

THE NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS [1]

AUSTRALIAN VARIETY THEATRE ARCHIVE: RESEARCH NOTES
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aka **Buckley Gardner, Holly & Gibbons' Nightingale Serenaders • Gardner, Gibbons & La Feuillade's Nightingale Serenaders**

(1881-1882) The Nightingale Serenaders was formed in November 1881 by Tom Buckley, Charles Holly, Dave Gardner and George Gibbons (business manager) for a few engagements in regional Victoria - notably Sandhurst (later Bendigo) and Ballarat. The troupe played Melbourne's [People's Concerts](#) in early January before undertaking a more extensive regional tour. Initially renamed Gardner, Gibbons and La Feuillade's Nightingale Serenaders, by March the company was simply known as the Nightingale Serenaders. The tour went through parts of regional Victoria and southern New South Wales until late March (and possibly into April).

► See also: [Dave Gardner](#) • [Johnny Gardner](#) • [Charles Holly](#) • [Tom Buckley](#) • [George Gibbons](#) • [Nicholas La Feuillade](#)

- The original line-up also included Tom Buckley, Charles Holly, Nicholas La Feuillade (music director/violin), Eva Mortimer, Lilian Potter, Lottie Laverne, Mary Vivian and Little Vergie. Later members included George Arlington, Helen Gordon, Lillie Hill, and George Gibbons (as performer).
- Dave Gardner and his brother Johnny briefly toured a similarly-named company around Melbourne later the same year. Their line-up included [Johnny Matlock](#) and [Will Whitburn](#).
- Although George Gibbon's revived the Nightingale Serenaders in 1895 this was in name only. None of the members of the first company, apart from Gibbons, were involved the latter venture.

Minstrel Combination Company !
NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS.
TWELVE STAR ARTISTES !
New Songs ! New Dances ! New Acts !
New Farces !

Wagga Wagga Advertiser (NSW) 7 Mar. 1882, 3.

O N T O U R.
 BUCKLEY, GARDNER, HOLLY, and GIBBONS'
 NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS.
 DAYLESFORD,
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21st.
 ———
 Sandhurst,
 Royal Princess Theatre, to follow.
 ONE WEEK.
 JOSEPH O'BRIEN,
 Agent in Advance.

THE NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS.—A troupe company, Messrs. Buckley, Gardner, Holly, and Gibbons will appear in the Royal Princess Theatre next Thursday evening, and on the three succeeding nights.

Public Amusements.

PRINCESS THEATRE.
 This Evening—The Nightingale Serenaders.

CAMP RESERVE.
 This Evening—St. Leon's Circus.

MASONIC HALL.
 This Evening—Popular Concert,

ST. JAMES' HALL.
 This Evening—Free Entertainment.

THE NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS.—The public are reminded that the negro minstrel troupe, "The Nightingale Serenaders" will appear this evening in the Royal Princess Theatre, opening for a short season of four nights. The troupe is well-spoken of, and includes members so favorably known as Messrs. Buckley, Gardner, Holly, Gibbons, and the talented violinist N. La Feuillade, also Miss Mary Vivian, song and dance artiste; Miss Lilian Potter, contralto vocalist and pianiste; Miss Eva Mortimer, balladiste; Miss Lottie Laverne, pianiste, and the "child wonder," "Little Vergie." It is claimed by the management that the particular characteristics of their performance are refinement, originality, versatility, rapid changes of programme, etc. The entertainment should therefore be most attractive.

An attractive programme has been provided for this evening's People's Concert in the Temperance-hall, Russell-street, when the Nightingale Serenaders Minstrel Combination will appear and furnish the entire entertainment.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/260313>

The Nightingale Serenaders, a new company of mixed minstrels, appeared for the first time before a Melbourne audience on Saturday evening at the People's Concert in the Temperance-hall, Russell-street, and met with a hearty reception from a crowded house.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/260337>

Echuca

TEMPERANCE HALL, ECHUCA.
 FOR A FEW NIGHTS ONLY.
 TO-MORROW WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15.
 GARDNER, GIBBONS & LA FEUILLADES
 NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS
 NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS
 NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS
 M I N S T R E L
 COMBINATION COMPANY.
 12 STAR ARTISTS 12

For full particulars and programme, see tomorrow's issue and posters. Prices—3s., 2s., 1s.
1510 JOSEPH O'BRIEN, Agent.

