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# The Gondoliers: Or The King Of Barataria

GILBERT  
& SULLIVAN  
*A Savoy Opera*



THE GONDOLIERS  
or THE KING OF BARATARIA

Libretto by William S. Gilbert  
Music by Arthur Sullivan



## Synopsis

The partnership between William Schwenck Gilbert and Arthur Seymour Sullivan and their canon of Savoy Operas is rightly lauded by all lovers of comic opera the world over. Gilbert's sharp, funny words and Sullivan's deliciously lively and hummable tunes create a world that is distinctly British in view but has the world as its audience. Both men were exceptionally talented and gifted in their own right and wrote much, often with other partners, that still stands the test of time. However, together as a team they created Light or Comic Operas of a standard that have had no rivals equal to their standard, before or since. That's quite an achievement. To be recognised by the critics is one thing but their commercial success was incredible. The profits were astronomical, allowing for the building of their own purpose built theatre – The Savoy Theatre. Beginning with the first of their fourteen collaborations, *Thespis* in 1871 and travelling through many classics including *The Sorcerer* (1877), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (1878), *The Pirates of Penzance* (1879), *The Mikado* (1885), *The Gondoliers* (1889) to their finale in 1896 with *The Grand Duke*, Gilbert & Sullivan created a legacy that is constantly revived and admired in theatres and other media to this very day.

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