'm afraid we're not quite right.

ANGELA. Not supremely, perhaps, but oh, so all-but! (*To SAPHIR.*) Oh, Saphir, are they not quite too all-but?

SAPHIR. They are indeed jolly utter!

MAJOR. (*in agony*) I wonder what the Inner Brotherhood usually recommend for cramp?

COLONEL. Ladies, we will not deceive you. We are doing this at some personal inconvenience with a view of expressing the extremity of our devotion to you. We trust that it is not without its effect.

ANGELA. We will not deny that we are much moved by this proof of your attachment.

SAPHIR. Yes, your conversion to the principles of Æsthetic Art in its highest development has touched us deeply.

ANGELA. And if Mr. Grosvenor should remain obdurate –

SAPHIR. Which we have every reason to believe he will –

MAJOR. (*aside, in agony*) I wish they'd make haste!

ANGELA. We are not prepared to say that our yearning hearts will not go out to you.