The Gondoliers
or, The King of Barataria

The Duke of Plaza-Toro (a Grandee of Spain) .................................................Jim Ahrens
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro .................................................................Katerina Middeldorp
Casilda (their daughter) ...............................................................Cassie Utt
Luiz (their attendant) .................................................................Philip Eschweiler
Don Alhambra del Bolero (the Grand Inquisitor) .........................Waldyn Benbenek
Inez (the King's foster-mother) ................................................Deb Haas

Gondoliers and Contadine:
Marco Palmieri .................................................................Michael Burton
Giuseppe Palmieri ...............................................................Ryan Johnson
Gianetta .................................................................Blanka Melbosad
Tessa ........................................................................Maggie Burr
Fiametta .................................................................Krin McMillen
Vittoria ........................................................................Lydia Wildes
Giulia ...............................................................................Brooke Wahlstrom
Francesco .................................................................Steven Halloin
Antonio ........................................................................Eric Sorum
Giorgio ...........................................................................Doug Freeman
Annibale .........................................................................Jacob Wellington
Children ........................................................................Mary Bair, Liam Hage

Chorus of Gondoliers and Citizens of Venice:
Joe Allen Andrew (A.J.) Herman John Orbison
James Brooks Dean LaLaurance Eric Pasternack
Stephen Hage Luke McKenty Richard Rames

Chorus of Contadine and Citizens of Venice:
Mary Gregory Maddy La Roche Charlotte Morrison
Shawn Holt Holly MacDonald Sarah Shervey
Kaitlin Klemencic Anna Maher Rhea Sullivan

Understudies: Joe Allen (Francesco & Antonio), Doug Freeman (Duke),
Mary Gregory (Duchess), Stephen Hage (Don Alhambra), Steven Halloin (Marco),
Shawn Holt (Vittoria), Kaitlin Klemencic (Giulia), Anna Maher (Gianetta),
Luke McKenty (Luis), John Orbison (Giorgio), Richard Rames (Annibale),
Sarah Shervey (Fiametta), Eric Sorum (Giuseppe), Brooke Wahlstrom (Casilda),
Lydia Wildes (Tessa)

Act I: The Piazzetta, Venice
Act II: Pavilion in the Palace of Barataria (three months later)

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

~ Turn off all cell phones & other electronic devices ~
~ No eating or drinking is allowed in the theatre ~
~ No smoking is permitted in the building ~
~ The use of cameras is strictly forbidden ~

This production of The Gondoliers is dedicated to the memory of long-time orchestra violinist

Amy Tobin
The Gondoliers, first performed in 1889, is probably the most joyous of the G&S operettas. The story starts in Venice on the morning of the double wedding of Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri, brother gondolieri. To be scrupulously impartial (well, maybe), they are about to select their wives through a game of blindman’s bluff. No sooner are the lucky and agreeable girls swept off to be married when they receive the startling news that one of the couples is about to become the new king and queen of Barataria. Of course, there are complications (it’s only Act I!) and soon the lovers are parted. In Act II, the revelation of an unexpected prior claim on one of the bridegrooms throws everyone into confusion and despair until the deus ex machina appears with an unexpected—and perfect—resolution. So, pretty much par for the course as operetta goes.

In 1891, Gondoliers was honored as the very first theatrical performance requested by Queen Victoria at Windsor castle after the death of her beloved Prince Albert, nine years earlier. It is said that the cheerful quartet about the potential joys of being “a right-down regular royal queen” became a special favorite. Clearly, the queen was amused. We hope you will be, too.

— Lesley Hendrickson

SYNOPSIS

Act I — Among the merchants and idlers along the canals of Venice, a group of contadine (peasant women) are making bouquets of roses, in preparation for the great event — the selection of brides by the two most eligible bachelor gondoliers, Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri. When the brothers arrive, they make a show of indifference, making their selection blindfolded (of course, they wind up with their intended mates, Gianetta and Tessa, anyway). All dance off to prepare for the wedding.

An impoverished Spanish noble family arrives: the Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro, their daughter, Casilda, and one servant, Luiz. They have come to find the noble husband to whom Casilda was betrothed in infancy, the heir to the throne of Barataria (a mythical island kingdom). The prince is now to succeed to the throne, with Casilda as his queen. Unbeknownst to her parents, however, Casilda is in love with Luiz. The Plaza-Toro contingent soon learns from the Grand Inquisitor how the plot to conceal the infant prince (in order to raise him in the proper religion) has resulted in some ambiguity as to his identity. The old gondolier who raised him had mixed him up with his own baby, so all that is now known is that the new King is either Marco or Giuseppe Palmieri. The only person who can identify the true heir is the prince’s old nurse, Inez, who is now being sought. Until she names the true king, both gondoliers will be sent to Barataria to rule jointly.