Riverine Herald (Echuca, Vic) 14 Feb. 1882, 3.

TEMPERANCE HALL, ECHUCA.
 NIGHTINGALE
SERENADERS.

THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.
 Bones Dave Gardner
 Interrogator Geo. C. Gibbons
 Tambourine Geo. Arlington.

TURKISH PATROL,
 Messrs. La Feuillade, Ashworth and Conduit.

DOUBLE SONG AND DANCE,
 Messrs. Gardner and Arlington.

Duet—"When the Birds come back."
 Miss Helen Gordon and Miss Lillie Hill.
 SKIPPING ROPE EXERCISE
 By Lottie Belmont.

Comic Sketch—"WHO DIED FIRST."

ECCENTRICITIES
 By Messrs. Gardner, Arlington, Gibbons and Lindsey.

AMERICAN SAND JIG
 (By the only Lady Artist in the Colonies)
 MISS LOTTIE BELMONT.
 Ballad—New (First Time)—Thy Smile and Voice.
 Miss Helen Gordon.

The whole to conclude with Dave Gardner's Mirth
 provoking Comic Farce,
HE WOULD BE AN ACTOR.
 Doors open at 7.30; overture at 8.
FRANK GOUGH, Property Manager.
JOS. O'BRIEN, Agent. 1513

Riverine Herald (Echuca, Vic) 15 Feb. 1882, 3.

Wagga Wagga

FREEMASONS' HALL,
Wagga Wagga.

For a Few Nights Only!

COMMENCING THURSDAY, MARCH 9.

Minstrel Combination Company!

NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS.

TWELVE STAR ARTISTES!

New Songs! New Dances! New Acts!
New Farces!

N. B.—The management, in introducing this Company to the amusement-going public of Wagga Wagga, do so with confidence, and guarantee a First-class Night's Amusement.

Prices of Admission—Reserved Seats, 4s.; Front Seats, 3s.; Second Seats, 2s.; Back, 1s.

JOE O'BRIEN, Agent.

Wagga Wagga Advertiser (NSW) Mar. 1882, 3.

Cootamundra

NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS.—On Monday night last this company appeared in the Assembly Hall, and as we go to press this Tuesday night are preparing for another performance—in a change of programme—at the same place. They are a mirth-provoking troupe, comprising good negro delineators, songsters, and dancers; and “on the chairs” the presence of ladies is a novelty, and their sweet voices have a pleasing effect. The comicalities of Messrs. Gordon and Arlington, the dancing of Miss Lottie Belmont, and the ballad singing of Miss Helen Gordon are specially worthy of mention. We recommend all who want to pass a couple of pleasant hours to not lose the present opportunity of seeing the Nightingale Serenaders.

Cootamundra Herald (NSW) 15 Mar. 1882, 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/16392085>

Goulburn

Mechanics' Institute.

Friday & Saturday, March 24th & 25th

NIGHTINGALE SERENADERS

PROGRAMME for FRIDAY EVENING:

PART I.

Bones, DAVE GARDNER; Interrogator, GEORGE C. GIBBONS;

Tambourine, GEO. ARLINGTON.

Overture, Twinkling Stars..... SERENADERS

Song, Dennis Darling..... Miss EVA MORTIMER

Comic Refrain, Fare you well, Malinda.... GEORGE

ARLINGTON

Song, Little Darling..... Miss LILLIE HILL

Comic Song, Sarah Ann..... DAVE GARDNER

Song, Norah Mavourneen.... Miss HELEN GORDON

Finale, the Beasley Family..... Messrs. GARDNER,

ARLINGTON, and LINDSEY.

INTERVAL—TEN MINUTES.

PART II.

Overture—Italiana..... Mr. ALFRED ASHWORTH

Double Song and Dance..... Messrs. GARDNER and

ARLINGTON.

Duet—Speak Gently.... Miss HELEN GORDON and

Miss LILLIE HILL

Skipping Rope Exercise in Circle of Fire by Miss

LOTTIE BELMONT.

COMIC SKETCH.

Messrs. GARDNER, GIBBONS, ARLINGTON, & LINDSEY.

Pianoforte Selection..... Mr. ALFRED ASHWORTH.

The Four Great Eccentrics—THE BUNG TOWN

BAND— by Messrs. GARDNER, ARLINGTON, and

LINDSEY.

