

Die Fledermaus

JOHANN STRAUSS | 1874

This operetta was composed in 42 days by Austrian composer Johann Strauss. Initially unsuccessful, it started being appreciated by the audience around the year 1904. It is famous for its refined and innovative musical score and gives glorious moments such as the festive overture and the waltz of the second act.



Caroline Bleau (Rosaline) and Marc Hervieux (Gabriel) in *Die Fledermaus*
© Yves Renaud, 2013

MAIN CHARACTERS

Gabriel von Eisenstein (tenor)

Rosalinda, his wife (soprano)

Adele, Rosalinda's maid (soprano)

Ida, Adele's sister (soprano)

Alfred, singing teacher (tenor)

Dot. Falke, a notary (baritone)

Dot. Blind, an attorney (tenor)

Frank, prison governor (baritone)

Prince Orlofsky, Russian prince (mezzo-soprano o contralto.)

Frosch, prison guardian (spoken part)

THE PLOT

The action takes place during a fancy dress party held in Vienna. Doctor Falke is plotting his revenge on his friend Eisenstein, who is the unfaithful spouse of poor Rosalinde and who ridiculed the doctor in the past by forcing him to walk around the city dressed up as a bat. He invites Eisenstein to a fancy party at Russian prince Orlofsky's, where he plans to set him up with his own wife disguised as a Hungarian woman.

Act 1

Impulsive and jealous Gabriel von Eisenstein is crying over his extended punishment of 8 days in prison following an altercation with a public officer. His wife Rosalinde takes advantages of it to spend time alone with her singing teacher/lover Alfred. Meanwhile, Rosalinde's maid Adele, manages to obtain a night off she will use to go to the party. On the other hand, Doctor Falke invites Gabriel to the party and suggests he could go to prison the next morning. Once Adele, Eisenstein and Falke have left for the party, Alfred enters. Following a massive misunderstanding, prison director Franck mistakes the man for Rosalinda's spouse and takes him to prison.

Act 2

At Orlofsky's, Franck makes friend with Eisenstein who believes to have spotted maid Adele who, in turn, mocks him for mistaking such elegant a woman for a maid, thus saving herself from being unmasked. Falke introduces to the guests a mysterious Hungarian countess – Rosalinda in disguise- and Eisenstein, who instantly falls in love with her, tries to seduce her. Before the party is over and all the attendees gone, the woman manages to nick a watch Eisenstein was blatantly showing to her, she plans to use it as a proof of her husband's unfaithfulness.

Act 3

Back at the prison, Franck is way beyond tipsy and finds guardian Frosch in pretty much the same state. Adele enters, seeking for Franck's aid. All masks are gone when Gabriel and Rosalinda enter, to serve his time and set Alfred free, respectively. It's a big mess but, as everyone is guilty, it is all eventually resolved and end up in joy and champagne.

MUSIC - OPERA .COM

reservation@music-opera.com

+33(0)1 53 59 39 29

16 rue Bleue – 75009 PARIS - France