

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh

presents

# The Pirates of Penzance



13th - 17th March 2007  
King's Theatre, Edinburgh



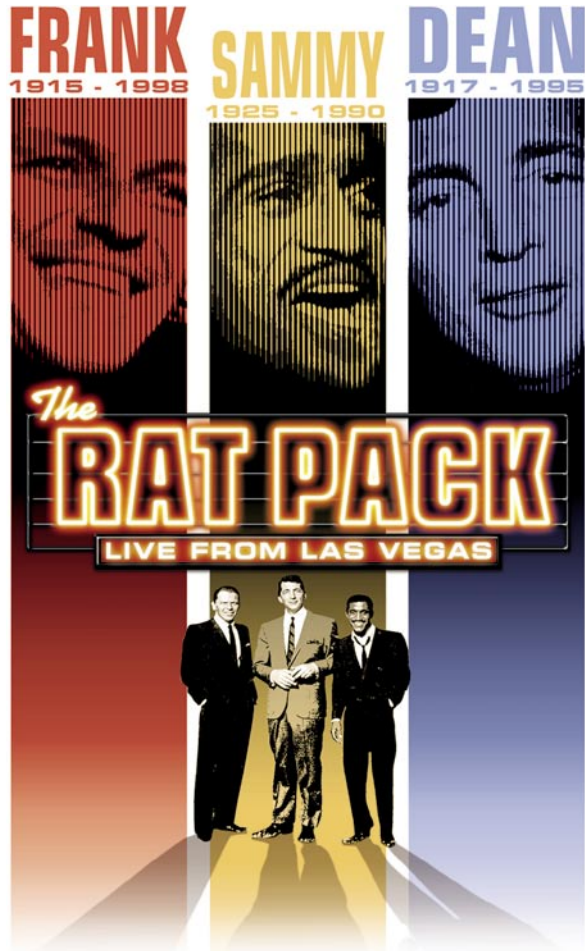
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Director: Alan Borthwick  
Musical Director: David Lyle



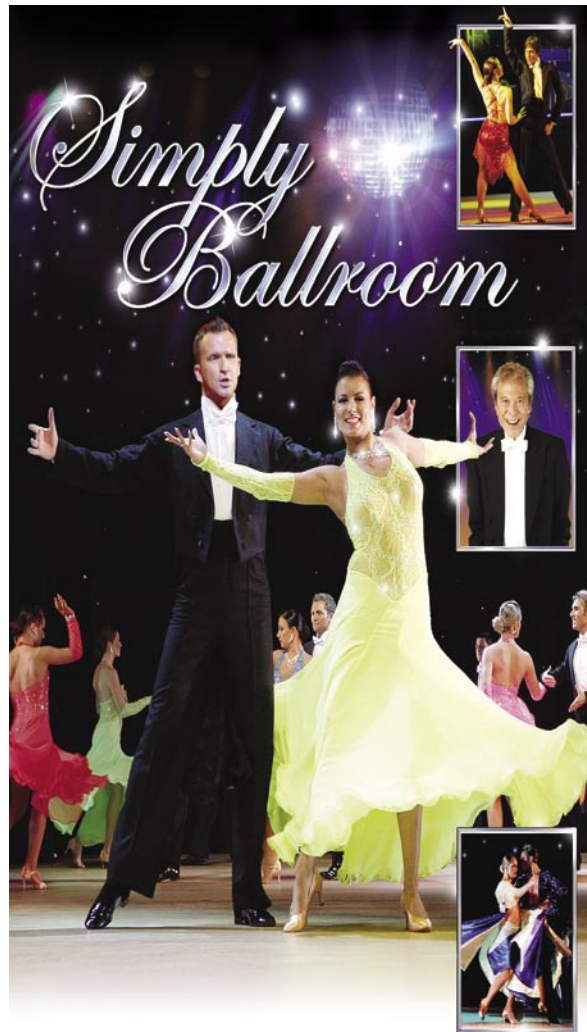


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# The Pirates of Penzance

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# Welcome



**G**ood evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, and a warm welcome to the King's Theatre, Edinburgh and to our production of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

*The Pirates of Penzance* is now reckoned to be Gilbert & Sullivan's most popular operetta. It was the first show the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Edinburgh performed in the King's Theatre in March 1973 and we are delighted to be presenting it again in the Theatre's Centenary Season.

Our very own Pirates (of Penzance rather than the Caribbean but just as sexy!) are getting ready to entertain you, so I hope you've got your popcorn to hand and are ready to sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

In November the Society once again performed with the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines in the Usher Hall for a wonderful evening of music and song. As it's a highlight for so many of us, we hope to be able to join forces with the wonderful Marines Band and Seafarers UK again in future years.

As well as performing for Seafarers UK, the Company are delighted to work with another nautical charity for the first time. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Edinburgh Branch, are holding a Gala evening after our Wednesday performance in aid of their Forth Approaches Crew Training appeal. I hope their members and supporters have a wonderful evening. They will also be collecting after some of the performances, so please give generously to this worthy cause.

Once again the company are delighted to accept an invitation to perform *The Pirates of Penzance* at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, Derbyshire at the end of July.

Plans for our 2008 production of *The Gondoliers* are already underway. The Gondoliers has been described as the sunniest music ever to come out of Britain! We'll be working hard to bring that warmth and sunshine to Edinburgh next year. Auditions will take place at the end of May. If you are interested in taking a principal part or appearing as a member of the chorus please contact Alison Crichton-Cook (0131 669 9633) for further information.

**Andrew Crawford**  
*President*

# Synopsis

**F**rederic is a young pirate apprentice who has a somewhat abnormal conscience. When he learns that he has been wrongly apprenticed to the pirate band he remains true to his indentures until they expire. Today is his twenty-first birthday, and today he is free!

This sense of conscientiousness seems to be catching for Major General Stanley, whose beautiful daughters fall into the clutches of the pirates while enjoying a little promiscuous paddling, becomes stricken with remorse after telling a lie to secure their release.

After taking his leave of the pirates, Frederic now feels that it is his duty to exterminate his former friends and he enlists the services of a squad of policemen to help him carry out his plan. Unfortunately, at the critical moment, Frederic discovers that, having been born in a leap year on the twenty-ninth of February, his twenty first birthday is still somewhat distant. He is therefore still legally a member of the pirate band.

Much to the despair of Mabel, General Stanley's eldest daughter and Frederic's sweetheart, Frederic rejoins the pirates just as they are about to attack the Major General's castle.

But the police lie in hiding and it's anyone's guess who will win!!

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# The Opera

In 1879, in an attempt to benefit from the success of *H.M.S. Pinafore* in America, Gilbert, Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte sailed across the Atlantic to present the 'official' Pinafore and to follow this with a completely new opera. Unfortunately, on his arrival in New York, Sullivan discovered that he'd left all his music for the first act of the new piece at home in London and he had to write it all again from memory. Sullivan's diary records the feverish pitch at which he was forced to work and it is said that Gilbert himself sat up all night the day before the first performance to help in the writing out of the orchestral parts for the overture. However, the critics who reviewed the new opera had nothing but praise for the piece. Sullivan would prove throughout his collaboration with Gilbert that he worked better when under severe strain.

The new opera, probably partly inspired by the Americans who had pirated *H.M.S. Pinafore*, was called *The Pirates of Penzance* and the official premiere took place on the 31st December 1879 at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, hence securing the American rights. A scratch performance had however been given the previous day in Paignton, Devon, by D'Oyly Carte's second Pinafore touring company so as to secure the British rights. It was to be another three months before London would see the new opera and by that time D'Oyly Carte had three new companies touring the piece throughout America.

Of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas *The Pirates of Penzance* is probably the best loved. It may lack the subtlety of *The Mikado* or the elegance of *Iolanthe*. It may not have the sunny glow of parts of *The Gondoliers* and undoubtedly, in the case of many of its wonderful tunes, familiarity has bred some undeserved contempt, but no other opera in the series has such vitality and sheer exuberance. The libretto sparkles with wit and there is never a dull moment. No other Gilbert and Sullivan opera has such wonderful characters – The Pirate King who, when contrasting his profession with respectability, considers himself “comparatively honest”; Frederic, whose somewhat fanatical sense of duty nearly causes him to

lose Mabel, the slightly dotty love of his life; The Major General, who obviously spends every spare moment siring daughters (no wonder we hear nothing about his poor wife); Ruth, the man-mad piratical maid-of-all-work; and of course the Sergeant of Police whose lot is “not a happy one” and who would rather run a mile than face these dangerous pirates (who are actually all noblemen – but don't let me spoil the story!).

The music in *Pirates* was considered to be so operatic that, on first seeing the score, the original orchestra threatened to strike unless they were given more money. (In response, Sullivan threatened to do without them and accompany the show on the pianoforte. They quickly relented.) The operatic style is particularly noticeable in the writing for Mabel who, as soon as she enters, launches into a coloratura aria that would grace any Donizetti opera. Rousing choruses abound, including a terrific example of Sullivan's hallmark, the “double chorus”, where two contrasting melodies are heard together as the policemen march around attempting to be brave while the girls send them off to “death and glory”. True sentiment is also present, and Sullivan wrote nothing more beautiful than the love duet for Mabel and Frederic in act two. Interestingly the finale of the opera is an extended one and contains much original music, unlike the finale of their previous work, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which simply reprises music heard earlier in the piece.

Last season we tackled *The Grand Duke*, the least well known work of the partnership, and you'd think that, after that experience, *Pirates* would be a dawdle. Don't kid yourself! Everyone remembers some wonderful production of *Pirates* from the past. It may be their old school show when they played one of the policemen, or the superb Broadway-style production and film by Joseph Papp - perhaps the old D'Oyly Carte company with Martyn Green or John Reed as the Major General. To even attempt to compete with such memories is a daunting task and all I can say is that the company have sweated blood, and shed quite a few pounds, over the last few months, in an attempt to bring our version of the show to this wonderful theatre. We've enjoyed ourselves! Now it only remains for us to await your verdict.

Enjoy the show!

**The Directors**





Alan Borthwick  
Director



David Lyle  
Musical Director

Alan Borthwick has sung leading tenor roles in operas ranging from Poulenc to Puccini for companies throughout Scotland. He is the only singer ever to have performed all the tenor roles in Sullivan operas (including those written without Gilbert) and he has recorded many of these roles for leading record companies.

Alan is now in great demand as a professional director and for the last fifteen years he has directed shows in this theatre. Last year his own company presented highly successful musical productions in St. Andrew's & St. George's, raising over £1000 for charity. This summer he is proud to be taking this production of **Pirates** to Buxton, and in the autumn he hopes to direct a modern musical in the Church Hill Theatre.

Alan's full-time job is Development Officer in East Lothian's Department of Education and Children's Services. In his "spare" time he lectures in Mathematics for the Open University and in this role he has recorded a series of mathematical videos with the BBC.

David Lyle was born and educated in Edinburgh and is prominent in the musical life of the city, being well-known as a conductor, accompanist, arranger and orchestral timpanist. His services are constantly in demand and this year will be his twenty-ninth as Musical Director of The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh. He has led them in concerts in and outwith Scotland, including gala evenings with the Band of HM Royal Marines in Edinburgh's Usher Hall, and invitation concerts at the Buxton, Stranraer and Dunkeld Festivals.

His specialist field is the music of Sullivan and he has now conducted on commercial recordings of all the composer's non-Gilbert works, including the first-ever of Sullivan's only grand opera, **Ivanhoe**. His performance, in Edinburgh, of Sullivan's cantata, **The Golden Legend**, won first prize in the Choral Music for the Millennium competition, organized by the British Music Association. There are still a few Sullivan works he hasn't conducted, and he plans to rectify that in future concerts.

# Musical Numbers

Overture..... The Orchestra

## Act I

Pour, oh pour, the pirate sherry..... Samuel & Chorus  
When Frederic was a little lad..... Ruth  
Oh, better far to live and die..... Pirate King & Chorus  
Oh, false one, you have deceived me..... Ruth & Frederic  
Climbing over rocky mountain..... Chorus  
Oh, is there not one maiden breast..... Frederic & Chorus  
Poor wand'ring one! ..... Mabel & Chorus  
What ought we to do, Gentle sisters, say ..... Edith, Kate & Chorus  
How beautifully blue the sky..... Mabel, Frederic & Chorus  
Stay, we must not lose our senses ..... Frederic & Chorus  
I am the very model of a modern Major-General ..... Major-General & Chorus  
FINALE ACT I..... Ensemble

## INTERVAL

## Act II

Oh, dry the glist'ning tear ..... Mabel & Chorus  
When the foeman bares his steel ..... Sergeant, Mabel, Edith & Chorus  
Now for the pirates' lair! ..... Ruth, Frederic & Pirate King  
When you had left our pirate fold ..... Ruth, Frederic & Pirate King  
Away, away! my heart's on fire..... Ruth, Frederic & Pirate King  
Stay, Frederic, stay!..... Mabel & Frederic  
Ah, leave me not to pine alone and desolate..... Mabel & Frederic  
No, I'll be brave! ..... Mabel, Sergeant & Chorus  
When a felon's not engaged in his employment ..... Sergeant & Chorus  
A rollicking band of pirates we ..... Sergeant & Chorus  
With cat-like tread..... Samuel & Chorus  
Sighing softly to the river..... Ensemble  
FINALE ACT II..... Ensemble





# Dramatis Personae



MAJOR-GENERAL STANLEY..... Scott Thomson  
 THE PIRATE KING..... Ian Lawson  
 SAMUEL (his Lieutenant) ..... Ross Main  
 FREDERIC (the Pirate Apprentice) ..... Darren Coutts  
 SERGEANT OF POLICE ..... Simon Boothroyd  
 MABEL..... Fiona Main  
 EDITH ..... Karen Richmond  
 KATE..... Jenny Kirkland  
 ISABEL..... Alicia Glasgow  
 RUTH (a Pirate Maid of all Work) ..... Susanne Horsburgh

## Understudies

MAJOR-GENERAL STANLEY..... Charles Laing  
 SERGEANT OF POLICE ..... Andrew Crawford  
 MABEL..... Karen Richmond  
 EDITH ..... Claire Wolseley  
 KATE..... Amanda Stewart  
 RUTH ..... Liz Landsman

## Ladies of the Chorus

Rachel Allan	Alison Littleboy
Judith Anderson	Norma Macdonald
Katharine Barbour	Evelyn McHollan
Margaret Cormack	Pauline More
Antonia Craster	Maggie Pringle
Wendy Crawford	Susan Ross
Sally Crighton	Jane Smart
Kate Duffield	Felicity Stanley
Shirley Glynn	Amanda Stewart
Amanda Gourdie	Gillian Tait
Dorothy Harding	Liz Thomson
Anne Jack	Elizabeth Woollven
Caroline Kerr	Claire Wolseley
Anne Laing	Jane Young

## Gentlemen of the Chorus

Gene Adams	Gareth Jacobs
Chris Allan	Lyle Kennedy
Graham Boyd	Charles Laing
Ian Boyd	David Lamb
Peter Casebow	Bob Martin
Hugh Craig	David McBain
Andrew Crawford	George McHollan
John Farr	Craig Robertson
Michael Head	Keith Starsmere
Hugh Hercus	Alex Tait
Sandy Horsburgh	Nick Temperley
Philip Howe	Andrew Thomson
Tom Inglis	Ritchie Turnbull



# The Pirates of Penzance Treasure Map







Darren Coutts  
Frederic

Darren is no stranger to the *Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society* having appeared previously in the last two productions of *Iolanthe*, *The Gondoliers* and Sullivan's Grand Opera *Ivanhoe*. He is having great fun playing the part of Frederic this year and being an object of adoration for all of General Stanley's many daughters. He wasn't too sure, however, about certain parts of the production - particularly the bits that involved him taking his shirt off!

The King's Theatre holds fond memories for Darren having played Curly in *Oklahoma* and Orpheus in *Orpheus in the Underworld* for *The Southern Light Opera Company* since he came to Edinburgh. Originally from Aberdeen, his first foray on to the stage was with the very successful *Bankhead Youth Theatre*, who were the first Amateur Company to win 3 fringe first awards in consecutive years.



Fiona Main  
Mabel

In her 11th outing with the Society, Fiona really wanted to play the part of the Pirate King, but unfortunately her parrot allergy made this impossible! So this year she's taking to the stage in the guise of the slightly scatty Mabel with her sights set on our dutiful hero, Frederic. Although originally disappointed with the lack of 'swash' and 'buckle' in this role, she has found some satisfaction in the fact that she still gets to terrorise the policemen, even if she does have to do it without the peg leg and the eye-patch!

Fiona has sung leading roles in operettas and musicals with several Edinburgh and Fife companies as well as concert performances with the *Edinburgh Palm Court Orchestra* and *Prince Consort*. She is particularly proud of having been involved in the 2000 recording of Sullivan's *Haddon Hall* singing the part of Dorcas, and the 2004 performance and recording of Sullivan's *Festival Te Deum*.

Fiona, her husband, sister and brother-in-law perform together as the a-cappella group *Con Spirito* and over the past few years have raised over £5000 for Cancer Research UK.



Scott Thomson  
The Major-General

Scott has been involved in works of theatre since the age of six when he played the title role in a school production of 'The ugly duckling'. Since then, he has been involved in many shows which have seen him undertaking in *Oliver*, working for the Lichtenburg government in *Call Me Madam* and sitting on a roof playing a violin in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Since joining *The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh* in 2002 for *Princess Ida*, Scott skulked in the chorus for a few years until playing the parts of Jack Point in *The Yeomen of the Guard* and Ludwig in *The Grand Duke*.

The year's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* is his third acquaintance with the show. He is excited to finally be on the stage having previously been backstage and part of the orchestra.

Scott works as a software architect in Rosyth. He is married and has a sixteen month old son which he thinks is more than enough preparation for an entire chorus worth of daughters!



Ian Lawson  
The Pirate King

Ian has taken part in 23 of the Society's productions over the past quarter century, but never before in *The Pirates of Penzance*. About 15 years ago, he played the Major General in a one-off charity performance for *Waverley Care*, clad in a striped Edwardian bathing costume ("looking like an underfed wasp" - the Scotsman). But despite notching up 24 different roles in 35 G&S productions he has never managed a return visit to Gilbert's Penzance until this week.

By way of compensation, Ian and his wife are frequent visitors to the real Cornwall where his mother (90 this Saturday) and sister live. G&S runs in the family. Ian's wife is the great-granddaughter of Gilbert's next-door neighbour; her mother has conducted performances of *Pirates* and *Trial by Jury*; and their two daughters also sing in G&S. Their younger daughter is currently vice-president of the *Newcastle University G&S Society*, and also a devoted member of the Johnny Depp fan club. (Her father's appearance tonight may put an end to that!)





Susanne Horsburgh as Ruth

Susanne has had a rich and varied theatrical career in her native Germany. Performing credits include singing roles as *Papagena* in Mozart's **Die Zauberflöte** and *Chiffon* in **Little Shop of Horrors**, and acting roles as *Viola* in Shakespeare's *Die Zwölfte Nacht oder Was Ihr Wollt* (**Twelfth Night**, performed in German), *The Queen* in Shakespeare's **Cymbeline**, *Margaret* in **Much Ado About Nothing** and *Polonia* in **Hamlet**. Directing credits include Shakespeare's **Twelfth Night** with the *Bonn University Shakespeare Company*. This is her second *Pirates*, and she is over the moon to have landed one of her favourite G&S character parts for her first appearance with the *Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society*.

