



Friday 21 May 2021, 7.30pm

Introduction to Opera: Die Fledermaus

Linnhe Robertson music director/pianist

John Ramster stage director

In their third undergraduate year, the singers are introduced to opera for the first time. Throughout the year, the students work on and perform a role from a reduced version of an opera. The aim of the project for the students is to learn many of the processes needed for work in a professional opera company. This involves music calls (individual and ensemble), staging rehearsals (working with a director), and that all-important final week of stage rehearsals leading up to the performance. In this way, the singers understand the most important element for a successful performance: the learning process. They have the opportunity to discover and explore possibilities of a wide range of approaches and the multi-coloured dimensions of a communicative performer.

Although the opera is greatly reduced, the story line, and therefore the character development, is intact. All the drama and movement classes, plus the repertoire interpretation classes the students have taken in their previous undergraduate years at Guildhall School, come into play in the context of this opera class – a sort of ‘joining up of the dots’ as an artist.

The rehearsal process has been a huge learning curve for these young singers and has set them up for an understanding of the opera world, should they wish to pursue that avenue in their future careers. Rehearsals are spread over many months, two sessions a week, and this year’s project was staged completely on Zoom from January to March. After some swift in-person rehearsals post lockdown, we are all very glad to be able to be in a room together and perform our show for you.

Linnhe Robertson

Artistic and Research Consultant for Opera & Voice

Co-Ordinator of ‘Introduction to Opera’ class

Johann Strauss *Die Fledermaus*

Role (in order of appearance)	Johann Cast	Strauss Cast
Alfredo	Joshua Saunders	Tobias Campos Santinaque
Adele	Elsa Rosengren	Stamatia Tsaroucha
Rosalinda	Josie Lockwood	Manon Ogwen Parry
Eisenstein	Steven van der Linden	Archie Buchanan
Dr Blind	Robert Martin	Robert Martin
Falke	Leif Tse	Charles Broad
Frank	André Soares	Alaric Green
Ida	Stamatia Tsaroucha	Elsa Rosengren
Prince Orlovsky	Aina Miyagi Magnell	Julia Sanchez Merino
Ivan (Prince's valet)	James Leadbeater	Martin Karu
Act 2 Party Performers	James Leadbeater & Martin Karu	James Leadbeater & Martin Karu
Act 2 Party Guests	Charles Broad	Steven van der Linden
	Archie Buchanan	Josie Lockwood
	Tobias Campos Santinaque	Aina Miyagi Magnell
	Alaric Green	Robert Martin
	Robert Martin	Joshua Saunders
	Julia Sanchez Merino	André Soares
	Manon Ogwen Parry	Leif Tse
Prison Officer Frogg (Act 3)	Martin Karu	James Leadbeater

Stage Management

Jack Garner-Green

Qian Yan Tan

Beri Valentine

Monica Zwierzchowska

With thanks to Caroline Moores

Synopsis

ACT I

A very posh area of Vienna:

Outside the Eisensteins' apartment, the tenor Alfredo serenades his old flame Rosalinda, who is now married to Gabriel von Eisenstein. Adele, Rosalinda's chambermaid, wonders how to get the night off to attend a glamorous ball to which her sister has invited her. She concocts an elaborate story and tells her mistress she must visit a sick aunt, but Rosalinda refuses to let her go. Alfredo appears and declares his love to Rosalinda, who resists him until he begins to sing. Hearing someone coming, she sends Alfredo away, but he says he will return. Eisenstein and his lawyer, Blind, arrive back from court: Eisenstein has been sentenced to eight days in jail for striking a police officer and must begin his term that very night. He furiously dismisses Blind. His friend Falke urges Eisenstein to delay going to jail until morning and instead join him at the ball, which is being given by the wealthy Prince Orlofsky. Eisenstein gives in to temptation. They recall a humiliating prank Eisenstein played on Falke years before at a similar ball where Falke was costumed as a bat. Rosalinda joins Adele in a farewell as her husband heads off to 'prison' – but all three are now very excited at their separate secret plans! Rosalinda gives Adele the night off and receives the ardent Alfredo. Their rendezvous is interrupted by the prison warden, Frank, who has come to arrest Eisenstein. Rosalinda persuades Alfredo to preserve her good name by posing as her husband, and Frank carts Alfredo off to jail.

ACT II

Prince Orlofsky's villa. The maid Adele arrives wearing one of Rosalinda's posh dresses. She spots her sister Ida, a ballet dancer, who claims she never invited her but who says she will introduce her as an actress called Olga. Prince Orlofsky is a strange person who never finds anything funny and doubts that Falke's promised evening of pranks and entertainment will brighten his spirits. Eisenstein enters, posing as a French aristocrat per Falke's instructions. Orlofsky distracts Eisenstein by telling him all about his glamorous but humourless life while Falke has the inspiration to send for Rosalinda so she can see her husband's infidelity for herself. Eisenstein immediately identifies Adele as his wife's maid, but she laughs him off. Frank is also under instruction from Falke to pose as a Frenchman, and he and Eisenstein become fast friends. Falke announces a bizarre entertainment by two world famous countertenors. Rosalinda arrives, disguised as a Hungarian countess, and Eisenstein immediately is smitten. When Eisenstein starts flirting with her, she manages to steal his pocket watch. Falke has to relive his humiliation when Eisenstein tells the story of the cruel trick he played on him when Falke was dressed as a bat. They all sing about champagne and love and longing. As the clock strikes six, Eisenstein rushes off to jail.

ACT III

Vienna Prison, run by Warden Frank: a very tipsy Frank goes straight to work from the ball, enraptured by memories of his magical evening, where he flirted with 'Olga' and Ida. He quarrels with his assistant, Prison Warden Frogg. Adele and Ida arrive, per Falke's instructions. Adele hopes Frank might further her stage aspirations. Frank tricks the, and puts them in a cell and then admits Eisenstein, who says he has come to serve his sentence. He is surprised to learn his cell is already occupied by a man who claims to be him, and who was found in his apartment with Rosalinda. Blind arrives, claiming he was summoned by the man in cell 12 to handle a case of false arrest. Determined to get to the bottom of the matter, Eisenstein snatches Blind's cloak, glasses, and wig to disguise himself as the lawyer and confront the impostor. At that moment, Rosalinda tries to secure Alfredo's release and asks 'Blind' to press divorce charges against her errant husband, but is offended when the 'lawyer' seems to take Eisenstein's side. Dropping his disguise, Eisenstein accuses his wife of promiscuity, at which point Rosalinda produces his watch. Falke arrives to gloat over the success of his plan – only to find the couple falling into each other's arms. His plan has backfired! All sing a final song to the joys of champagne.

These performances took place on 12 May (Johann Cast) and 13 May (Strauss Cast) 2021 in Silk Street Music Hall. They were recorded and produced live by Guildhall School's Recording & Audio Visual department.