The Grand Inquisitor gets a rude shock when he discovers that not only have the two gondoliers just married, but they are anti-royalist “republicans.” When told they will rule Barataria, they imagine how to improve monarchy so all are equal. The Grand Inquisitor insists that the kings leave their wives behind; but they can take all the other gondoliers and give them positions in government. The act closes as the men take a tearful leave of the women and sail away.

Act II — Three months have passed, and the new order of government in Barataria seems to involve the two kings’ performing most of the work themselves. The women, tired of waiting in Venice, arrive suddenly, occasioning great rejoicing. The Grand Inquisitor now must explain to the kings that one of them is “an unintentional bigamist.” Tessa and Gianetta overhear, and are understandably upset; additionally so, since it is now clear that neither of them will be queen.

The Duke and Duchess now appear, in resplendent attire, having parlayed their rank into a fortune through a stock offering (The Duke of Plaza-Toro, Incorporated). Alone with Marco and Giuseppe, Casilda confesses that she is in love with someone else, and the gondoliers admit that is their condition, too. As they are fuming over their predicament, the old nurse, Inez, is announced. She reveals the identity of the true king, to the satisfaction of all.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director ......................................................... Lesley Hendrickson
Music Director .......................................................... Randal A. Buikema
Assistant Music Director ............................................. Jean Orbison Van Heel
Stage Manager ............................................................ Denise Brophy
Set Designer & Scenic Painter ........................................ Larry Rostad
Costume Designer ...................................................... Barb Portinga
Lighting Designer ...................................................... Alex Flinner
Props ........................................................................ Alexander Gerchak
Set Builder ..................................................................... Jay Scoggin
Assistant Stage Manager .............................................. Malka Key, Brianna Sullivan
Lights Assistant ......................................................... Nathan Wagener
Follow-spot Operator .................................................... Jack Kravik
Wardrobe Mistress ....................................................... Jo Pastermack
Set Construction ......................................................... Mark Alt, Ron Barnes, Denise Brophy, Jonathan Chambers
Andy Dizon, L. Peter Erickson, Diana Fingar, Ross Gallup, Clyde Gerber,
Malka Key, Jack Kravik, Gary Maher, Alan Nelson, Jo Pastermack
Larry Rostad, Chris Seeling, Danielle Simms
Brianna Sullivan, Holly Windle, and cast members
Gondola Maker ............................................................. Andy Dizon
Costume Construction ................................................ Carolyn Ahlquist, Diana Fingar, Mary Gregory
Gemma Zahradka, Katrina Zahradka, Elle Zulauf, and cast members
Rehearsal Pianists ....................................................... Jean Orbison Van Heel, Steven Norquist
Madeline Giordana, Lawrence Henry
Audio-Visual Engineer .................................................. Bob Johanneck
Poster Design .................................................................. Tom McGregor, Mary Olson
Lobby Display & Photography ...................................... Stephen Hage
House Manager ............................................................ Trina Morrison
Webcoding Intern ......................................................... W. Joseph Benbenek III
Ticket Sales .................................................................. Charlotte Morrison
Ticket Helpers .............................................................. James Brooks, Maggie Burr, Diane Carter, Deb Haas,
Katerina Middeldorp, Fred Morrison, Trina Morrison
Eric Pastermack, Ames Sheldon, Sarah Shervey
House Staff Recruitment ............................................... Shawn Holt

The Board:
Producer ........................................................................ Stephen Hage
Labour Pool Coordinator ............................................... Malka Key
Publicity ........................................................................ Waldyn Benbenek
Treasurer ....................................................................... John Orbison
Secretary ....................................................................... Shawn Holt
Chorus Representatives ............................................... Alexander Gerchak, Mary Gregory
Orchestra Representative .............................................. Barb Hovey

ORCHESTRA

Conductor ................................................................. Randal A. Buikema
Orchestra Manager ..................................................... Ann Marie McIntire
Violin I ............................................................... David Kozamchak, Ezelda Yacoub-Hasapopoulos, Mary Hanson
Kate Kelly, Amy Atzel, Derick Rehurek, Karen Kozak, Kay Pickett
Linda Ruetz, Eva Zorn, Jonathan Flory
Violin II ............................................................... Theodora Wynoff, Lorine Menzhuber, Beth Henningsen
Karen Neinstadt, Betsy Lofgren, Maya Gitch, Daniel Werl
Viola ................................................................. Ann Marie Burr, Teresa Mager, Chris Chelgren, Aija Ronis
Dan Sadoff, Svetlana Davis, Derick Rehurek, Karen Kozak
Cello ................................................................. John Dunham, Karin Holmberg Kimble, Amy Samelian
Katherine Canon, Naomi Wells
String Bass ............................................................ Ann Marie McIntire, Doug Nelson
Flute ................................................................. Kristen Kinnear-Ohlmann, Anne Cheney, Kathleen Spehar
Joshua Weinberg, Nancy Wucherpfennig
Clarinet ............................................................... Barb Hovey, Ken Gelberman, Brian Krysinski
Oboe ................................................................. Steve Schellenberg, Beth Moorhead, Donna Votino
Bassoon .............................................................. Steve Cronk, Beth Brandt, Alice Anderson
Horn ................................................................. Jeffrey Ohlmann, Michael Engh, Chris Hahn, Karen Holmes
Trumpet ........................................................... Bob Zobal, Andy Padula, Betty Mackay, Pat Gefre
Trombone ........................................................ Greg Michnay, Timothy Jung, Scott Soltis
Sarah Cooke, Julie Zeidal
Percussion ........................................................... John Litch, Charley Rich
Glossary (in order of occurrence)

