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LAMPLIGHTERS
MUSIC THEATRE

Lamplighters Music Theatre Announce their 62nd Season

The Pirates of Penzance
August 2014

Candide
January/February 2015

49th Champagne Gala
November, 2014

The Grand Duke
April 2015

San Francisco's Lamplighters Music Theatre embark upon their 62nd Season this August with an uproarious production of that swashbuckling perennial favorite — ***THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE***. In one of the most popular comic operas of all time, meet Frederic, an orphan lad who finds himself the victim of his nursemaid's hearing impediment after she mistakenly apprentices him to a pirate instead of to a pilot. Under the terms of his apprenticeship, Frederic is bound to serve his pirate captain until his 21st birthday. Unfortunately for Frederic, he was born on February 29 in a Leap Year; and, thus, despite his moral scruples and attraction to the Major-General's daughter Mabel, he feels himself bound as a "slave of duty" to remain a pirate until well into middle age! Jane Erwin Hammett will be stage director, and Resident Music Director Baker Peeples will conduct some of Gilbert & Sullivan's best-loved songs, including *For I Am a Pirate King*, *Poor Wand'ring One*, and *Modern-Major General*.

Come November it's time for Lamplighter's ***ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE GALA & AUCTION***. An original satire set (mostly) to the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan; a Lamplighters Gala is a unique event – more fun-raiser than fundraiser. They will again be presenting the Gala in two venues: the Palace of Fine Arts Theater in San Francisco on the 2nd, and the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts on the 9th. Last year's Gala — ***Upside-Downton Abbey, or the Lass that Loved a Chauffeur*** — was one of our most successful ever, joining a long series of side-splittingly hilarious, award-winning Lamplighters Galas including *Rosencrantz &*

Guildenstern's Excellent Adventure, Apocalypse Later, Major General Hospital, and The Phantom of the Operetta.

Next, for the winter of 2015, the Lamplighters will revive their high-spirited production of Leonard Bernstein's modern American classic **CANDIDE**. Based on Voltaire's satirical novel, **Candide** tells the story of the youthful hero and his trials, tribulations and travels in "this best of all possible worlds." As interpreted by Richard Wilbur and Stephen Sondheim, and set to Leonard Bernstein's glorious music, the show whisks young Candide — and us — from a German castle, to the Spanish inquisition, to the great Lisbon earthquake, to the search for El Dorado in the jungles of the New World, to the opulence of Venice, and finally home to "make our garden grow." Veteran stage director Phil Lowery will direct this masterpiece. Maestro Baker Peebles will conduct some of the greatest and best-loved songs in the tradition of English-language operetta, including *Life is Happiness Indeed, The Best of All Possible Worlds, Oh Happy We, Glitter and Be Gay, I Am Easily Assimilated, and Make Our Garden Grow.*

Finally, the season closes with a genuine first — **THE GRAND DUKE**, Gilbert & Sullivan's final collaboration. In classic topsy-turvy fashion, **The Grand Duke** tells the story of what happens when a troupe of squabbling actors takes over the government of a Lilliputian European Grand Duchy by means of a statutory duel — that is, a duel decided by drawing cards rather than more lethal means. Gilbert's witty libretto skewers the wealthy and privileged as well as the petty rivalries and jealousies of stage performers, and ponders what the world would be like if it were turned upside down. Sullivan's engaging score includes an astonishing variety of different musical styles, running the gamut from lilting Viennese waltzes and German beer hall songs to stately marches, over-the-top melodramas and raucous Parisian can-can dance numbers.

This rarity has not been heard on the Lamplighters stage since 1981, when they presented the music alone in an abbreviated, purely concert format with narration in lieu of dialogue. In a 62-year history as one of the world's top Gilbert & Sullivan companies this will be the Lamplighters' *first stage production ever* of this neglected masterpiece. They will present a Jewel Box Production — bringing the wonderful Lamplighters Orchestra on stage with minimalist sets, beautiful costumes and creative staging. Barbara Heroux, esteemed former

Artistic Director and award-winning stage director, will direct, and Maestro Monroe Kanouse will conduct.

Season Tickets will be on sale at the end of April, single tickets, at the end of May. For any general enquiries, call the Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or info@lamplighters.org.

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.

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 over 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.