UNLV Opera Theatre
2009-2010 Season

Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss

Friday, November 13, 2009 at 7:30
Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 7:30
In Doc Rando Recital Hall, Beam Music Center

"Slaps, Swords and Cheating!": A program of Opera Scenes

Monday, November 23, 2009 at 7:30
In Doc Rando Recital Hall, Beam Music Center

Please join us for our Spring Opera Production

The Magic Flute

By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

A fully staged production of The Magic Flute in English, accompanied by the UNLV Symphony Orchestra will be presented on:

Friday, March 19, 2010 at 7:30
Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 7:30
Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 2:00 matinee

Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV Performing Arts Center

For ticket information please call 702-895-ARTS
UNLV Opera Theatre
Presents
Die Fledermaus
A comic operetta in three acts
Music by Johann Strauss
Libretto by Carl Haffner and Richard Genée, after Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halevy's vaudeville Le réveillon (The Christmas Eve Party), based on the comedy Das Gefängnis (the Jail) by Roderich Benedix

Friday, November 13, 2009 at 7:30
Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 7:30
Doc Rando Recital hall
Beam Music Center
UNLV Campus

Please Note:
We request that members of the audience refrain from using cameras or other recording devices during the performance.

Those carrying pagers and cellular phones must turn them off prior to the performance.

Please take time to locate the nearest emergency exit before the performance begins.

No smoking in the theatre auditorium or lobby.

Special thanks to Daniella Toscana for the poster design

Cast and Crew

Rosalinde, Eisenstein's Wife
Adele, her maid
Ida, Adele's sister
Prince Orlovsky, wealthy young Russian Prince
Alfred, Rosalinde's lover
Gabriel Eisenstein, a man of private means
Dr. Blind, a lawyer
Dr. Falke, Eisenstein's friend (The Bat)
Frank, warden of the prison
Frosch, a jailer

UNLV Chamber Choir

June Banks
Travis Bernau
Ryan Beyer
Jennifer Borusiewicz
David Casey
Erickson Franco
Sarah Fulco
Alanna E. Gallo
Carolina Gamazo
Nicole Harris
Elizabeth Hughes
Isabella Ivy
Belinda Jackley
Daniel Jolly
Andy Kim
Cecilia López

Musical Direction
Stage Direction
Assistant Stage Director/Stage Manager
Director of Choral Studies

Zipporah Peddle
Christina Douglas
Kristina Newman
Valerie Sokolova
Edwin Cotton
Barron Coleman
Erickson Franco
Jonathan Napier-Morales
Brian Myer
Daniel Jolly
Amanda Mura
Brian Myer
Joey Nicosia
Pier Lamia Porter
Michael Quimson
Chris Stiles
Michael Woxland
Jessica Kim, pianist

Kosta Popovic
Ruth Jacobson
Amanda Mura
David Weiller
Die Fledermaus Synopsis

ACT I

The home of Gabriel von Eisenstein

Eisenstein prepares to bid his wife Rosalinda farewell. Through the incompetence of his lawyer, Dr. Blind, he has been sentenced to spend eight days in the town jail. Although the situation is seemingly tragic, Eisenstein, his wife, and their ambitious maid, Adele, have devised their individual ways to get the most out of the situation! Eisenstein's old friend, Dr. Falke, arrives and suggests that the two of them go to Prince Orlofsky's party to celebrate Eisenstein's last hours of freedom before Eisenstein reports to jail. Falke plans to use the evening as revenge for a practical joke Eisenstein played on him.

It seems that previously Eisenstein had left a drunken Falke to sleep it off on a park bench instead of taking him home after a masquerade ball. Falke woke up the next morning and had to walk home dressed as a bat (Die Fledermaus) amid the taunting and laughing of passersby. Orlofsky's party is the talk of the town. Adele receives a letter from her sister, Ida, one of the dancers who has been invited, suggesting she borrow one of her mistress's dresses and attend herself. After Falke and Eisenstein leave, Rosalinda's former lover, the operatic tenor, Alfred, arrives, serenading her in typical Italian fashion, swearing his eternal love. When the prison governor, Frank, arrives at the house, he naturally assumes that the man sharing an intimate moment with Rosalinda is her husband, and he takes Alfred off to jail.

ACT II

The palace of Prince Orlofsky

The Russian Prince Orlofsky is giving a magnificent ball, but he appears to be the only one not enjoying himself — everything and everyone bores him. He tells the crowd that at his parties there is only one rule — that each does according to his own taste — "Chacun a son gout." Eisenstein, posing as the Marquis Renard, meets a glamorous actress who bears a startling resemblance to his wife's maid.

