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OPERA-LYTES TO PRESENT GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S
THE GONDOLIERS

Opera-Lytes will be presenting Gilbert and Sullivan's colorful operetta *The Gondoliers* at the Alleyway Theatre, 1 Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo. Show dates are June 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 8:00pm, and June 13 and 20 at 2:30pm.

The Gondoliers is one of the last operas written by Gilbert and Sullivan throughout the course of their tumultuous partnership. The story centers on two Venetian gondoliers (Paul Waara and Andy Gonlag) who are informed by the Grand Inquisitor Don Alhambra (Jeff Mokski) that one of them is the rightful king of Barataria, leaving the mystery of which one of them is heir to the throne. In addition, the gondoliers learn that the king was betrothed as a baby to Casilda (Christina Lynch), the beautiful daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro (Bo Dejneka and LucyAnne Georger). This news devastates everyone; Casilda must say farewell to her beloved Luiz (Ciaran Krueger), and the Gondoliers must leave behind their new brides (Sára Kovácsi and Sarah Rodman), and rule Barataria together until it is determined who really is the rightful King.

The opera features Gilbert's witty satire of social and political conventions, while the romantic Italian and Spanish settings inspired Sullivan's sunniest score. *The Gondoliers* features such popular numbers as "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes," "A Regular Royal Queen" and the lively "Dance a Cachuca."

Opera-Lytes, an Amherst-based theatre company, has been performing for 16 years. The group specializes in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and classic Broadway musicals, and also presents two or three choral concerts each season. Opera-Lytes has produced fully-staged productions in such western New York venues as the Lancaster Opera House, Alleyway Theatre, and Ujima TheatreLoft.

The Gondoliers is directed by Lisa Berglund, with music direction by Ted Smeltz and choreography by Kathie Prospero. Tickets for *The Gondoliers* are \$20 for all adults and \$10 for students under age 18 (limited number of tickets available). Ticket reservations can be made by calling 837-3440 or purchased at the door the day of the performance. Reservations are recommended. For further information about *The Gondoliers*, visit www.operalytes.com.