

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joanne Kay or Sarah Vardigans
Email: press@lamplighters.org
Phone: 415-227-4797
Updated: 02/24/11



Lamplighters Music Theatre presents

Gilbert & Sullivan's
TRIAL BY JURY
&
W.S. Gilbert's
ENGAGED

Tickets: \$15 - 43

Presentation Theater at USF 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)

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

A delicious pairing of two rare treats - Gilbert & Sullivan's perfect little musical comedy about a jilted bride suing her would-be groom, together with Gilbert's farcical comic play, in his trademark topsy-turvy style.

Last performed by The Lamplighters in 1997, *Trial by Jury* is Gilbert & Sullivan's perfect little musical comedy about a jilted bride suing her would-be groom for breach of contract. A one-act gem, *Trial* matches Gilbert's delicious satire on the legal system with some of Sullivan's most inventive and tuneful music. Their second collaboration, first produced in London in 1875, *Trial by Jury* is distinctive from the others in that it is sung through with no spoken dialog.

The trial opens with the court Usher urging the Jury to be free of bias, while also suggesting that the plaintiff deserves their sympathy as the defendant is a ruffian. Edwin, the defendant, shows up at court with his mandolin and pleads that, although he was once in love with Angelina, the plaintiff, she became more and more boring and so he found himself in love with someone else, as is human nature. The Judge appears and explains how he rose to the top by way of a marriage of convenience. Angelina then enters the court in full bridal attire with her bridesmaids in tow and begs for sympathy as she is still in love with Edwin. The men of the court are all enraptured by the ladies, particularly Angelina, and she pleads for substantial damages. Several ineffective, and rather silly, suggestions are rejected until the Judge comes up with a solution that benefits everyone.

Written by W.S. Gilbert, sans Sullivan, in his trademark topsy-turvy style, *Engaged* premiered at London's Haymarket Theatre in 1877, two years after the debut of *Trial By Jury* and is said to be the direct inspiration for Oscar Wilde's famous *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Gilbert directed his own plays, an unusual practice at the time, and it is important to note that he instructed the actors to play it straight as evidence in his note to them: "It is absolutely essential to the success of this piece that it should be played with the most perfect earnestness and gravity throughout. There should be no exaggeration in costume, make-up, or demeanor; and the characters, one and all, should appear to believe, throughout, in the perfect sincerity of their words and actions. Directly the actors show that they are conscious of the absurdity of the utterances the piece begins to drag."

Cheviot Hill is an upper-middle-class cheapskate with the habit of proposing to every woman he meets. His friend Belvawney earns £1,000 annually from Hill's protective father, by ensuring that Hill never makes it to the altar. Hill's uncle Symperson, however, stands to earn the annual sum if Hill marries or dies. Throw in some country folk who derail trains as a money-making venture and you have a twisting entanglement of interests, promises and betrothals - only one of which involves anything resembling love.

Performances

Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek
925-943-7469 • lesherartscenter.org
Tickets: \$18-43

Friday March 11, 8pm

(This performance is sponsored by the law firm of Severson & Werson with offices in San Francisco, Walnut Creek and Orange County.)

Presentation Theater, San Francisco
415-978-2787 • ybca.org
Tickets: \$15-40

Saturday March 12, 8pm

(This performance is sponsored by the Burlingame law firm of Carr McClellan.)

Sunday March 13, 2pm

(This performance is sponsored by the law firm of Hanson Bridgett with offices in San Francisco, Sacramento, North Bay and Silicon Valley.)

Sunday March 13, 7pm

Cast

TRIAL BY JURY

Director: BARBARA HEROUX • Conductor: BAKER PEEPLES

EDWIN (Defendant)	John Brown
ANGELINA (Plaintiff)	Jennifer Ashworth
LEARNED JUDGE	Jonathan Spencer
COUNSEL	William Neil
USHER	Charles Martin
FOREMAN OF THE JURY	Mark D'Arrigo*
FIRST BRIDESMAID	Chelsea Hollow

ENGAGED

Director: Bruce Hoard

CHEVIOT	Chris Uzelac
BELVAWNEY	Phil Lowery
ANGUS	Mark D'Arrigo*
SYMPERSON	Charles Martin
MAJOR MCGILLICUDDY	William Neil
BELINDA	Leontyne Mbele-Mbong
MINNIE	Lauren Kivowitz*†
MAGGIE	Rose Frazier†
MRS. MCFARLANE	Shelley Lynn Johnson
PARKER	Eliza Leoni

Chorus of Bridesmaids and Jurors

Dennis Chase, Mark D'Arrigo*, Robert Dorsett, Maria Duzon*, Christopher Focht, Margaret Gordon*, Andrew Gustafson, Don Hardwick, Evelyn S. Ivy*, Chris James, Victoria Jensen, David Kirby, Lauren Kivowitz*†, Alice N. Ko*, Talia Levitan*, Hestia Lucchese, Brenna MacIlvaine, James MacIlvaine, Judy Jackson MacIlvaine, Gregory Marks, Robert Matteucci, Tamara Leigh Miller*, Liz Pasha, Kelcey Jay Poe, Rich Pryor, Kelly Sanchez*, Zosha Sugarman*, Donald A. Ziff*.

* Lamplighters debut

† Gilbert & Sullivan Scenes program 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.