

LIGHT OPERA OF NEW YORK

Presents



Operetta Favorites: The Golden Age

Music Director: **Stephen Francis Vasta**

Lighting Designer: **Rocky Noel**

Staging: **Cynthia Gowen**

Stage Manager: **Sara Ruderman**

Produced by:

John Odell Behonek and Carol Davis

Performers:

**Peter Büchi, Shana Farr, Colm Fitzmaurice, Megan Friar,
Elizabeth Hillebrand, Richard Holmes, Angela Smith,
John Tiranno**

Wednesday, 16, 2007

The Leonard Nimoy Thalia at Symphony Space

7:30pm

THE PROGRAM

- “So Voll Frohlichkeit” Shana Farr, Angela Smith
Johann Strauss II (1825 - 1899) *Der Zigeunerbaron* (1885)
(English translation: Richard Duployen)
- “An Orphan Since My Early Days” John Tiranno
Johann Strauss II (1825 - 1899) *Der Zigeunerbaron* (1885)
- “Als Geblüht der Kirschenbaum” Megan Friar
Carl Zeller (1842 - 1898) *Der Vogelhändler* (1891)
- “Ich Bin der Prodecan” Colm Fitzmaurice, Richard Holmes
Carl Zeller (1842 - 1898) *Der Vogelhändler* (1891)
- “Adele’s Audition Aria” Elizabeth Hillebrand
Johann Strauss II (1825 - 1899) *Die Fledermaus* (1874)
- “Zwei Märchenaugen” Peter Büchi
Emmerich Kálmán (1882 - 1953) *Der Zirkusprinzessin* (1926)
- “Im Chambre Séparée” - A piano interlude Stephen Vasta
Richard Heuberger (1850 - 1914) *Der Opernball* (1898) arr. Fritz Kreisler
- “Always Do As People Say You Should” Angela Smith
Victor Herbert (1859 - 1924) *The Fortune Teller* (1898)
- “The Yeomen of England” Richard Holmes
Edward German (1832 - 1936) *Merrie England* (1902)
- “Thine Alone” Elizabeth Hillebrand, Peter Büchi
Victor Herbert (1859 - 1924) *Eileen* (1917)

INTERMISSION

Monsieur Choufleuri ... (1861) The complete one-act operetta by Jacques Offenbach (1819 - 1880) in a new English translation by Sigourney B. Romaine, Jr., with assistance from Paula Cianci and Carol Davis. Boy loves girl, girl loves boy, girl’s father dislikes boy, girl & boy hatch an ingenious plan. Gorgeous music and hilariously funny scenes mark this as a comic opera masterpiece.

THE CAST

M. Choufleuri, who is hosting a party Richard Holmes
Ernestine, his daughter Elizabeth Hillebrand
Chrysolule Babylas, Ernestine’s suitor Colm Fitzmaurice
Petermann (a.k.a. Bentley), the valet Peter Büchi
M. Balandard, a party guest John Tiranno
Mme. Balandard, his wife Shana Farr
Other guests at the party Megan Friar, Angela Smith

SPECIAL SURPRISE FINALE

THE PERFORMERS

Peter Büchi has sung with Teatro alla Scala and San Francisco Opera, among many other opera companies, since his debut at age 11 with Central City Opera; plus, New York Philharmonic, Dallas and Miami Symphonies, etc. Multitudes of solo concerts around the world. Two recordings: *An American Voice* and *Tenor Torch Songs*. Current: a Mario Lanza project.

Shana Farr debuted last season as Elsie (Yeomen of the Guard) with NYGASP at City Center. Theater includes Laurey (*Oklahoma*), Hanna Glawari (*Merry Widow*), Mabel (*Pirates of Penzance*), Saphir (*Patience*), all with Village Light Opera Group. Kate Pinkerton (*Madame Butterfly*) with Missouri Symphony Society & Opera at Florham, and roles in *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *De Maupassant's Cheaters*, *Beau Nash*, *After Hours*.

Colm Fitzmaurice's repertoire includes opera, operetta, concert and music theater throughout the US and Europe. Solo concert appearances: One World Symphony (Town Hall.) Aspen Music Festival, Johnstown Symphony (PA), Marion Symphony (IN), South Bay Master Chorale (Los Angeles). Recently heard in Milwaukee Skylight Opera's *Tartuffe* and returning this fall. Other recent performances: Alexis (*Sorcerer*) and Don Luis (*El Barberillo de Lavapiés*) with Light Opera Oklahoma, *Merry Widow* with Chicago Light Opera Works, Count Almaviva with Treasure Coast Opera; Ferrando (*Così*) with Cantiamo Opera, Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with HK Management in New York; and Frederic (*Pirates*) with NYGASP. European debut: Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Paris, 2002. He toured Germany as Tony in *West Side Story*. He has appeared with the Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Virginia (Nanki-Poo) and Dayton (Candide) Operas.

