

Livermore Valley Opera NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo attached

***Strauss Opera "Die Fledermaus" Waltzes into Bankhead Theater
Livermore Valley Opera's Opening Night Gala to Honor War Hero, Former
Mayor of Livermore***

LIVERMORE, CALIF. -- Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will present the well-known opera "Die Fledermaus (The Bat) by the "waltz king" Johann Strauss at the Bankhead Theater, in downtown Livermore. This romantic comedy, performed in English, will be on the following dates:

Opera Weekends

- Saturday Opening Night Gala Tribute to John Shirley: March 13. Gala 5:00pm (separate ticket). Curtain 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 14, 2:00pm Matinee and Family Ice Cream Sunday
- Saturday March 20, 8:00pm
- Sunday March 21, 2:00pm Matinee

"Die Fledermaus is a fun and laughable opera," says Jim Schmidt, LVO's Managing Director. "Because it will be performed in English rather than the traditional German, it's a great opportunity for someone who has never been to opera before. You'll catch all the humor and hilarious antics of the characters."

San Francisco Stage Director David Cox agrees. "It's full of lively music and a witty, humorous plot. But most of all it's a big party. That's all you need to know."

Die Fledermaus is the story of Gabriel von Eisenstein, who through the incompetence of his lawyer, has been sentenced to spend eight days in the town jail. Although the situation is seemingly tragic, Eisenstein, his wife Rosalinda, and their ambitious maid, Adele, have devised their own convoluted plots to get the most out of the situation. At a magnificent ball, Rosalinda works to catch her philandering husband in a flirtatious act, while a drunken jailer, new friends and relationships round out the evening, ending with one of the most famous drinking songs in opera.

Most notable is that Die Fledermaus is known as the work that defined Viennese opera. "The familiar melodies of Die Fledermaus are unmistakably Strauss," adds Schmidt. "If you love waltzes, you'll love the music of Die Fledermaus."

Adding to the hilarity of *Die Fledermaus*' is the performances of soprano Jessica Siena (Rosalinda) and tenor Daniel Ebbers (Eisenstein) who are real-life husband and wife.

"The natural romantic chemistry between these two wonderful singers is so apparent and provides realism to their performance," says Raquel Holt, LVO's Founder and Artistic Director. "It makes the scene at the masquerade ball so much more hilarious when Rosalinda tries to catch Eisenstein flirting with an unknown woman. They play off each other so well."

Joining Mrs. Holt and Mr. Cox in this production is Music Director and Conductor Alexander Katsman. Most of the lead singers come from the greater Bay Area. More information about these artists can be found on the LVO website at www.livermorevalleyopera.org.

Special Events

Opening Night Gala Tribute to John Shirley, March 13

The opening night gala will honor decorated war hero, former Mayor of Livermore, long-time supporter and past LVO president John Shirley. The tribute and gala festivities are open to the public.

The Gala begins at **5:00 p.m. with appetizers and wine**. David Cox and Alexander Katsman will be on hand to meet with patrons and answer questions. The Gala is a **separately ticketed** event for **\$50**. Tickets are available from the Bankhead Theater Ticket Office.

Family Ice Cream Sunday and Behind-the-Scenes walk, March 14

All patrons will receive free ice cream in the lobby during intermission at this matinee performance. After the show, students and their parents will have an opportunity to go on stage and experience what a performer sees while on stage.

Performance & Box Office Location:

Bankhead Theater
2400 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550
Bankhead Ticket Office: 925-373-6800
www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Ticket Pricing

Adults \$29-\$49, Opening Night, March 13. \$39-\$59, March 14, 20, and 21. Students \$10 off on all days.

Pre-performance lecture and receptions

Included in the ticket price is a pre-performance lecture one hour prior to curtain. A traditional artist's reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance. Some performances will feature a public "afterglow" party at a nearby location with complimentary appetizers and a chance to meet the cast and crew.

About LVO

Livermore Valley Opera was founded in 1992, and presents fully-staged operas at Livermore's Bankhead Theater in the spring and fall. This new theater features excellent lines of sight and acoustics, helping the opera to attract talented singers and stage directors for their performances. LVO employs no staff, and is driven by a voluntary board of directors; the company relies on the help of 100+ community volunteers to bring each production to the stage.

Livermore Valley Opera is a community-based 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable arts organization. For more information, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.org.

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Note to Editor: Stage Director David Cox is available for interviews. You may contact him at 415-664-7268.