It is, in fact, Adele, and when Eisenstein tells her of the resemblance she mocks him by telling him that such presumption makes her laugh! At this point a surprise guest is announced — Rosalinda disguised as an exotic Hungarian Countess. Eisenstein then engages in a lengthy flirtation with the masked guest of honor, not realizing it is his wife. Rosalinda manages to take the watch which Eisenstein has always used to seduce women, and thereby secures proof positive of his philandering. Meanwhile, another fake French nobleman has arrived: Chevalier Chagrin who is really Frank, the prison governor. In the midst of all this intrigue, Falke offers a hymn to happiness andbrokerly love, joined by all the others. After waltzing, flirtting and much champagne, the party breaks up at dawn.

ACT III

The town jail

Frosch, the tipsy jailer, is trying to keep things quiet while doing his duties, but the prisoner in cell number 12 (Alfred) insists on singing opera excerpts. Prison governor Frank arrives a little worse for his revelry at the party and has trouble staying awake after such a grand evening. Adele enters and tells him that she is not really a glamorous actress, but certainly has the talent for it.

She hopes that Frank can sponsor her debut. Eisenstein at last reports to the jail and is delighted to find that his new friend is the governor, but Frank is confused. Apparently there is already an Eisenstein behind bars who is waiting for his lawyer, Dr. Blind. When the lawyer arrives, Eisenstein impersonates him and questions Rosalinda and Alfred, then reveals his identity. As Eisenstein begins a self-righteous tirade as a wronged husband, Rosalinda produces his watch, proving him as great a flirt as she. Falke's revenge is declared complete, and all of Orlofsky's party guests arrive to celebrate and all praise King Champagne.

Biographies

Edwin Joseph Cotton (Alfred) began his musical career at a very young age. A native of New York City, Edwin became a member of Boys Choir of Harlem when he was in high school and toured with the group for its worldwide performances. Mr. Cotton attended Morehouse College where he continued to travel with the college's Glee Club for four more years. After touring with the Atlanta Opera in Europe, he moved to Las Vegas to pursue his Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance. Edwin is a student of Dr. Alfonse Anderson.

American tenor Barron Coleman (Eisenstein) has performed in the best opera theaters in the world entertaining audiences from Milan to Paris to Sydney and Japan. A native son of the lone star state, he also has many important national debuts to his credit including Houston Grand Opera, Seattle Opera, Los Angeles Opera and Dallas Opera. An alum­nus of The Juilliard School, The Manhattan School of Music and Southern Methodist University, Mr. Coleman holds degrees in Vocal Pedagogy, Music Education and Psychology. Upcoming engagements include concerts on the Eastern Shore and Spain with the American Spiritual Ensemble.

Christina Douglas (Adele) is an active performer in recital, concert and opera. Originally from Whiteswater, Wisconsin, Christina completed her undergraduate work in May 2008 from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. At Luther, Christina was a participant in the opera, choral and French program. In 2007 Christina covered the role of Adina in The Elixir of Love and in 2008 performed the Queen of the Night in The Magic Flute. She also sang solos in 2005 and 2007 at Luther's annual Christmas concert. In September 2008 Christina began her graduate work at UNLV, where she has performed the role of Lauretta in last year's opera Gianni Schicchi. Christina also placed third in NATS graduate division last year. She is thrilled to be back performing Adele in Die Fledermaus and hopes to be on stage again in the near future.

Ruth Jacobson (Director) has built a multi-faceted, international career as a Soprano, Teacher, Opera Director, Visual Artist and Arts Administrator. As a professional singer, she has sung major roles such as Violetta, Susanna, Gretel, Gilda, Musetta, and Pamina in opera theatres such as the Opera di Monte Carlo, Santa Fe Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Wolf trap Opera, Dayton Opera, Anchorage Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Augusta Opera, and the American Opera Center at Lincoln Center. Her performing career has taken her to stages which range from Alice Tully Hall where she gave the world premiere of Larry Bell's 'The Idea of Order at Key West under the baton of Jorge Mester to an Off Broadway production of The Mother of Us All to the nationally televised Kennedy Center Honors on CBS. She holds a Master of Music Degree in Voice Performance and Opera from the Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota with a secondary emphasis in Musicology. This is her first year as Opera Director at UNLV.
Daniel Jolly (Froch) is a senior majoring in Music Education and Vocal Performance. He has been a part of numerous UNLV Opera theater productions, including Gianni Schicchi where he played the part of Maestro Spinelloccio. He is proud and excited to be a part of Die Fledermaus.

