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**Lamplighters Music Theatre presents
Gilbert & Sullivan's
*THE GRAND DUKE***

**San Francisco – April 25 & 26, 2015
Mountain View – April 30, 2015
Walnut Creek – May 2, 2015**

SAN FRANCISCO, California (17 February, 2015) – San Francisco's Lamplighters Music Theatre will present its first ever stage production of Gilbert & Sullivan's final Savoy Opera, *The Grand Duke*. In his ultimate topsy-turvy farce, Gilbert presents a world turned upside-down when a theatrical troupe deposes the ruler of a tiny European Duchy and proceeds to squabble over which "role" in the government each leading actor should "play," with uproarious unforeseen consequences. Sullivan's varied and original score includes an astonishing variety of musical styles, from Viennese waltz to uproarious Parisian can-can dance numbers. Rarely performed, *The Grand Duke* is a must-see event for Gilbert & Sullivan aficionados and lovers of comic musical theater alike.

SAN FRANCISCO

WHERE: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard Street
WHEN: Saturday April 25 at 8pm, Sunday April 26 at 2pm
TICKETS: For tickets (\$20-54), please call **415-978-2787** or visit **ybca.org**

MOUNTAIN VIEW

WHERE: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street
WHEN: Thursday April 30 at 8pm
TICKETS: For tickets (\$25-48), please call **650-903-6000** or visit **mvcpa.com**

WALNUT CREEK

WHERE: Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive
WHEN: Saturday May 2 at 8pm
TICKETS: For tickets (\$25-49), please call **925-943-7469** or visit **lesherartscenter.org**

PHOTOS: High-resolution digital art can be found at
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lamplightersmt/>

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http://lamplighters.org/about/pr_images.html

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.