

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updated: 12/07/11



**The Lamplighters present Gilbert & Sullivan's Venetian Operetta
*THE GONDOLIERS***

Tickets: \$15 - 50

Jan 20-22: Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (tickets: 415-978-2787 or ybca.org)
Jan 27-29: Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek (tickets: 925-943-7469 or lesherartscenter.org)

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

Greet the two kings, who, because of mistaken identity, have acquired three would-be queens! The sparkling, emerald Adriatic Sea... the sun-dappled, lazy waters of the Grand Canal... singing Gondoliers and Contadine... and the "Cachucha" danced at the Royal Court at Barataria make *The Gondoliers* a heart-warming Venetian valentine, wrapped in Sullivan's most beautiful music and tied with one of Gilbert's most fanciful libretti.

While most Gilbert & Sullivan operettas are strictly set within the confines of the composer's home country of England, *The Gondoliers* score was widely influenced by a visit Sullivan made to Italy in 1888. Italian folk dances such as the tarantella and saltarello jostle with other vivacious national dances such as the cachucha (a fast gypsy dance from Spain) and operatic influences including Bellini, Bizet, Handel and Mozart. The entire score is sung in English.

The Gondoliers involves a pair of handsome Venetian gondola oarsmen and a mix up of identities at birth. Along the way to resolving the confusion, Gilbert skewers issues of social equality and the class system with his usual brilliant wit and groundbreaking lyrics. When *The Gondoliers* premiered in London in 1889, it was given the highest critical acclaim from local media and from England's Queen Victoria herself, who was so moved that she wrote extensively in her personal diary of the show's inescapable charm. One journalist reviewing the production wrote, plainly, "It is not opera or play. It is simply entertainment – the most exquisite entertainment we have ever seen."

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

Friday, January 20 8:00 PM
Saturday, January 21 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday, January 22 2:00 PM

Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Friday, January 27 8:00 PM
Saturday, January 28 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday, January 29 2:00 PM

CAST

Don Alhambra	Charles Martin
Duke of Plaza-Toro	John Brown
Duchess of Plaza-Toro	Sonia Gariaeff
Casilda	Elise Marie Kennedy
Luiz	Michael Desnoyers
Marco	Robert Vann
Giuseppe	Chris Uzelac
Gianetta	Amy Foote
Tessa	Cary Ann Rosko
Antonio	Jordan Eldredge
Giorgio	Sean Irwin
Francesco	George Arana
Annibale	TBA
Fiametta	Rose Frazier
Vittoria	Melissa Butcher
Giulia	Tia Lucchese
Inez	Kathryn Schumacher

CHORUS

Adeliz Araiza, George Ashworth, Jeffrey Beaudoin, Adam Bier, Anna Sophia Boyd, RJ Castaneda, Dennis Chase, Diane D'Angelo, Gavan Dagnese, Laura Ehrlich, Tina-Maria Garcia, Emily Gladstone Cole, Douglas Kadleck, Kenneth Kiernan, Beth Anne Klem, Kyla Knox, Rachel Larsen, Hayes Martens, Lizzie Moss, Rich Pryor, Eric Ratner, Linsay Rousseau Burnett, Kyle Stoner, Carmello Tringali, Hannah Velichko, Sarah Velichko, Daniel Yelen.

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.