



Audition Pack: The Intergalactic Mikado

The character: Ko-Ko (Baritone)

Ko-Ko is a morally dubious individual with his fingers in many pies. As well as being a sometime hacker who manipulates code for his own ends, he has also made a name for himself as a celebrity agent, managing clients and their media feeds. Three of his clients are Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo who have been secluded in the Biosphere Sanctuary, protected and valuable because of their pure human DNA.

Yum Yum accepted his marriage proposal as he promised a wedding would increase her followers exponentially. Unfortunately, Ko-Ko fell foul of the Mikado by attempting to hack into the Imperial channel to promote his clients' interests. He was subsequently imprisoned in the server jail until selected to become the Lord High Executioner, a job for which he is far too squeamish to be suited for.

He is not an evil person, just a rather superficial and self-serving one. His marriage to Katisha will not only save the situation for everyone at the end, but may also lead to greater things for him within the Empire.

The Song: **On a tree by a river a little tom-tit**

On a tree by a river a little tom-tit
Sang 'Willow, titwillow, titwillow!'
And. I said to him, "Dicky-bird, why do you sit
"Singing 'Willow, titwillow, titwillow'?"

"Is it weakness of intellect, birdie?" I cried,
"Or a rather tough worm in your little inside?"
With a shake of his poor little head, he replied,
'Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow!'

He slapped at his chest, as he sat on that bough,
Singing 'Willow, titwillow, titwillow!'
And a cold perspiration bespangled his brow,
Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow!

He sobbed and he sighed, and a gurgle he gave,
Then he plunged himself into the billowy wave,
And an echo arose from the suicide's grave
'Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow!'

Now I feel just as sure as I'm sure that my name
Isn't Willow, titwillow, titwillow,
That 'twas blighted affection that made him exclaim,
'Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow!'

And if you remain callous and obdurate, I
Shall perish as he did, and you will know why,
Though I probably shall not exclaim as I die,
'Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow!'

The Libretto

KOKO. (going up to **NANKI-POO**). My poor boy, I'm really very sorry for you.

NANKI-POO. Thanks, old fellow. I'm sure you are.

KOKO. You see I'm quite helpless.

NANKI-POO. I quite see that.

KOKO. I can't conceive anything more distressing than to have one's marriage broken off at the last moment. But you shan't be disappointed of a wedding - you shall come to mine.

NANKI-POO. It's awfully kind of you, but that's impossible.

KOKO. Why so?

NANKI-POO. Today I die.

KOKO. What do you mean?

NANKI-POO. I can't live without Yum-Yum. This afternoon I perform the Happy Despatch.

KOKO. No, no - pardon me - I can't allow that.

NANKI-POO. Why not?

KOKO. Why, hang it all, you're under contract to die by the hand of the Public Executioner in a month's time! If you kill yourself, what's to become of me? Why, I shall have to be executed in your place!

NANKI-POO. It would certainly seem so!

(Enter **POOH-BAH**.)

KOKO. Now then, Director of State Ceremonies, what is it?

POOH-BAH. The Mikado and his suite are approaching the city, and will be here in ten minutes.

KOKO. The Mikado! He's coming to see whether his orders have been carried out!

(To **NANKI-POO**.) Now look here, you know - this is getting serious - a bargain's a bargain, and you really mustn't frustrate the ends of justice by committing suicide. As a man of honour and a gentleman, you are bound to die ignominiously by the hands of the Public Executioner.

NANKI-POO. Very well, then - delete me.

KOKO. What, now?

NANKI-POO. Certainly; at once.

POOH-BAH. Chop it off! Chop it off!

KOKO. My good sir, I don't go about prepared to execute gentlemen at a moment's notice. Why, I never even killed a space gnat!

POOH-BAH. Still, as Lord High Executioner -

KOKO. My good sir, as Lord High Executioner, I've got to delete him in a month. I'm not ready yet. I don't know how it's done. I'm going to take lessons. I mean to begin with a guinea pig, and work my way through the animal kingdom till I come to a Second Trombone. Why, you don't suppose that, as a humane man, I'd have accepted the post of Lord High Executioner if I hadn't thought the duties were purely nominal? I can't kill you - I can't kill anything! I can't kill anybody! (Weeps.)