George Mason University’s School of Theater and School of Music

present

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN’S THE GONDOLIERS

Thursday, October 26–Saturday, October 28 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 28 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, October 29 at 4 p.m.
Center for the Arts’ Concert Hall

(FAIRFAX) — George Mason University’s School of Theater and School of Music collaborate to present Gilbert and Sullivan’s comic opera, The Gondoliers, from Thursday, October 26–Sunday, October 29 in the Center for the Arts’ Concert Hall. Tickets are on sale at cfa.gmu.edu.

The legendary team’s last hilarious success, The Gondoliers delves into questions of identity and social responsibility, satirizing class distinctions as well as political institutions. The plot follows two Venetian brothers, Marco and Giuseppe, who are informed that one of them was born to be the King of Barataria. The “king” needs to leave behind his life as a gondolier so that he can return to Barataria, be reunited with his “true” queen—whom he married without knowledge or consent in infancy—and quash the unrest brewing in his birth country. The bothers’ father has died and therefore cannot help to unravel the truth about their real identity. The new Queen of Barataria, Casilda, also has a problem: she too has found a love-match and would rather marry a commoner named Luiz than be the Queen of Barataria.

Ken Elston, Director of the School of Theater, will again be at the helm of the co-production and is pleased to be working with his colleagues in the School of Music. He stated, “our collaborations have been very rewarding—combining the strengths of our Schools has built a Musical Theater program of which we are very proud. This year we are celebrating
Gilbert and Sullivan and a wonderful collection of their work donated to Mason. The Gondoliers is both entertaining and a perfect ensemble piece for our young ensemble.”

Echoing the collaborative masters, Mason’s School of Theater and School of Music have been crafting delightful musical pieces for the stage since 2012. Elston intends for several members of the choral ensemble to appear as a Victorian-era stage crew. Besides transforming the stage from one location to another, this ensemble will create a second “audience” to the story. While adding vocal power to the piece, the ensemble will also add visual texture and provide a nod to the history of the musical comedy. Meanwhile, Musical Director Dennis Layendecker will lead a full orchestra, providing a generous interpretation of Sullivan’s stunning score. Guest scenic designer, Luciana Stecconi, will create a visual landscape reminiscent of 19th century paper theater toys. New faculty member, Sherrice Mojgani, will bring her expertise to the lighting design, and as will Laurel Dunayer with her costuming proficiency.

This production of The Gondoliers is part of George Mason University’s yearlong Gilbert & Sullivan Celebration, which includes a Gilbert and Sullivan Collection exhibition in the Fenwick Library made possible through the generous support of David and Annabelle Stone. Tickets for this production are available in person at the Center for the Arts’ Ticket Office (open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.), by phone at 703-993-8888, or online at cfa.gmu.edu. Two free student tickets are available in person with Mason ID from the Center for the Arts’ Ticket Office.

About the School of Theater
Mason’s School of Theater provides a rigorous, creative, and nurturing environment where we encourage conceptual and cultural diversity. Students establish a professional work ethic, collaborate with others, and take responsibility for individual as well as group efforts as they prepare for a life and career beyond graduation. We challenge our students to think critically, write clearly and persuasively, and express themselves through a course of study combining a liberal arts education with practical training and production experience. Theater is a universal expression of the human spirit. Our department embraces and ensures this expression through the study of historical, contemporary, and cultural traditions, training in the craft, and the presentation of plays.

About the College of Visual and Performing Arts
The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) provides an academic environment in which the arts are explored as individual disciplines and interdisciplinary forms that strengthen one another. The college prepares students for careers as creators, performers, teachers, scholars,
arts leaders and arts entrepreneurs. Understanding that an education in the arts is deepened by regular contact with the work of distinguished visiting artists, the Center for the Arts, the professional presentation and production arm of the college, welcomes a variety of professional and world-renowned artists, musicians and actors to its stage. Students have the opportunity to perform, create and exhibit their work in a wide variety of public venues including a 2,000-seat Concert Hall. CVPA is home to the Schools of Music, Dance, Art and Theater, as well as the Computer Game Design, Arts Management, and Film and Video Studies programs.

About George Mason University
George Mason University is Virginia’s largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls 35,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. Mason has grown rapidly over the past half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity and commitment to accessibility.

For more information, please visit:
Mason’s School of Theater
Mason’s College of Visual and Performing Arts
Mason’s Center for the Arts

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