



Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

László Somogyi, Music Director

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

THE MERRY WIDOW

FRANZ LEHAR



Paul White,
Guest Conductor

OPERA THEATRE OF ROCHESTER

Kenneth Follette, *Tenor*

Ruth Bent, *Soprano*

Rochelle Abkowitz, *Soprano*

Leon Baltrus, *Tenor*

January 18, 1969—8:15 PM Eastman Theatre

ROCHESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
THE MERRY WIDOW

OPERA THEATRE OF ROCHESTER

Paul White, *Guest Conductor*

Camille,
a guest

Kenneth Follette, *tenor*

Natalie,
Wife of Ambassador Popoff

Rochelle Abkowitz, *soprano*

Sonia,
The Merry Widow

Ruth Bent, *soprano*

Danilo,
Secretary of the Legation

Leon Baltrus, *tenor*

Waltzing Couple

Gretchen Glover, John Bell

The Scene is Laid in Paris in the Year 1905

This evening's performance presents the best—and strangely the most popular operetta of the twentieth century. The plot (adapted from the comedy *L'attaché d'Ambassade*) is complex and deserves a capsule summary. Within *The Merry Widow*, two main plots are intertwined: the love, concealed for a time, of the harum-scarum Danilo for a rich young Balkan widow, Sonia, whose elderly husband had tactfully died, leaving her in possession of a fortune of twenty million francs which the Balkan embassy in Paris would like to be spent in the fatherland; and the coquetries of Natalie, the flirtatious but cautious wife of the famous Balkan ambassador in Paris, with a young Frenchman, Camille, whom Natalie—"a respectable married woman," as she repeatedly assures Camille and us—disinterestedly designs to scoop up Sonia and her millions.

The enduring fascination of Lehár's music is that his melodies maintain all their lilting graceful lines, while the harmonies back of them consistently evade expectation on the second limb of a phrase.

ACT I
Overture

<i>Introduction</i>	Camille and Natalie
<i>Ball-Music</i>	Orchestra
<i>A Dutiful Wife</i>	Natalie and Camille
<i>In Marsovia</i>	Sonia
<i>Ball-Music</i>	Orchestra
<i>Maxim's</i>	Danilo
<i>Come Away</i>	Danilo and Sonia
<i>Ladies Choice</i>	Natalie
<i>Villa</i>	Sonia

i n t e r m i s s i o n

ACT II

<i>The Cavalier</i>	Sonia and Danilo
<i>March—Women</i>	Orchestra
<i>Merry Widow Waltz</i>	Danilo and Sonia
<i>Love In My Heart</i>	Natalie and Camille
<i>Marriage in the Modern Style</i>	Sonia and Natalie
<i>There Once Were Two Princess' Children</i>	Danilo
<i>I Love You So</i>	Danilo and Sonia

OPERA THEATRE OF ROCHESTER

Opera Theatre of Rochester, now in its sixth season, is Rochester's only community opera. It seeks and encourages talent in and about the vicinity; however, interest in performing with the company has spread to all parts of the county and beyond.

Its production staff: Ruth Y. Rosenberg, General Manager and Producer; David Fetler, Music Director; William Owens and Donald Simpson, Stage Directors; Mildred M. Lipsky, Stage Manager; Evelyn Hirschland, Accompanist; Gretchen Glover, Company Choreographer; and Gerald Rosenberg, Coordinator, have brought to Rochester well-known and well-loved operas as well as less familiar works. It pursues a flexible policy as to language. Having recently presented Mozart's sparkling satire, "Cosi Fan Tutte", in English, it has chosen Puccini's somber drama, "Il Tabarro", to be sung in Italian, coupled with a modern American one-act opera, for its Spring performances.

Assisting with this production . . .

<i>General Manager and Producer</i>	Ruth Y. Rosenberg
<i>Stage Director</i>	Donald Simpson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Evelyn Hirschland
<i>Choreographer</i>	George Francis
<i>Lighting</i>	Merritt Torrey, Jr.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, January 27

**PHILHARMONIC SERIES
TENTH CONCERT**

*László Somogyi, Conducting
Eugene List, Piano Soloist*

Sunday, February 9

3:00 p.m.

MUSIC FOR YOUNG LISTENERS

Samuel Jones, Conducting

Thursday, February 6

**PHILHARMONIC SERIES
ELEVENTH CONCERT**

*László Somogyi, Conducting
Leonid Kogan, Violin Soloist*

Sunday, February 16

Nazareth Arts Center, 4:00 p.m.

MUSICAL SUNDAY AFTERNOON

*László Somogyi, Conducting
Thomas Dumm, Viola Soloist*

Thursday, February 20

**PHILHARMONIC SERIES
TWELFTH CONCERT**

*László Somogyi, Conducting
Tamas Vasary, Piano Soloist*

*All performances begin at 8:15 p.m. in the Eastman Theatre
unless otherwise indicated.*