

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joanne Kay or Sarah Vardigans
Email: press@lamplighters.org
Phone: 415-227-4797
Updated: 11/21/09



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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

James MacIlvaine, President; F. Lawrence Ewing, Vice President;
Anson B. Moran, Treasurer; Keith Doerge, Secretary;
Richard Drossler, Gini Stephens Frings, Barbara Heroux, William Kaplan, Leontyne Mbele-
Mbong, Judith Norberg, Baker Peeples, Martin E. Sanders, John J. Vlahos, Trustees;
Jonathan Spencer, Company Representative.

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Ann Pool Mac Nab, Orva Hoskinson, Co-Founders; Dr. Ronald Cape, J. Geoffrey Colton, Jerry
D. Gere, John Martin Kahl, Daniel E. Stone, Jill R. Thompson, David Barry Whitehead.
In Memoriam: Spencer S. Beman, Read Gilmore, Dr. Richard E. LeBlond, Adrian McNamara,
Gilbert P. Russak, June Wilkins Searcy, Bernard E. Witkin.

STAFF

Barbara Heroux, Artistic Director
Baker Peeples, Resident Music Director
Sarah Vardigans, General Manager
Mike Zimmerman, Development Director
Joanne Kay, Operations Manager
Phil Lowery, Production Coordinator
Melissa Wortman, Costume Shop Manager
Diana Dorman, Music Librarian
Ellen Kerrigan, Education Director

Our administrative offices are located at 469 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94107.

Phone: 415-227-4797 ~ Fax: 415-896-2844 ~ Website: www.lamplighters.org
myspace.com/lamplightersmusictheatre ~ Email: info@lamplighters.org

Lamplighters Music Theatre is supported in part by generous grants from Grants for the Arts/San
Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Coming up:

January 2010 - Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience*

March 2010 – *The Mikado* SingAlong

July/August 2010 – Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*

November 2010 – Annual Champagne Gala & Auction

January/February 2011 – Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard*