

FLEET PARISH OPERA AND  
FLEET CONCERT ORCHESTRA  
PRESENT

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S  
THE GONDOLIERS  
OR THE KING OF BARATARIA

SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024  
7.30PM AT SS PHILIP & JAMES CHURCH

ALL PROFITS FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE FOR THE  
ALL SAINTS FUND (PHASE 2)

**DRAMATIS PERSONAE**

The Duke of Plaza-Toro	- Matthew Silverman
Luiz (his Attendant)	- Nick Woolmer
Don Alhambra del Bolero	- Alec Evans
Marco Palmieri	- George Priestley
Giuseppe Palmieri	- Charles Corn
Antonio	- Ian Henderson
Francesco	- Arwyn Howells-Jones
Giorgio	- Rev Mark Hayton
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro	- Rachael Jones
Casilda (her Daughter)	- Chloe Riordan
Gianetta	- Clare Young
Tessa	- Helen Clutterbuck
Fiametta	- Jess Flynn
Vittoria	- Carolyn Nicholls
Giulia	- Yvette Murphy
Inez (the King's Foster-mother)	- Emma Mabin
Chorus of Gondoliers and Contadine, etc	- Fleet Parish Opera Chorus

## **Andrew Gray - Conductor**

Andrew is currently Head of Music at the Holt School, Wokingham. He studied Music at St Edmund Hall, Oxford where he conducted the Oxford University Symphonic Band, founded the Gatehouse Appeal Orchestra and was a finalist in the Oxford University conducting competition. Andrew conducted the Burford Orchestra from 2012-2020 and is a regular guest conductor with the Radcliffe Orchestra, Fleet Concert Orchestra and has conducted Trinity Camerata in a recent season. He is also an oboist, pianist and singer: he currently plays oboe with Reading Symphony Orchestra and Quintessentially Wind, and is Musical Director of Fleet Parish Choir.

### **Synopsis**

#### Act 1 – The Piazzetta, Venice.

The chorus of Contadine (Italian peasant women) are tying bouquets for their two “heart-throb” Gondoliers, Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri. The Gondoliers arrive and are told that Marco and Giuseppe will today select their brides but the other Gondoliers will be left with plenty of Contadine to choose for themselves. Marco and Giuseppe arrive but choosing their brides seems to be something of a lottery. Eventually Marco catches Gianetta while Giuseppe nets Tessa – “the very girls they wanted” - and hurry to the altar.

A trumpet announces the arrival from the “Sunny Spanish Shore” of the Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro, their daughter Casilda and Luiz (his Grace’s Private Drum). Their purpose is to seek out the Grand Inquisitor in order to identify and claim for his daughter the hand of the King of Barataria, to whom Casilda was married in infancy, without her knowledge! Her father’s financial embarrassment has resulted in her feeling she is insufficiently well-dressed to be a Queen but the Duke announces that he will set up a company to raise funds. He is used to taking such leads: from his army days “in enterprise of martial kind”. Casilda and Luiz are in love but, because of the new situation, they will have to part.

The Grand Inquisitor, Don Alhambra del Bolero, arrives and announces that there is some doubt as to the specific identity of the King – whom he had brought to Venice as a baby and placed in the safekeeping of an old Gondolier. Sadly, due to “his terrible taste for tipling”, the Gondolier could never distinguish between his own son and the Royal Prince. Luiz is dispatched to fetch his mother, nurse to the infant Prince and the only one who can correctly identify the King of Barataria.

The wedding party returns in high spirits but Marco and Giuseppe are informed that one of them is now the King of Barataria and, until the correct identity of the King is known, the Grand Inquisitor has arranged for them to reign jointly “as one individual”. The Act concludes with the newlywed husbands boarding a ship for Barataria “an island fair in the Southern Sea”.

## Act 2 – The Court of Barataria.

Marco and Giuseppe are now joint Kings whilst the other Gondoliers are courtiers, officers and servants, all equal in rank. Giuseppe describes how the royal day is made up but Marco is pining for his wife. By coincidence the Contadine arrive to find out how their menfolk are doing. Gianetta and Tessa are particularly anxious to catch up on the news. Giuseppe announces a celebratory banquet and dance, during which the Grand Inquisitor arrives. He is greatly perturbed by the informality of Court and tells a moral tale of a king who “to the top of ev’ry tree promoted everybody”, with dire consequences.

Gianetta and Tessa are distressed to hear that either Marco or Giuseppe was married as a baby to the Duke’s daughter Casilda and that therefore one of their husbands is a bigamist!

The Duke and Duchess now arrive in Barataria “with ducal pomp and ducal pride” with Casilda who, with some apprehension, “comes to claim the Royal hand”. When Marco and Giuseppe arrive, the Duke gives them a lesson in royal deportment and the young people are left to discuss their complicated marital relationships.

At last, Don Alhambra produces Inez, the Prince’s nurse and foster-mother. She explains that, to avoid traitors stealing the Prince, she “deftly substituted” her own son. Once identified, the rightful King ascends the throne and reclaims his beloved Casilda. The lesser mortals return to those they love “on the whole delighted” and, we suppose, return to Italy “with feelings of pleasure”.

### Chorus of the Gondoliers (“Fleet Parish Opera Chorus”)

**Sopranos:** Penny Doran, Carolyn Ford, Tina Hayton, Kerensa Pearson, Miranda Sargent, Liz Whiting, Teresa Wishart, Janet Young.

**Altos:** Anne Biffin, Catherine Evans, Jean Hawkins, Nicole Kirby, Fanny Li, Lesley Nicholls, Rachel Riordan, Angela Turnbull, Linda Tyler

**Tenors:** Stan Byrch, John Callaway, Jeremy Keep, Jeremy Masson, Nick Riordan, Katrina Sudell, Ian Young

**Basses:** Brian Biffin, Nick Doran, Mike Ford, Peter Li, Peter Slimming, Paul Sudell, Gary Whiting

# ORCHESTRA

**Leader: Juliet Balch**

Violins	- Juliet Balch, David White, Vivienne Taylor, Amelia Evans, Christine Meers, Nadine Farris
Violas	- Lalage Cochrane, Dayl Wallace
Cellos	- Suzanne Coates, Sally-Anne Swift
Bass	- David Barnes
Flutes	- Sandra Ball, Alison Nicholls
Piccolo	- Alison Nicholls
Oboe	- Helen Rawstron
Clarinets	- Anne Smith, Ann Clausen
Bassoon	- Robert Smith, Vikta Harvey
Horns	- Alison Wyld, Sarah Noble
Trumpets	- Steve Meers, Katie Smith,
Trombones	- Evatt Gibson, Matt Farris, Dave Moon
Timps/Percussion	- Neil Streeter

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Producers	- Anne and Robert Smith
Director	- Ian Henderson
Orchestra and Chorus Manager	- Anne Smith
Rehearsal Accompanists	- Catherine Evans, Dorina Latawska, Stuart McSweeney, Andrew Gray,
Costumes and Props	- Anne Biffin, Brian Biffin
Catering	- Liz Whiting, Carolyn Ford, Dawn and Pete Ward
Company Refreshments	- Brenda Brown, Rita Jarvis and Ann Smith
Front of House	- Elly and Alan Wilson
Reduced Libretto	- Bernard Tinker
Provision of orchestral parts	- Godalming Operatic Society

**After the performance, wine and nibbles will be served in the Hall.  
Please come for a drink and a chat (it's free!).**