The UNLV Chamber Chorale has been praised for their “joyous singing, remarkable delicacy and poise, impressive performance and expressive fervor.” This select vocal ensemble of 23 sings a wide variety of the finest a cappella repertoire encompassing many periods and styles of music. The Chorale has been honored with invited performances for western region and state conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) and western division conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) in Honolulu and Los Angeles. UNLV choirs have participated in numerous fully staged productions in collaboration with UNLV Opera Theatre, including Gluck Orfeo ed Euridice, Mozart The Magic Flute, Offenbach La Perichole, Puccini La Bohème, Gilbert & Sullivan H.M.S. Pinafore and Patience, Strauss Die Fledermaus, Mascagni Cavalleria Rusticana and Lehár The Merry Widow.

Baritone Jonathan Napier-Morales (Dr. Falke) has appeared as Dr. Falke (Fledermaus), Brundibar (Brundibar) Mikado (Mikado) with University of the Pacific’s Opera Theatre, and Marquis D’Obigny in Pacific Orchestra’s concert production of La Traviata. During the summers of 2007/2008 he appeared in the Impressario as Mr. Bluff as well as scenes from A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Le Nozze di Figaro and Don Giovanni with the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute (BASOTTI). He also recently appeared as the Officer in Stockton Opera Association’s production of Barber of Seville. Mr. Napier-Morales received his BM in Vocal Performance at University of the Pacific’s Conservatory of Music studying with Michael Sokol and Burt Cochran Phillips. He is currently pursuing a MM at UNLV studying with Dr. Alfonse Anderson.

Amanda Muro (Stage Manager/AD) is a senior majoring in vocal performance at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Amanda has appeared in numerous operas, concerts and recitals with UNLV Opera Theater. Her credits include Despina in Cosi fan tutte, Zita in Gianni Schicchi an Mrs. Andersen in A Little Night Music. Amanda has also performed in symphony and oratorio concerts with the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Amanda is a scholarship recipient from the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Amanda has also received numerous NATS study awards and is on full scholarship at UNLV. This is Amanda’s first stint as stage manager here at UNLV.

Brian Myers (Frank) is a junior majoring in music education and romance languages at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Brian has performed in various UNLV opera and choral productions, including Beto di Sigo in Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi and Dick Deadeye in Gilbert and Sullivan’s H.M.S. Pinafore. Winner of the 2009 NATS sophomore male division, he looks forward to continuing his vocal studies and performing in the future.

Ziporah Podole (Rosalinde) hails from Newfoundland, Canada, where she received her degree in vocal performance from Memorial University, studying with Dr. Carolyn Hart. After performing extensively throughout Canada and abroad, she settled here in Las Vegas to work as lead vocalist in Cirque du Soleil’s production of “O”, which she continues to the present day. Ziporah is now completing her Masters in vocal performance at UNLV where she studies with Dr. Tod Fitzpatrick. She is thrilled to be part of the Fledermaus cast, and would like to thank everyone involved for making it such a wonderful experience. Enjoy!

Kosta Popovic (Music Director) has worked as an assistant conductor with the Metropolitan Opera for eleven seasons (1997 to 2008). Additionally, he has also collaborated with Opera Pacific, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Washington Opera, Teatro Municipal in Santiago, Chile, Sächsische Staatsoper in Dresden, Germany and Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Italy. Mr. Popovic holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Belgrade Music Academy and a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School. He resides with his wife Catherine and their daughter Milla in Pasadena, California.

Valeria Sokolova (Orlofsky) mezzo-soprano is a native of Ekaterinburg, Russia. She is a graduate of the P.I. Tchaikovsky Musical College where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Music with an emphasis in Choral Conducting and Voice. Ms. Sokolova is also a graduate of the M.P. Musorgsky Conservatoire where she received a Master’s Degree in Music Education. In December of 2006, Valeria Sokolova graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she received a Masters of Music with a dual emphasis in Vocal Performance and Piano Accompaniment. She studied piano with Professor Carol Stivers and Dr. Enrico Elisii and voice with Dr. Alfonse Anderson and Dr. Carol Kimball. In March of 2009, Ms. Sokolova performed the principal role of Mamma Lucia in production of Cavalleria Rusticana by P. Mascagni with the UNLV Opera Theater. In the summer of 2009, she participated aims in Graz, Austria as a singer in the Opera Studio. Ms. Sokolova is an adjunct instructor and a collaborative pianist at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

David B. Willer, Associate Professor of Music, celebrates 26 years as Director of Choral Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Under his leadership the university choral ensembles enjoy a reputation for vibrant performances. Professor Willer currently conducts the University Concert Singers and Chamber Chorale and teaches related courses in choral conducting, literature and pedagogy. He is a past recipient of the UNLV William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching and the UNLV Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty Award. During his career he has conducted over sixty musical theatre productions at the university and as a principal conductor for the College Light Opera Company at Highfield Theatre on Cape Cod, one of the most respected educational theatre companies in the country, where he specializes in Viennese and early American operetta.