



Central Washington University
Department of Music
presents:



**DIE
FLEDERMAUS**

CWU Opera Ensemble

with the CWU Chamber Orchestra

McConnell Auditorium
April 11, 12, 13 7:00 PM
April 14 2:00PM

Director's Note

Die Fledermaus

Director's Note by Gayla Blaisdell

Die Fledermaus, sometimes called "The Revenge of the Bat" in English, was composed by the Waltz King, Johann Strauss II, and was premiered in 1874 in Vienna, Austria. The music of *Die Fledermaus* contains the perfect combination of beautiful Viennese waltzes and choruses with dramatic solo singing and lively duets and trios. The Viennese Waltz is a very recognizable and beloved musical style, and the CWU orchestra and singers, under the direction of Dr. Nikolas Caoile, honor the original musical style with their performance today. The libretto was originally written in German but was translated to English just two years after the Viennese premiere for its first performance in London. Even the Metropolitan Opera performs *Die Fledermaus* in English instead of German. It is one of the only operas that the Met has ever produced in a translation. American audiences have enjoyed *Die Fledermaus* in various English translations including the Met's famous translation by Jeremy Sams, but this production will feature a new adaptation and translation by Sarah Meyers written in 2016.

This translation/adaptation changes the setting from wealthy Vienna in the 1800s to upscale Manhattan in 2024 and features contemporary cultural references and modern sentiments. The juxtaposition of the Viennese Waltz musical style from the late 1800s alongside cultural references to social media, cosplay costumes, and American entertainment trends makes the story acceptable and relevant to a modern audience while they also discover the joy and lightness of this beloved style. Sarah Meyer's adaptation removes an outdated and harmful cultural reference to the Romani people and portrays the main relationship between Rosalinda and Eisenstein as a more equal partnership. The original plot of *Die Fledermaus* centers on a flirtation by Rosalinda with a past love and Eisenstein's intent to be unfaithful to his wife without ever delving very far into their motives, and their reconciliation at the end does not include any self-reflection from either character.

Director's Note Continued

Sarah Meyer's translation takes a "Pride and Prejudice" approach to the relationship from the beginning by establishing a stronger personality for Rosalinda as a TV reality star and social media celebrity who is such a work-aholic that she has become distant from her partner. Eisenstein on the other hand, has developed a habit of "acting out" and playing the bad boy to get her attention but hasn't actually been honest with her about his feelings. Through the course of the practical joke that Falke plays on Eisenstein, the couple is confronted with the true state of their marriage and they learn something about each other and themselves through the story. We are still firmly in the make-believe world of operettas and rom-coms but the new translation raises Rosalinda's character to more of an equal with her husband and it does a better job of explaining the reason for Eisenstein's bad behavior which is not explored in the original. The students and I also struggled with the ableist characterization of the stuttering lawyer, Dr. Blind. We tried to think creatively about his character and came up with a new twist that re-invents the stutter into a completely different communication style. Lastly, this modern production of *Die Fledermaus* includes more diverse representations of gender and sexuality onstage in an effort to be more relatable and relevant to today's audience. I hope that the adaptations to the story and direction have reclaimed the dated story of *Die Fledermaus* for our modern audience so that a whole new generation of opera goers can enjoy the delightful music of Johann Strauss and this wonderful performance by the CWU students.

Synopsis

Act I

Eisenstein and Rosalinda's apartment in Manhattan

Rosalinda, a reality show star and social media celebrity and her assistant, Adele, are preparing for Rosalinda's husband, Eisenstein, to return from his court date. While waiting, Adele receives a text from her cousin, Ida, inviting her to a party being thrown by Prince Orlofsky, the wealthiest of the celebrity scene in NYC. Adele tries to convince her boss to let her off for the night when Alfred, an old flame of Rosalinda's, shows up and tries to seduce her. Eisenstein returns home fit to be tied because his lawyer bungled the case and got his sentence extended by three days. Rosalinda hides Alfred in her bedroom. Just then, Eisenstein and Rosalinda's old friend, Falke, arrives and manages to convince Eisenstein to delay his trip to prison by one night so that they can attend a fabulous cosplay party that evening. Then Falke separately arranges for Rosalinda to disguise herself and catch her cheating husband at the same party. After Adele, Falke, and Eisenstein leave for the night, Rosalinda and Alfred are interrupted by Deputy Tommy Frank who arrests "Eisenstein", who is really Alfred playing along with the ploy to gain points with Rosalinda.

intermission

Act II

Prince Orlofsky's party at a trendy event venue in New York City

Guests are gathering and showing off their costumes at Prince Orlofsky's party when Ida and Adele, now pretending to be an actress named, Eve, Eisenstein, Falke, Orlofsky and Frank all make their appearances in various costumes. The deception continues when Rosalinda enters disguised as a super hero and Eisenstein tries to seduce her in the "Watch Duet." Rosalinda manages to grab Eisenstein's watch during the party as proof of her husband's infidelity. Eisenstein and Frank realize the night is over and that they are both due at the prison (for different reasons) and hastily leave the party.

brief pause

Act III

Sheriff's Office

Alfred is still falsely imprisoned in the jail cell and Frosch, the night guard, is happy to be relieved by Deputy Frank who arrives late. Ida and Adele arrive and Adele confesses that she is not an actress yet, but that she wants to pursue her dream with Frank's help, only to find out that Frank is really a Deputy Sheriff and not a Film Director as he was pretending to be at the party. Rosalinda comes to free Alfred, but when Eisenstein also arrives to turn himself in for his prison sentence, Eisenstein disguises himself as Dr. Blind, the lawyer, and tries to trick Alfred and Rosalinda into admitting their affair. The couple finally open up about their feelings and realize that they have both behaved badly. Rosalinda and Eisenstein reconcile as the rest of the partygoers arrive with Falke and Orlofsky for the conclusion to the Revenge of the Bat prank.

