



Thank you, and Clevedon G & S Society for inviting me to see "The Gondoliers" last night, always a great favourite, and once again enjoyed so much by Denis and me. Your Orchestra was to be congratulated for putting us in the right Venetian mood, with their well-played and lively Overture. They continued to delight throughout and gave admirable support to principals and chorus alike.

Much enthusiasm, colour and energy ensured our interest was maintained and it was obvious this was a piece much enjoyed by cast and audience. Singing of large chorus numbers was uplifting and I found it hard not to join in! Other concerted numbers and solos were also enjoyed and, along with colourful costumes and interesting movement, maintained the lively element. Sound was good throughout as was the lighting, with attractive effects created during certain numbers.

Well done to the cast, who rose to the occasion and, led by the four lively Gondolieri, Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta and Tessa, reminded us what fun this opera can be. The Ducal party of Plaza-Toro created some wonderful moments in Act 2 and how lovely to see Camilla again as the battling Duchess! Reigning supreme over events was the formidable Don Alhambra, the Grand Inquisitor, who struck fear into us all with great presence and fabulous voice.

So, thank you Clevedon once again, and for your kind hospitality offered by President Ray and I offer my personal pleasure at being able to meet you all on stage afterwards. Best wishes for the rest of your run.

Geraldine Branton, NODA National President.