

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joanne Kay or Sarah Vardigans
Email: press@lamplighters.org
Phone: 415-227-4797
Updated: 12/13/10



Lamplighters Music Theatre presents

**Gilbert & Sullivan's
*THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD***

Tickets: \$14 - 50

Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (tickets: 415-978-2787 or ybca.org)
Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek (tickets: 925-943-7469 or lesherartscenter.org)
Bankhead Theater in Livermore (tickets: 925-373-6800 or bankheadtheater.org)

For more information call The Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or go to www.lamplighters.org

Love triangles abound - with resolutions romantic, comic and tragic - in this tale of intrigue and betrayal set in the foreboding Tower of London.

A political prisoner is framed for a crime he didn't commit, and catastrophe and hilarity ensue as others attempt to release him from the devious plot and secure his freedom from the famous Tower of London. Featuring a lovesick jailor, a lovely young woman trapped in a marriage to an unknown man, and a jester who has lost his sense of humor, this dark comedy is the closest thing to grand opera in the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire. Combining poignancy and tragedy with humor to an extent not seen in any other Gilbert libretto, and boasting some of Sullivan's finest work, *Yeomen* is considered the best of the canon by many fans.

War hero Colonel Fairfax (Michael Imbimbo, Robert Vann) is imprisoned in the Tower of London on a false case of sorcery by a cousin who stands to inherit a fortune if Fairfax dies unmarried. His allies arrange a secret marriage to Elsie (Jennifer Ashworth, Amy Foote), a strolling musician. Fairfax manages to escape the Tower and Elsie's partner, the jester Jack Point (F. Lawrence Ewing,

Chris Uzelac), secretly in love with Elsie, is frantic that she is married to a man who will not be put to death after all.

Stage Director: Barbara Heroux
Conductor: Baker Peeples

Performances

Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Single tickets: \$17 - \$50 (includes \$3 facility fee)

Friday January 28, 8pm

Saturday January 29, 2pm & 8pm

Sunday January 30, 2pm

Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco

Single tickets: \$14 - 47

Friday February 4, 8pm

Saturday February 5, 2pm & 8pm

Sunday February 6, 2pm

Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore

Single tickets: \$19.50 - \$43 (includes \$2 facility fee)

Saturday February 19, 8pm

Sunday February 20, 2pm

Cast

SIR RICHARD CHOLMONDELY

COLONEL FAIRFAX

SERGEANT MERYLL

LEONARD MERYLL

JACK POINT

WILFRED SHADBOLT

ELSIE MAYNARD

PHOEBE MERYLL

DAME CARRUTHERS

KATE

William O'Neill

Michael Imbimbo*, Robert Vann*

William Neely, Robert Stafford

Daniel Galpin*

F. Lawrence Ewing, Chris Uzelac

Behrend Eilers, Charles Martin

Jennifer Ashworth, Amy Foote*

Cary Ann Rosko, Michele Schroeder

Katy Daniel, Kathryn Schumacher*

Sarita Cannon, Lena Leson*

Chorus of Yeomen of the Guard and Townspeople

Kathi Brotemarkle, Melissa Butcher, Audrey Carstensen, Dennis Chase, Rico Colley*†, Kate Davis*, Laura Ehrlich†, Jordan Eldredge (2nd. Yeoman), George Fernandez, Chris Focht, Rose Frazier†, Terry Gordon, Andrew Gustafson, Don Hardwick (1st. Yeoman), Chelsea Hollow, Sean Irwin*, Alexandra Jerinic, C.A. Jordan*, Douglas Kadlecek, Suzanne Kentris*,

Colin Ketcham†, David Kirby, Elizabeth Levinson, Jade Lopez*, Hestia Lucchese, James MacIlvaine, Robert Matteucci, Jamie McDonald*, Liz Pasha, Stephanie Patterson, Richard Pryor, Rachel Robinson*, Zosha Sugarman*.

* Lamplighters debut

† Summer Music West Graduates

A Brief History and Bio of Lamplighters Music Theatre

Lamplighters Music Theatre was founded in 1952 to produce the comic operas of librettist W.S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, and is now recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent Gilbert & Sullivan companies. The Lamplighters' repertoire includes all the surviving works of these creative geniuses, as well as a select group of comic operas and classic musicals by other composers that exemplify their artistic vision.

Critically acclaimed artistic successes for the Lamplighters include honors for Best Production and Best Director at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England and local awards in nearly every performance, direction, and design category. The hallmarks of a Lamplighters production are lavish costumes and sets, live orchestra, excellent comic acting, and gorgeous unamplified singing that showcases the beauty and purity of the human voice.

Gilbert & Sullivan created a new kind of music theatre. Their music is largely classical in style, but lyrics and music are perfectly matched; librettos are complicated, but highly literate, thought-provoking and hugely entertaining. Between 1875 and 1896 they took the world of music by storm with their 13 comic operas, including *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*. Today, their topsy-turvy, melodic creations continue to inspire, intrigue and delight performers and audiences of all ages.

In addition to an active performance schedule, The Lamplighters provide performance and training opportunities in this unique style of classic music theatre to local theatre artists, and seek to promote appreciation for the works of Gilbert & Sullivan through youth programs, school performances and other types of community outreach.