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Updated: 10/09/2012



Lamplighters Music Theatre’s Artistic Director to Step Down

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (3 October, 2012) – Barbara Heroux, the current Artistic Director of the Bay Area’s acclaimed **Lamplighters Music Theatre** has announced that she will be stepping down from that position next spring, at the end of their 60th Anniversary Season. She has been a Lamplighters company member since 1974 with 13 of those years in a management role. Barbara states, “I’ll always be a Lamplighter – you don’t resign from your family! – but it’s time for somebody else to take the reins, somebody with the passion and energy to take this wonderful company to its 70th anniversary and beyond.”

Barbara will concentrate on her other positions as stage director for the Lamplighters and other companies around the Bay Area, and as Executive Director of Volti, a professional choir based in San Francisco. Also a singer and actress, Barbara has received four Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards (one each as director and performer, two as playwright), as well as awards for Best Director and Best Production (*Princess Ida*) at the 1995 International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England. She is a graduate of The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Jim MacIlvaine, himself a Lamplighter company member since 1978 and their current Board President states, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Barbara for the enormous variety of work she has contributed over the years. With her spectacular creativity, devotion to the company and respect for our audiences, Barbara has propelled the Lamplighters to unprecedented stage presentations. I am pleased that she won’t be disappearing from the Lamplighter family but will continue to contribute as one of our stage directors.”

Lamplighters Music Theatre Bio: 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. 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.