Sailor's Hornpipe, by the only Lady Artiste in the

Colonies, Miss LOTTIE BELMONT.

Ballad—Carissima..... Miss HELEN GORDON.

The whole to conclude with Dave Gardner's Great

Comic Military Farce

ALLA SA SAM.

Col. Bullet..... GEO. C. GIBBONS.

Jim Torpedo..... DAVE GARDNER.

Miss Gunn..... GEO. ARLINGTON.

GOOD NIGHT.

Doors open at 7.30; overture at 8 o'clock.

This Programme is subject to alterations.

FRANK GOUGH, Property Master,

9819 JOE O'BRIEN, Agent.

Goulburn Herald (NSW) 23 Mar. 1882, 3.

The Nightingale Serenaders.

The above troupe of performers are advertised in this day's issue to give two performances in the Mechanics' Institute on the nights of Friday and Saturday next. The programme put forward is of great length and variation, and no doubt will prove attractive to play-goers.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10529528>

THE STAGE**HUDSON'S THEATRE.**

The Nightingale Minstrels and Variety Troupe commenced the first of their series of popular people's concerts on Saturday night, and, if a crowded hall is any criterion, their venture appears to be a successful one, as, with the exception of the gallery, there was only standing room. A really first-class programme was gone through, and comprised songs in which Messrs. G. Williamson, A. Norman, W. Neilson, G. Jones, G. Gibbons, and G. and D. Gardner took part. Ralph Russell, the comique, was very successful, and Miss Eleanor Bagley gave some dances in a very graceful manner. A comic sketch "The hungry Othello," by Williamson and Crilly, evoked roars of laughter, while the clog dancing of W. Swanston was repeatedly encored. The pianoforte accompanist, Mr. Owen Conduit, deserves an especial word of praise. The farce "He would be an actor," in which Messrs. Gibbons, D. and J. Gardner took part, brought a very good evening's entertainment to a successful finish. For this and Monday evenings an entirely new programme is announced.

Fitzroy City Press (Melbourne) 16 Sept. 1882, 3.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/6607683>

HUDSON'S THEATRE.

On Saturday evening the Nightingale serenaders were again favored with a crowded house, and during the week they have also been accorded good patronage. The entertainment was of a variety character, and was well received, a number of encoures being demanded. Mr. Matlock for singing, the Gardner Brothers for their eccentricities, and Mr. Whitbourne for his banjo performance being repeatedly re-called. The entertainment as a whole is very well carried out, and decidedly appreciated. A farce "Fisherman's Luck," brings the programme to a finish. For this evening and during the week a very good programme is announced, in which a number of well known performers take part.

Fitzroy City Press (Melbourne) 30 Sept. 1882, 3.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/6607691>

HUDSON'S THEATRE.

The Nightingale Serenaders and Variety Troupe have again had crowded houses to witness their performance at the above theatre, and were also assisted by the Matthew Bros., who went through their grand aerobatic feats in a very graceful manner, their musical performances on the violin and bells being heartily encored, as was also their performance with the hats. The last portion of the evening's entertainment, entitled "The wonderful performing Elephant," in which they took part, we must say was not worth witnessing, as was evidenced by numbers of persons leaving their seats during it procedure. Their performances, with this exception, was very good and certainly does them (not forgetting their dog Carl) every credit. The first part of the entertainment consisted of songs in which Messrs. Williamson, Sharp, J. and D. Gardner, Linder, Jones and Matlock took part; jokes, conandrums, amusing anecdotes, etc. filled the intervals between the songs. The finale of the first part, entitled "Jumbo Jums College," was humorously given by the company, and was uproariously received. Madame Veleski gave a song "Good-bye, Sue," which was not well received, but her dancing of a sailor's hornpipe was, and she had to repeat her dance in answer to the numerous recalls. Miss Alice Irwin gave a jig in a very graceful manner. In their song and dance Messrs. Jones and Gardner were good. Master Carl went through a number of contortions, bendings and evolutions, winding up with his pyramid of chairs, for which he was liberally applauded. The stage arrangements are well attended to by Mr. Thompson. The management announce that for this evening there will be an entire change in the programme, which will also be given during the week.

Fitzroy City Press (Melbourne) 14 Oct. 1882, 3.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/6607699>

Australian Variety Theatre Archive: Research Notes

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