Odds Cast

Thursday April 11, Saturday April 13

Rosalinda	Moira McGregor
Adele	Miranda Wojciechowicz
Gabriel Eisenstein	+Kupono Ling
Alfred	+James Kirkham
Dr. Blind	@Jakob Kennicutt
Dr. Falke	+Nico Benabid
Frank	Sophie Otness
Ida	Camille Brennan
Prince Orlofsky	Anna Grushevskiy
Frosch	*Jaykub Willis
Chorus Ensemble	Corinne Avis, Ashley Both, +Evan Delmendo, +JT Durham, Kailey Henry, @Jakob Kennicutt, Caitlyn Leners, Morgan Lenz, Nicole Loveless, Dallin Millard, Kyra Ross, Samantha Staab, Trevor Stowell, *Jaykub Willis

+final CWU Opera Production

@performs Dr. Blind in Act I & III, ensemble Act II

**performs as Frosch in Act I & III, ensemble Act II*

Evens Cast

Friday April 12, Sunday April 14

Rosalinda	+McKayla Sherman
Adele	+Velia Saldivar
Gabriel Eisenstein	Kupono Ling
Alfred	James Kirkham
Dr. Blind	Jared McDonald
Dr. Falke	Jared Loveless
Frank	Charles 'V' Villanueva
Ida	Camille Brennan
Prince Orlofsky	Sofie Strandjord
Frosch	*Jaykub Willis
Chorus Ensemble	Corinne Avis, Ashley Both, +Evan Delmendo, +JT Durham, Kailey Henry, @Jakob Kennicutt, Caitlyn Leners, Morgan Lenz, Nicole Loveless, Dallin Millard, Kyra Ross, Samantha Staab, Trevor Stowell, *Jaykub Willis

+final CWU Opera Production

**performs as Frosch in Act I & III, ensemble Act II*

Production Crew

Artistic Director	Dr. Gayla Blaisdell
Producer	Dr. Gayla Blaisdell
Conductor	Dr. Nikolas Caolie
Coach/Pianist	Prof. Mia Spencer Dr. Issac Vargas
Assitant Conductor	*Ian Hendscheid
Lighting Designer	Christina Barrigan
Stage Manager	#Morgan Bailey
Assistant Stage Manager	#Luis Anguiano
Set Designer & Construction	Kathleen Beach
Costume Design & Construction	#Moriah Joesephson #Nautica Schoof
Hair/Wigs & Makeup	#Finn Carmault Lexi James
Sound	Allen Larsen #Soren Ludquist

**indicates graduate student*

#indicates CWU Theater Students

Orchestra

Violin I *Aslan Rames
Carmella McCracken
Allion Salvador

Violin II *Ashlyn Crocker
Eliana Cobbs

Viola *Jordan Taylor
Enerida Mendoza
Conall Houston

Cello *Lorenzo Anguiano
Ellis Hasz

Bass *Elliot Matteson

Trumpet *Hunter De Leon

Percussion *Kerensa Newman
Anya DeGroot
Juliana Pearl de Jesus

Piano *Dr. Issac Vargas

**denotes principal*

Special Thanks

CWU Music Department

Mark Goodenberger, Chair

Teresa Larsen

Shannon Martin

Anne Smethurst

Allen Larsen

Nicole LaMartine

CWU Custodial Staff

CWU Theater Department

Christina Barrigan, Chair

Emily Rollie

Kathryn Stahl

Lirit Olyan Pendall and the Costume Shop

David Barnett

Jason Tucholke

CWU Dance Program

Gabrielle McNeillie

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Valley Theater Company

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Susi Lundquist

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Greg Beach

Lydia Blaisdell

Generous Donor

Linda Marra, CWU Emeritus Voice Faculty

View Cast Bios:

sites.google.com/view/diefledermauscastandcrewbios/home

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Music Department Calendar of Events

April 11, 7:00pm	CWU Opera-Die Fledermaus,McConnell Auditorium\$
April 12, 7:00pm	CWU Opera-Die Fledermaus,McConnell Auditorium\$
April 13, 2:00pm	Josh Dequiroz and Bridger Call, Joint Saxophone Recital*
April 13, 6:00pm	Dr. April Kim, Guest Artist Performance*
April 13, 7:00pm	CWU Opera-Die Fledermaus,McConnell Auditorium\$
April 14, 2:00pm	CWU Opera-Die Fledermaus,McConnell Auditorium\$
April 15, 7:00pm	University of North Texas One O’Clock Lab Band Concert+
April 17, 6:00pm	Piano & Composition Studios Collaborative Recital*
April 21, 2:00pm	Alec Chinnery, Horn Recital*
April 21, 4:00pm	Jordan Taylor, Viola Recital*
April 24, 7:00pm	Jazz Band Madness @ CWU Bistro
April 28, 2:00pm	Alyssa Acob, Euphonium Recital*
April 28, 3:00pm	CWU Piano Extravaganza Concert+
April 30, 7:00pm	Voice Studio Recital *
May 5, 2:00pm	Julia McConnachie, Horn Recital*
May 5, 3:00pm	James Kirkham, Voice Recital+
May 5, 6:00pm	Andrew Gomes, Voice Recital*

**All dates and times subject to change. For the most recent
calendar of events, visit www.cwu.edu/music**

* Recital Hall + Wayne S. Hertz Concert Hall \$ Ticketed
Parking is free every weekday after 4:30 p.m. and all day on weekends,
unless otherwise stated.

The Calendar of Events changes frequently.

For the most up-to-date calendar, visit our website at
www.cwu.edu/music or call (509) 963-1216

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