

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Lamplighters Announce their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season  
and unveil 2 new subscription venue**

*The Mikado*  
July/August 2012

*Princess Ida*  
January/February 2013

*The Sorcerer*  
March 2013

**Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, Auction & Diamond Jubilee Celebration  
October 2012**

1952 ...

60 years ago ...

What was happening?

Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio were fixed up on a blind date ...

A 25-year-old princess became Queen Elizabeth II ...

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee was born ...

And so were the Lamplighters!

San Francisco's treasured Lamplighters Music Theatre celebrates its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary with an all-Gilbert & Sullivan season.

The season kicks off with the perennial favorite **THE MIKADO** in July and August. Very possibly the most popular musical comedy in the English language, **THE MIKADO** is a playful satire set in a fanciful (and wholly imaginary) Japan. In a time when flirting is a capital offense, wandering minstrel Nanki-Poo has fallen in love with the beautiful Yum-Yum, fiancée to the recently appointed Lord High Executioner Ko-Ko. When the Mikado, emperor of Japan, demands the execution of Ko-Ko, and Nanki-Poo volunteers to take Ko-Ko's place under the condition that he first be allowed to marry Yum-Yum, chaos, desperation, and comical mayhem

ensue. Directed by Jane Erwin Hammett, formerly one of the Lamplighters' leading sopranos and currently on the faculty of ACT's Young Conservatory and MFA program, **THE MIKADO** will be performed in San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Livermore, Mountain View and Napa. Monroe Kanouse leads the superb Lamplighters Orchestra for all performances.

On October 21, the Lamplighters will throw themselves a birthday party in grand style at the Herbst Theater with their **60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA, AUCTION & DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION**. A celebration of the past, the present and the future, the festivities will include an original show based on the works of Gilbert & Sullivan, plus a silent auction to raise funds for the next 60 years. Capping off the evening will be a champagne reception, followed by an optional three-course dinner, with fine wines and great company, upstairs in the elegant Green Room.

2013 brings a revival of the production that won all the top awards at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in 1995 in Buxton, England: **PRINCESS IDA**. Directed by Barbara Heroux, Lamplighters' Artistic Director, and conducted by Baker Peeples, the company's resident Music Director, **PRINCESS IDA** is a proto-feminist fractured fairy tale of an operetta. A 20-year old treaty states that Princess Ida and Prince Hilarion are to marry when they come of age. That time has come, but Ida refuses to honor a commitment made on her behalf when she was an infant, and has gone off to start a women's university. There she teaches an interesting variation on Darwin's theory: that man -- not woman, just man -- is descended from apes, and is thus inferior to woman. The Prince, on the other hand, decides to woo Ida and win her love. He and two friends disguise themselves as women in order to enroll and get close to her... **PRINCESS IDA** will be performed in San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Livermore, and Mountain View.

Closing the season is the rarely performed early G&S work **THE SORCERER**. The Lamplighters orchestra will take the stage for this fully costumed and staged, but scenery-free, Jewel Box production. When you're in love you just want to share the joy so young Alexis hires

a sorcerer to spike the punch at his engagement party with a love potion that makes the drinker fall in love with the first person they see. It doesn't work out quite so well as planned... except for those of us who love sharp humor and sparkling melodies! Three performances only, two at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre and one at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.

The Lamplighters are recognized as one of the finest Gilbert & Sullivan companies in the world. Winners of the grand prize and many other awards at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England, the Lamplighters also perform other works from the comic opera and classic musical theater repertoire.

Lucy Simon, composer of "The Secret Garden," (performed by the Lamplighters in 2008), marveled at the company's "rare combination of first rate professionalism and outpouring of pure joy," and San Francisco Classical Voice founder and former San Francisco Chronicle music reviewer Robert Commanday calls the Lamplighters "a San Francisco tradition ranking somewhere between sourdough bread and cable cars." For fifty-nine seasons, enthusiastic audiences through the Bay Area and beyond have applauded, whistled and stomped their strong agreement with this praise.

Not many performing companies make it to the ripe old age of 60, still full of enthusiasm and joy, bringing music, love and laughter to thousands each season. Of course, having been born in leap year, the Lamplighters are really only 15 ...

**For tickets and information, the public may call the Herbst Theater box office at 415-392-4400, the Leshner box office at 925-943-7469, the Napa Valley Opera House box office at 707- 226-7372, the Mountain View box office at 650-903-6000, the Yerba Buena box office at 415-978-2787, the Livermore box office at 925-373-6800, or visit [lamplighters.org](http://lamplighters.org). Any general enquiries may be directed to the Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or [info@lamplighters.org](mailto:info@lamplighters.org).**

## ***THE MIKADO***

### **Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek**

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

### **Napa Valley Opera House, Napa**

Saturday, August 4       8:00 PM  
Sunday, August 5        2:00 PM

### **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View**

Saturday, August 11     2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, August 12      2:00 PM

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

Thursday, August 16    8:00 PM (pay your age night!)  
Friday, August 17       8:00 PM  
Saturday, August 18    2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, August 19      2:00 PM

### **Bankhead Theatre, Livermore**

Saturday, August 25     2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, August 26      2:00 PM

## **OUR 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA, AUCTION & DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

### **Herbst Theatre, San Francisco**

Sunday, October 21     4:00 PM

## ***PRINCESS IDA***

### **Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek**

Friday, January 25       8:00 PM  
Saturday, January 26    2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, January 27      2:00 PM

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

Friday, February 1       8:00 PM  
Saturday, February 2    2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, February 3      2:00 PM

**Bankhead Theatre, Livermore**

Saturday, February 9 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 10 2:00 PM

***THE SORCERER***

**Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek**

Saturday, March 16 8:00 PM

**Herbst Theatre, San Francisco**

Saturday, March 23 8:00 PM

Sunday, March 24 2:00 PM

**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.