

**GAY'S THE
BEGGAR'S OPERA**

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Gay's The Beggar's Opera by Frederic Austin

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FREDERIC AUSTIN

**GAY'S THE
BEGGAR'S OPERA**

Gay's
The Beggar's Opera

With New Settings of the Airs and additional Music

BY
Frederic Austin

Hepusch, J.C.

LIBRETTO
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\$1.50



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Drama

Mon 11:15
Tue 2-3
Thurs. 3:30
Fri 1:30
S.S. - 2

C A S T

PEACHUM
LOCKIT
MACHEATH
FILCH
MAT OF THE MINT
THE BEGGAR
MRS. PEACHUM
POLLY PEACHUM
LUCY LOCKIT
DIANA TRAPES
JENNY DIVID
DRAWER JAILER
MACHEATH'S GANG (5)
WOMEN OF THE TOWN (8)



INTRODUCTION

SCENE: Curtain up. Stage empty, inner tableau curtain, in front of back rostrum and steps, down. ENTER PLAYER followed by BEGGAR.

Beggar

I am a beggar, and if poverty be a title to poetry nobody can dispute mine... I own myself of the company of Beggars and I make one of their weekly festivals at St. Gile's. I have small yearly salary for the catches I sing and I am welcome to a dinner there whenever I please, which is more than most poets can say. Now I have composed an Opera, both the words and the catches thereof, and -

Player

As we Players live by the muses we encourage poetical merit wherever we find it. The muses contrary to all other ladies, pay no distinction to dress. Be the Author even a Beggar, we push his play as far as it will go, so although you are in need of success, we wish you success heartily, which is out of the common, it being the custom to wish success only to those who need it not.

Beggar

I cannot sufficiently acknowledge your charity in bringing this piece on the stage. It's a mighty strange piece. I hope I may be forgiven that I have not made my Opera unnatural like those in vogue. This is the most natural Opera in the world. It begins in the house of a Receiver of stolen goods, and ends in the condemned hold. Every personage in it is either a highwayman, a fence, a jailer, a pimp, a trull or a trollop - in short, there is not an honourable man nor an honest woman among 'em. But all is human.

Player

Have done upon this topic. Foul not thine own nest. See, the actors are preparing to begin, it is time for us to withdraw. Mr. (Insert Conductor's name) play away the overture.

OVERTURE.

(When the OVERTURE is concluded, the inner tableau curtain is raised, discovering PEACHUM seated on the steps of the rostrum.)



ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

SCENE: PEACHUM'S house.

AT RISE: PEACHUM sitting on rostrum
C. with a large book of ac-
counts.

Peachum

AIR NO. 2

Through all the Employments of Life
Each Neighbour abuses his Brother;
Trull and Rogue they call Husband and
Wife:

All Professions be-rogue one another:
The Priest calls the Lawyer a Cheat.
The Lawyer be-knaves the Divine:
And the Statesman, because he's so
great,
Thinks his Trade as honest as mine.

A Lawyer is an honest Employment, so is mine. Like me too he
acts in a double Capacity, both against Rogues and for 'em; for
'tis but fitting that we should protect and encourage Cheats,
since we live by them.

(ENTER FILCH up stage R., to PEACHUM C.)

Filch

Sir, Black Moll hath sent word her Trial comes on in the After-
noon, and she hopes you will order Matters so as to bring her off.

Peachum

Why, as the Wench is very active and industrious, you may satisfy
her that I'll soften the Evidence.

Filch

Tom Gagg, Sir, is found guilty.

Peachum

A lazy dog! This is death without Reprieve. I may venture to
Book him.

(Writes)

For informing upon Tom Gagg, forty pounds. Let Betty Sly know
-(cont.)-