Act I:
Till then, enjoy your dolce far niente - delightful idleness
With pleasure, nobody contradicente - if nobody disagrees
Ben venuti - welcome
Gondolieri carissimi! Siamo contadine! - Dear gondoliers! We are peasant girls!
servitori umilissimi! - most humble servants!
Per chi questi fiori bellissimi? - For whom are these most beautiful flowers?
Per voi, bei signori, O eccellentissimi! - For you, dear gentlemen, oh most excellent ones!
O cie! - Oh, heaven!
Buon giorno, cavalieri - Good morning, gentlemen
Siamo gondolieri / poveri gondolieri - We are gondoliers / poor gondoliers
Signorina, io t'amo! / Contadine siamo - Lady, I love you! / Peasant girls are we
since we were short-coated - wearing children's cloths
Castilian Hidalgo of 95 quarterings - Spanish nobleman, with 95 families in his heraldic shield, representing a fabulous array of noble ancestry
The halberdiers are mercenary people - guardsmen armed with ax-like spears
married by proxy - with someone acting on your behalf, in your absence
very knowing, overflowing, easygoing Paladin - heroic, chivalrous knight of old
To men of grosser clay - of less distinguished and noble blood (clay = body)
teach him the trade of a timonier - fr. French timonier, helmsman or steersman
lying a corpse on his humble bier - the stand on which a corpse or coffin is placed
your objections are not insuperable - impossible to overcome
'tis a glorious thing, I ween, to be a regular Royal Queen! - I fancy, or believe
she'll bear away the bell - take first prize; win the contest
the Chancellor in his peruke - powdered wig
aristocrat who banks with Coutts - old London bank, used by royalty
the noble lord who cleans the plate - silver or gold tableware or ornaments

Act II:
Of happiness the very pith in Barataria you may see - essence
This form of government we find / The beau ideal of its kind - model of excellence
we may hold a Royal Levée - a court reception, in morning or early afternoon
spend an hour in titivating all our Gentlemen-in-Waiting - sprucing up
the Garter or the Thistle or the Bath - high orders of knighthood
toddle off in semi-state - dressed for ordinary ceremonial occasions; no crown, etc.
having passed the Rubicon - point of no return; river Caesar significantly crossed
Take a pretty little cot - cottage
Dance a cachucha, tandango, bolero - lively Spanish dances
Xeres we'll drink Manzanilla, Montero - Xeres is sherry; others are varieties of it
at junket or at jink - words for merrymaking
must be content with toddy - drink of distilled spirits, sugar, and hot water (rich people drank wine, while beer and spirits were drunk by the less well-off)
Lord Chancellors were cheap as sprats - small fish, like anchovies or sardines
up goes the price of shoddy - cheap fabric made from reclaimed wool
I tried to tame you r great progenitor - father
with double-shotted guns and colours nailed unto the mast - cannons loaded with twice the usual shot and flag nailed so it cannot be lowered in surrender
MPs baronetted, sham colonels gazetted - Members of Parliament raised to the rank of baronet (above knight); The London Gazette listed government appointments
quote me as their great double-barrel - one with a hyphenated name, signifying status
I sit ... upon the direction of several Companies bubble - a delusive scheme
merrily crying our "premé," "stali" - calls gondoliers use, to avert collisions
CONTRIBUTORS

Right-Down Regular Royal Queens & Kings ($250 and over)

Stephen Hage & Lara Trujillo ▶ Bill & Nancy Jones ▶ Holly MacDonald and John Orbison
▶ Thomson Reuters

Spanish Grandees ($100 - $249)


Gondolieri and Contadine (up to $100)


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, First Universalist Church, and our retinue of ushers, ticket sellers, and concessionaires.


In the Fall of 2017, we will present Offenbach’s Orpheus in the Underworld, and in the Spring of 2018 we will present Princess Ida

We are performing The Pirates of Pencance in Summer 2017 at the Lake Harriet Bandshell, on July 15 at 7:30 pm and July 16 at 5:30 pm
Presents

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March 10–April 2, 2017
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Avenue South
Minneapolis

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