

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Lamplighters Announce their 61st Season

Iolanthe
August 2013

Die Fledermaus
January/February 2014

Hidden Treasures
May 19, 2013

48th Champagne Gala
November 10, 2013

H.M.S. Pinafore Singalong
March 2014

San Francisco's Lamplighters Music Theatre offer their 5th Annual spring fundraiser, ***HIDDEN TREASURES***, for the first time at a reduced rate for subscribers. At Hidden Treasures, members of the Lamplighters Company donate their time and talent to entertain us with music from a wide-ranging repertoire and serve a High Tea of appetizers, desserts and fine wines, while the live auction raises money for the company's most pressing artistic needs.

The Lamplighters then kick off the Summer with Gilbert & Sullivan's well-loved tale of fairies, half-fairies, and love-besotted English noblemen: ***IOLANTHE***, written at the midpoint of Gilbert and Sullivan's collaboration, when both artists were at the peak of their creative powers. Sullivan's captivating score, unmistakably influenced by both Mendelssohn and Wagner, contains some of his most accomplished and beautiful music. In the story of what happens when the entire British House of Lords comes into conflict with a band of fairies, Gilbert's witty and surprisingly relevant libretto skewers the privileges bestowed on a dim-witted, entitled ruling class and—of course—the eternal war of the sexes. Barbara Heroux, Lamplighters' former Artistic Director and award-winning stage director, directs this sparkling revival. Baker Peeples, esteemed Resident Music Director, conducts Sullivan's magnificent score.

In November, the Lamplighters bring their much anticipated **ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE GALA & AUCTION** to the Palace of Fine Arts Theater in San Francisco. The festivities will include an original musical spoof based on the works of Gilbert & Sullivan, plus a silent auction. Capping off the evening will be a champagne reception with the costumed cast and crew.

The theme of champagne continues next winter as the Lamplighters whisk you away to Austria for Johann Strauss's immortal ***DIE FLEDERMAUS***. Spend a riotous evening in the company of Gabriel von Eisenstein, his beautiful wife Rosalinda, her besotted lover Alfred, the pert and saucy parlor-maid Adele, and the wily Doctor Falke, as they confuse and amuse themselves, and us, in a sophisticated hide-and-seek game of mistaken identity that will spin you from the fabulously licentious ball of the eccentric Russian Prince Orlofsky to a night in jail on charges of disorderly conduct. *Gemütlichkeit* ("gracious congeniality") collides blissfully with *Wahnsinn* ("craziness") in a night of love, laughter and levity where Champagne is King! Vienna-born Maestro George Cleve will lead the wonderful Lamplighters Orchestra in this quintessential Viennese operetta. The world-renowned founder and Music Director of San Francisco's Midsummer Mozart Festival, Maestro Cleve has appeared with most major American orchestras and scores of leading symphony and opera orchestras throughout Europe and Asia. Barbara Heroux will stage direct.

Finally, in spring 2014, it's anchors aweigh for the ***H.M.S. Pinafore Singalong***. Dress up like a British tar, a First Lord of the Admiralty, a sister, cousin or aunt, or just a plain and simple landlubber—whatever you choose. But it's all hands on deck for an afternoon or evening of fun belting out the score of *Pinafore* with the Lamplighters!

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 sixty 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.

For tickets and information, the public may call the Leshner Center 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 (including tickets for Gala), the Livermore box office at 925-373-6800, or visit lamplighters.org. For *Hidden Treasures* tickets, SF Singalong tickets and any general enquiries, call the Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or info@lamplighters.org.

HIDDEN TREASURES

Verdi Club, San Francisco

Sunday, May 19 4:00 PM

IOLANTHE

Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Friday, August 2 8:00 PM
Saturday, August 3 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday, August 4 2:00 PM

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View

Saturday, August 10 8:00 PM
Sunday, August 11 2:00 PM

Lam Research Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

Friday, August 16 8:00 PM
Saturday, August 17 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday, August 18 2:00 PM

Bankhead Theatre, Livermore

Saturday, August 24 8:00 PM

Sunday, August 25 2:00 PM

ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE GALA & AUCTION

Palace of Fine Arts Theater, San Francisco

Sunday, November 10 4:00 PM

DIE FLEDERMAUS

Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Friday, January 24 8:00 PM

Saturday, January 25 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Sunday, January 26 2:00 PM

Napa Valley Opera House, Napa

Saturday, February 1 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 2 2:00 PM

Bankhead Theatre, Livermore

Saturday, February 8 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 9 2:00 PM

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View

Saturday, February 15 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 16 2:00 PM

Lam Research Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

Friday, February 21 8:00 PM

Saturday, February 22 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 23 2:00 PM

H.M.S. PINAFORE SINGALONG

Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Friday, March 21 8:00 PM

First Unitarian Church, San Francisco

Sunday, March 23 4:00 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.