Karen Richmond as Edith

Karen Richmond is delighted to be making her *Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society* debut having spent several years appearing with *The Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group* whilst a student. She studies singing with soprano Irene Drummond, and is frequently engaged as a soloist in and around Edinburgh. Recent roles have included *Lauretta* in Puccini's opera **Gianni Schicchi**, *Princess Ida*, *Gianetta* in **The Gondoliers**, *Mercedes* in **Carmen** and the *Queen of the Night* in **The Magic Flute**. Her oratorio work has included Mozart's **Requiem**, **Exsultate Jubilate** and **Coronation Mass**, and Beethoven's **Mass in C**, and she was thrilled this year to perform her first **Messiah**.



Simon Boothroyd as The Sergeant

According to his Mum, Simon has been acting since the day he was born. It wasn't until he was 15 that he made his first stage appearance as the title role in his school's production of **The Mikado**. Since then he has appeared in over 100 productions in theatres throughout Scotland and even a couple of forays into England. This is his sixth production of **The Pirates of Penzance**, his first being exactly 30 years ago when he was still at school. How time flies! Simon has played most of the G&S baritone roles. Other appearances include **My Fair Lady**, **Showboat**, **Sweeney Todd**, **A Midsummer Night's Dream** and **The Tempest**. He also directs one of Scotland's finest youth theatre companies.

Jenny Kirkland as Katz

Jenny has gone from the depths of the orchestra pit to the dizzy heights of a principal role in two short years. Her first encounter with Gilbert and Sullivan was with the *St. Andrews University Orchestra* when she played the cello for **Iolanthe** in 2001. She went on to play for the University in a number of other operas including, **The Mikado** and **H.M.S. Pinafore**. She joined the *Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society* last year as a member of the chorus in **The Grand Duke** and this year she is enjoying the sparkling waters and rocky mountains of Penzance.



Ross Main as Samuel

Ross is certainly no stranger to the stage, and has undertaken several roles over the years. This year his main challenge is managing his multitude of props, and knowing his "centre-bit" from his "life preserver". Ross has thoroughly enjoyed playing the part of Samuel, although he is getting slightly concerned about being cast as the dim pirate! Previous roles with the company include Pish-Tush in **The Mikado**, Scynthius in **Princess Ida**, Morpheus in **Orpheus in the Underworld**, and Ben Hashbaz in **The Grand Duke**.

Alicia Glasgow as Isabel

Alicia has performed in many of the *Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society's* productions. She has had principal roles in musicals such as **Music Man**, **Anything Goes**, and **South Pacific** and has taken part in dramatic productions with local companies. **The Pirates of Penzance** is however her favourite Gilbert & Sullivan opera. (Who wouldn't enjoy being grabbed by gorgeous pirates every evening - so many men, so little time??!!)





# The Orchestra

## VIOLIN

Alison Rushworth (Leader)  
David Brown  
Helen Curtis  
Alison Dundas  
Jonathan Law  
Susan Matasovska  
Fiona Morison  
Andrew Rushworth

## VIOLA

Hilary Turbayne  
Susan Donlevy

## CELLO

George Reid  
Natalie Poyser

## BASS

Fiona Donaldson

## FLUTE

David Morrow  
David Leslie

## OBOE

Charles Dodds

## CLARINET

Katherine Taylor  
Hilary Saunders

## BASSOON

Alison Bardgett

## HORN

Marian Kirton  
David Rimer

## CORNET

Gordon Lehany  
Duncan Macleod

## TROMBONE

Daniel Richards  
Neil Short

## PERCUSSION

Jake Perry

# The Society

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh exists to foster the love and appreciate the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. With this in mind we undertake numerous activities during the year and hold regular meetings and social events as well as rehearsing for our Annual Production. We accept invitations to entertain in venues throughout Scotland and beyond. Since last year's annual production we have taken part in the King's Theatre's 100th Birthday Celebrations, sung for Arts Festivals, Nursing Homes and Fundraising Events and performed with the Band of HM Royal Marines in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

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			James Wilson
			Scott Thomson
			Andrew Crawford
			Ritchie Turnbull
			Ian Lawson
			Fiona Main
			Stewart Coghill
			Andrew Crawford
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			George Wilson

# Acknowledgements

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The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh

will present

# THE GONDOLIERS

11th - 15th  
March  
2008

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