Megan Friar National tour of *Phantom of the Opera*; opera companies including Sarasota, Connecticut, Virginia, Des Moines, Center for Contemporary Opera, NYGASP, the Metropolitan Opera (chorus: *Meistersinger*, *Turandot*). She has sung with the Dave Brubeck Quartet, Mark Morris Dance Group, many orchestras and choirs: Sioux City, Detroit, Jacksonville, Buffalo, Eastern Connecticut, AmorArtis, Musica Sacra. New: a CD of standards, *Songs From The Heart*, with husband Ron Drotos.

Elizabeth Hillebrand Companies/Repertoire: New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players: Josephine (*H.M.S. Pinafore*), Phyllis (*Iolanthe*), Rose Maybud (*Ruddigore*), Yum-Yum (*The Mikado*); Kathie (*The Student Prince*); NY Opera: Adele (*Fledermaus*).

Richard Holmes Principal artist with Glimmerglass, Virginia, Lake George, San Antonio Lyric and El Paso Companies. Guest artist at the Metropolitan Opera. Recently celebrated 25 seasons with the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. Recordings: Vox, Albany, Vanguard, Naxos Records. Just completed a run of *My Fair Lady*, as Henry Higgins, with Natchez Opera.

Angela Smith Operetta Roles: Little Buttercup, *H.M.S. Pinafore*; Ruth, *Pirates of Penzance*, Katisha, *The Mikado*, Queen of the Fairies, *Iolanthe*, Dame Carruthers, *Yeomen of the Guard*, Dancing Sunbeam, *The Rose of Persia*, all with the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. Angela is also a member of the NYGASP "Wand'ring Minstrels."

Buffalo, NY native **John Tiranno** has recently sung with the Connecticut Grand Opera, New York Grand Opera, and Nashville Opera, as well as with the National Academy Orchestra (Hamilton, ON, Canada) and the Philharmonic Orchestra of New Jersey. Mr. Tiranno holds degrees from SUNY Fredonia and West Virginia University.

Stephen Francis Vasta: 25 years as a conductor, vocal coach and keyboardist. Conducting: *Fledermaus*, *Merry Widow* and *Mikado* (Opera Northeast); *Orpheus in the Underworld* as Assistant Professor of Theatre at Ball State University; *Rinaldo* (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville); *Carmen* (Belleayre Festival Opera); Cimarosa's *Il matrimonio segreto* (Berkshire Opera). He recently conducted *Trial by Jury* for the Naples (FL) Opera. Next: *Così*, Brooklyn Repertory Opera, June. Mr. Vasta was chorus master for the NJ Association for Verismo Opera and has assisted prominent conductors (Sarah Caldwell, Anton Coppola). He has made guest concert appearances with the Filharmonie Hradec Kralovec, Czech Republic. Musical theatre: *Damn Yankees* with Jamie Farr at the Cape Playhouse (MA); *Godspell* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; *Camelot* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival; *Best Little Whorehouse...* at Ball State University; *Oh! Coward* off-Broadway in New York; and the 1992-93 international tour of *Peter Pan*. He has also been on the faculty of AMDA since 1993. Mr. Vasta has appeared as a classical accompanist at Weill Recital Hall and the Smithsonian Institution in DC. He has given vocal master classes for the Arkansas chapter of NATS, and was the staff pianist for the International Workshop for Conductors. He is a regular contributor to *Opera News*.

Cynthia Gowen has many years of singing, dancing, acting, choreographing and directing experience in regional and community theater venues across the country and is currently a member of the Blue Hill Troupe. Cynthia has joined with LOONY to stage a recent performance of *Trial by Jury*, as well as tonight's production of *Monsieur Choufleuri*.

Light Opera of New York was incorporated in the summer of 2006 as a professional, non-profit company dedicated to the serious business of producing not-so-serious operetta. Founding principals John Odell Behonek, Carol Davis and Richard J. Miller Jr. have long histories of major involvement with New York area performing arts organizations and are committed to the ideal of producing high-quality operetta, from private events to concerts and fully-staged performances.

An education component will bring operetta to New York City school children and produce workshops for students and for budding performers and seasoned pros looking for a brush-up. Look for an insert in this program if you'd like to be included on our email list or would like to contribute to LOONY in any way.

Our very special thanks to the following for making this concert possible:

Barclay Investments, Inc.	Tom Fenaughty	Norm Keller& Denise Sobol
Phil Bowers	Patrick Fleming	Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Jane Büchi	Lydia & Joe Gladstone	Richard J. Miller, Jr.
Angela Cason	Dorsey Gray	Michael Monheit
Anthony Cockcroft	Don Hauptman	Colin Negrych
Jack Delbé	Katie Holler	Judy Orlando
Wendy Falconer	Thomas Houlihan	Susan Prince
Elizabeth Ross	Judith Weis	Lisa Reeves
Pricilla Reeves	Rochelle & Jesse Shereff	Tarjen/Mahlin
Ron Romaine	John Tomlinson	Louise Wheeler
		Jerry Zieselman

And a very special thanks for their above and beyond help to:

Lloyd Arriola	Paula Cianci	Nathan Hull
Sigourney B. Romaine, Jr.	Richard Duployen	Norm Keller
Deborah Shull	Larry Garvin	Randy Lindel
Katie Holler		Justine Repaci

LOONY would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of Frank Wolpin, a great operetta lover - and a great friend.