

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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



Lamplighters to produce Gilbert & Sullivan’s “Grand Opera” *The Yeomen of the Guard*

SAN FRANCISCO, California (June 5, 2017) – The Bay Area’s acclaimed Lamplighters Music Theatre embarks on its 65th Season with Gilbert & Sullivan’s *The Yeomen of the Guard* – a dark comedy that 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 corruption.

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

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: Jane Erwin Hammett

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* from its traditional Japanese setting – criticized by some as culturally insensitive - to Renaissance Italy, resulting in an artistic triumph and a step forward for equity in the arts.

In addition to an active performance schedule, the Lamplighters provide performance and training opportunities in this unique style of classic music theatre to local artists, and seek to promote appreciation for the works of Gilbert & Sullivan through youth programs, school performances and other types of community outreach.