



Hitchin Thespians

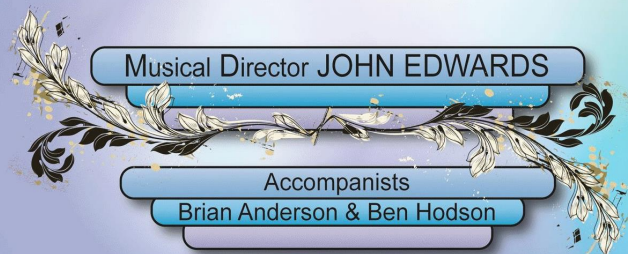
present



Die Fledermaus

in concert

Music by Johann Strauss II
Adaptation by Phil Park and Ronald Hanmer
This amateur production is given by arrangement with
JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD.



Musical Director JOHN EDWARDS

Accompanists

Brian Anderson & Ben Hodson

Friday 17th, Saturday 18th April 2015

Woodside Hall,
Walsworth Rd, Hitchin



OPERETTA COMES TO VIENNA

Three generations of the Strauss family dominated the light music scene in Europe for over a century (1804 - 1934) and by far the most prolific was Johann Strauss the Second (1825 - 1899), often referred to as "The Waltz King".

Following in his father's footsteps he formed his own orchestra at the age of seventeen. A series of successful concerts (including tours of a number of European capitals) soon established him as the elder Strauss's most serious rival.

In the early 1860s Johann Junior was appointed Director of the Imperial Court Balls and it was during this period that most of his famous waltzes were composed - among them "Wine, Women and Song", "Tales from the Vienna Woods" and "The Blue Danube". The charm and wit of his music mirrored the glitter of nineteenth-century Vienna and the most prosperous era of the Hapsburg monarchy. It was once remarked that "Emperor Franz Joseph reigned only until Strauss's death" suggesting the degree to which Vienna's hedonistic spirit found expression through his music.

It was a meeting in 1863 with Jaques Offenbach, the rising French composer of comic opera, which led Strauss to turn his hand to writing for the stage. But only two of his sixteen operettas ("Die Fledermaus" and "The Gipsy Baron") met with any lasting success.

"Die Fledermaus" was premièred on 5th April 1874 at the Theater an der Wien and was an instant hit. In it Strauss transforms Offenbach's Gallic wit and parody into Viennese humour and mock sentimentality with a brilliant musical score which remains as one of the few true masterpieces of classical operetta.

THE CAST

Gabriel von Eisenstein (A gentleman of private means)	Ian Hamilton
Rosalinda (Eisentein's wife)	Gina Abbatt
Dr. Falke (Gabriel's friend, alias "The Bat")	Roger Newman-Turner
Alfred (A singing teacher and Rosalinda's 'old flame')	Kier Home
Adele (Rosalinda's maid)	Nicola Niles
Frank (The Prison Governor)	Andy Johnson
Prince Orlofsky (A wealthy Russian eccentric)	Sera Lowe
Narrator	John Beal

THE CHOIR

Sopranos

Gwenda Beech, Anna Carter, Gill Cheaney, Joanna Chugg, Margaret Coxall, Lesley Greasley, Wendy Hazelwood, Diana Lava, Susan Osbourn, Ann Peacock, Pat Staff, Sheila Soothill, Kate Webb, Jenny Wilson

Altos

Gill Clough, Brenda Cundell, Lilian Dixon, Viv Hamilton, Judith Harrison, Sheila Mole, Jan Nash, Keryle Rutherford, Elizabeth Sturges, Vivienne Tadman, Andrea Thorpe

Tenors

Alan Dickinson, Peter Goff, James Hamilton

Basses

Jonathan Fletcher, Phil Hall, Jack Lardent, Nick Morgan, Keith Mortland, Mike Steele, Peter Steele, Trevor Sturges, Andrew Wyllie

PART ONE

Life is a song	Adele, Alfred & Chorus
What a night	Falke & Gabriel
How sad we are	Rosalinda, Gabriel & Adele
Here's to love	Alfred, Rosalinda, Frank & Chorus
A married couple	Rosalinda, Alfred, Frank & Chorus
My cage is very close at hand	Frank, Rosalinda, Alfred & Chorus
What a feast!	Chorus
Chacun a son gout	Orlofsky & Chorus
Really, Dear Marquis (The Laughing Song)	Adele & Chorus
Homeland	Rosalinda & Chorus
What a charmer (The Tick-Tock Polka)	Gabriel & Rosalinda
Champagne	Principals & Chorus

INTERVAL

PART TWO

Merci, merci, merci

Gabriel, Frank & Chorus

Brother mine

Principals & Chorus

There's never been such a wondrous night!

Principals & Chorus

Won't you sip a glass of wine?

Alfred & Chorus

How can you be so ungallant?

Adele & Chorus

The legal profession

Rosalinda, Alfred & Gabriel

The comedy is ended now

Principals & Chorus



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHORAL MANAGER:	Susan Osbourn
CONCERT MANAGER:	Andy Johnson
REHEARSAL PIANIST:	Ben Hodson
BOX OFFICE MANAGERS:	Nick & Nicki Morgan
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER:	Ann Crook
LIGHTING MANAGER:	Alan Bailes
WARDROBE:	Lynne Leggat
LIBRARIAN:	Jan Nash
STAGING CONSTRUCTION:	Jack Lardent & Andy Johnson
PUBLICITY ARTWORK:	Steve Williamson
PROGRAMME EDITOR:	Susan Osbourn
PROGRAMME PRINTING:	NHC Reprographics Shop
PAGE TURNER:	Sophie Webb



HITCHIN THESPIANS IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Do you enjoy singing, performing or dancing; set design; lighting or sound; props, costume or make-up? If so you will receive a warm welcome at Hitchin Thespians.

The choir rehearse on Tuesday evenings and perform three concerts annually with a varied programme encompassing music from oratorios through to modern musical theatre.

We stage two musical shows each year, typically rehearsing on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. As all parts are cast from Society members you can audition for lead, chorus or dancing roles.

Young Thespians (8 to 16 years old) meet on Sunday mornings and perform one stage musical and one concert each year.

Hitchin Thespians are a friendly and active group and if you would like to join us please contact our Secretary:

email: secretary@hitchinthespians.org.uk

or write to: The Secretary, Hitchin Thespians, Woodside Hall,
Walsworth Rd, Hitchin. SG4 9SP

Woodside Hall can be hired for private functions. For details please visit our website:

www.hitchinthespians.org.uk

or email: woodsidebookings@hitchinthespians.org.uk



HITCHIN THESPIANS

Founded 1902

COMING SOON at Woodside Hall

*Rainbow Connection -
A Young Thespians Production*
20th & 21st June

Summer Concert
16th, 17th, 18th July



Little Shop of Horrors 14th to 17th October



CHRISTMAS
at Woodside

10th, 11th and 12th December 2015

All at Woodside Hall, Walsworth Road, Hitchin

BOX OFFICE

Online: www.hitchinthespians.org.uk

Email: boxoffice@hitchinthespians.org.uk

Tel: 01462 641575

WOODSIDE HALL BOOKINGS

Email: woodsidebookings@hitchinthespians.org.uk

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