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San Francisco's Lamplighters Music Theatre announce their 2017-18 Season

SAN FRANCISCO, California (19 April, 2017) – The Bay Area's acclaimed Lamplighters Music Theatre announces its 65th Season, which opens on August 4th with Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard*. This all-Gilbert & Sullivan season will also highlight *The Gondoliers*, a Singalong *Iolanthe*, and the company's popular, original Gala performance – a *Saturday Night Live* spoof tentatively titled *G & SNL*, or, *Live from SF, it's Patterday Night!*

Subscriptions are on sale now and single tickets will be on sale after June 1st. Discounts are available for children, students under 25, and K-12 educators with ID. All subscribers save up to 20% on single ticket prices.

Details are posted at <http://lamplighters.org/season/subs.html>. For further information call 415-227-4797 or email info@lamplighters.org.

Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard*

"the ultimate operetta masterpiece" – San Francisco Classical Voice

This dark comedy is the closest thing to grand opera in the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire. Combining poignancy and tragedy with humor to an extent not seen in any other Gilbert libretto, and boasting some of Sullivan's finest work with its soaring and complex musical score, *Yeomen* is considered the best of the canon by many fans.

In a time when beheading was the preferred form of corporal punishment, for upper class prisoners at least, war hero Fairfax, a student of alchemy, is to be executed on a false charge of "dealings with the devil", put forward by a villainous relative who stands to inherit his estate. Fairfax's friend Sergeant Meryll and his daughter, Phoebe, who is in love with Fairfax, concoct a plan to smuggle him out disguised as the Sergeant's son, a newly appointed Yeoman. Meanwhile, Fairfax manages to marry the first woman to come his way, the performer Elsie, who will

inherit his estate and therefore thwart the scoundrel's plan. Add to the mix Elsie's performing partner, Jack Point, who is in love with her, an incompetent "Head Jailer and Assistant Tormentor", and a crowd of bloodthirsty townsfolk ready for a good old-fashioned execution, and we are ensured a plot full of love triangles, twists and turns, intrigue, lies, and alternative facts.

Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Friday August 4 at 8pm, Saturday August 5 at 2pm, Sunday August 6 at 2pm

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday August 12 at 8pm, Sunday August 13 at 2pm

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

Friday August 18 at 8pm, Saturday August 19 at 2pm and 8pm, Sunday August 20 at 2pm

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday August 26 at 8pm, Sunday August 27 at 2pm

Stage Director: Barbara Heroux

Music Director/Conductor: Baker Peeples

2017 Gala – working title: *G & SNL, or, Live from SF, it's Patterday Night!*

"We just saw the Lamplighter's annual Gala show ... a mashup of two pop culture icons... the event was a lot of fun...had a great time." Yelp reviewer

Every Lamplighters Gala is a unique event – more fun-raiser than fundraiser – with up-to-the-minute hilarious parodies lampooning current events, crazes, fashions and fads—an original, full-length, and fully-staged satire set (mostly) to the music of Arthur Sullivan, with a nod to W.S. Gilbert. This year we will be taking on the format of a certain Emmy-award winning sketch comedy show – *Saturday Night Live*. You'll also have the opportunity to support the Lamplighters at a silent auction, raffle and brief fund-a-need live auction, and to join the costumed performers after the show for a free champagne reception!

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday October 15. Performance at 4pm, Silent auction at 2pm

Music Directors/Conductors: Monroe Kanouse, Baker Peeples

Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*

"a hilarious island of sunshine" – The Mercury News

Due to a mix-up during infancy, a pair of handsome Venetian Gondoliers have, much to their delight, suddenly become kings! Their brand new wives aren't quite so pleased though, once they find out that the rightful king is also married by proxy to Casilda, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro! Only one pair can be the rightful rulers but, until the identity of the true monarch can be established, the boys must share the royal duties. Being idealists, however, they really don't mind! Set by the sun-dappled, lazy waters of the Grand Canal, the singing Gondolieri and Contadine, and the "Cachucha" danced at the Royal Court at Barataria, make *The Gondoliers* an exuberant, happy valentine, wrapped in some of Sullivan's most tuneful music and tied with one of Gilbert's most fanciful libretti. Within this joyful opera Gilbert ingeniously skewers issues of social equality and the class system with his usual brilliant wit and groundbreaking lyrics alongside Sullivan's lovely, lilting score.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

Friday February 2 at 8pm, Saturday February 3 at 2pm and 8pm, Sunday February 4 at 2pm

Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Friday February 9 at 8pm, Saturday February 10 at 2pm, Sunday February 11 at 2pm

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday February 17 at 8pm, Sunday February 18 at 2pm

Stage Director: Phil Lowery

Music Director/Conductor: Baker Peeples

Iolanthe Singalong

"a hysterical musical tale of politics and scandal" - Contra Costa Times

Gilbert & Sullivan's subversive political satire on how a government SHOULD be run. Featuring a shepherdess the lords all want to marry, her fiancé who is half man, half fairy, the tour de force "Nightmare Song" and a band of feisty fairies doing battle with a dim-witted Parliament, *Iolanthe* already promises a lot of fun, only this time you get to sing along. Lamplighter principals will perform the work in its entirety, bringing the orchestra on stage to join the party. With everything included but the scenery, audience participation is encouraged as all are invited to become the chorus and to feel free to sing any and all parts! Costumes are also encouraged (particularly half man, half fairy costumes) and a brief contest with prizes will take place at intermission.

Lesher Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Saturday March 24 at 7.30pm

Taube Atrium Theater, San Francisco

Sunday March 25 at 2pm

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View

Sunday April 8 at 2pm

Music Director/Conductor: Baker Peeples

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, including Outstanding Production of a Musical at the 2015 Theatre Bay Area Awards for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. 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. The Lamplighters made Gilbert & Sullivan history earlier this year by transporting *The Mikado*, a work often criticized as being racist "yellowface", from Japan to Renaissance Italy, resulting in an artistic triumph and a step forward for equity in the arts.