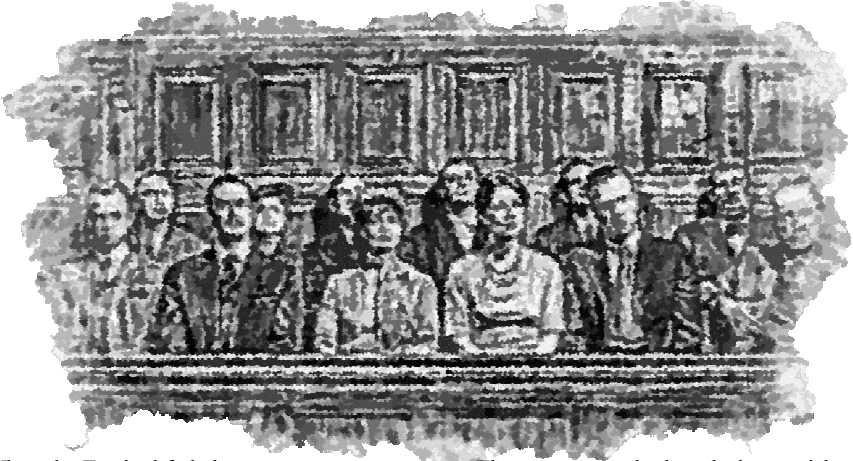


## Wychwood Choral Society Trial By - and For - Everyone

*This poem was written by Faith Spackman as a commentary on a performance of "Trial by Jury" which was performed by The Wychwood Choral Society in 1943. Faith was a regular attender at Burford Quaker Meetings.*



When the Festival faded away,  
We were plunged into gloom and dismay.  
Though our singing was poor, we felt  
pretty sure  
We should do it all right on the day.

So we said, 'Let's do *Trial by Jury*,  
And cover ourselves with new glory;  
For though slightly improper than  
serious opera  
It's bound to create a furore.'

But when we began to rehearse  
The producer was tempted to curse,  
For we laughed such a lot that our words  
were forgot,  
With results that could not have been  
worse.

Then some people thought it was risky  
To tackle a subject so frisky,  
And shuddered to see our Judge, in high  
glee,  
Regaling the Plaintiff with whisky.

However, we did it at last,  
With a brilliant and beautiful cast.  
The Jury, it's true, were regrettably few,  
But in quality quite unsurpassed.

The dresses the ladies were wearing  
Showed a taste both resourceful and  
daring,  
And their faces, well groomed, so  
dazzlingly bloomed  
That the gentlemen couldn't help staring.

So in spite of some early anxiety,  
We may say that, without impropriety,  
Our success on the stage has inscribed a new page  
In the annals of Wychwood society.

### **Faith Spackman, 1943**

*This poem was given to Nigel Braithwaite. Faith Spackman became Faith Sharpe when she later married.*