

Scene Notes: Lady Trent's Soirée

Summary: Lady Trent is hosting an evening get-together or *soirée*. Who performs when the guest soprano cannot attend?

Type: Fiction, though based on the times; 1820s;
3 songs, 2 poems, dance music

Grades: 9-12

Cast of Characters: 9 plus guests/dancers

Performance Time: 20 minutes

This scene is performed where there is a focus on the early 1800s: schools, community organizations, museums.

Lady Trent's Soirée

Rebecca Locklear

LADY TRENT: *(sweeps to center stage, to guests)* Pray be seated. *(waits)* My husband and I welcome you to our little soirée. As you might have heard, the lovely soprano, Miss Ruthers, did not manage to arrive in London yesterday. But do not be disappointed. I have asked friends to perform for us this evening. To start, please welcome Misses Ann and Grace Brown, and Mr. Harland. *(leads clapping)*

ANN, GRACE and MR. HARLAND: *(perform "The Girl Who Liked Dancing," with ANN singing and GRACE and MR. HARLAND acting it out. HARLAND should sing his quote; ALL bow at end)*

The Girl Who Liked Dancing

Swedish folk song (1750 /1850)

1. There once was a girl who liked to go danc-ing all day;
2. He said "I am tied so tight-ly, my hand is quite sore;

LADY TRENT:

(stands, leads clapping) Thank you my dears. Let's continue with the program. Miss Matheson? (sits)

STELLA MATHESON: (sings "The Water of Tyne;" bows at end)

The Water of Tyne

Traditional, Arr. Derek Hobbs

Musical score for 'The Water of Tyne' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff is the melody with lyrics: (1) I can - not get to my love if I would dee, The wa - ter of Tyne runs be -
(2) Oh, where is the boat - man, my bon - ny hin - ny? Oh, where is the boat - man?
(3) Oh bring me a boat - man, I'll give a - ny mon - ey, And you for your trou - ble re -

LADY TRENT:

Ah, that is Harriet Gates. She is General Gate's granddaughter. Come, let me introduce you. (walks to where MISS GATES is speaking with other ladies) Excuse me ladies. Captain Rupert, I have the honour to present to you Miss Gates. Harriet, this is Captain Rupert of the 3rd Dragoon Guards.

CAPT. RUPERT: (bows) Miss Gates.

MISS GATES: (curtsies) Good evening, sir.

CAPT. RUPERT: May I have the honour of this dance?

MISS GATES: Thank you sir. (gives him her hand, CAPT. RUPERT puts her hand on his arm, both find places, ready to dance, DANCERS get into place)

LADY CATHERINE: (a busy-body, approaches LADY TRENT) Do you think the captain will toe the line? You've heard the rumors, haven't you?

PERFORMING BRITISH HISTORY

Vocal, Drama - 1820s

Lady Trent's Soirée

song - poetry - dance



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