

Der Rosenkavalier

RICHARD STRAUSS / 1911

SUNG IN GERMAN
APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME: 200 minutes

The incomparable beauty of this opera 'score, composed by Richard Strauss to a libretto by prominent Austrian poet Hoffmanstahl, is considered to be one of the most groundbreaking achievement of the lyrical 20th century German scene. The opera contains arias composed for female voices whose magnificence has hardly been replicated.

Der Rosenkavalier is an absolute masterpiece in which finesse and subtleness compete in a nonreplicable fashion.



Anke Vondung - Octavian
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MAIN CHARACTERS

Die Feldmarschallin Fürstin Werdenberg, Marshallin (Soprano)

Der Baron Ochs auf Lerchenau, Baron (Basso)

Octavian, Marschallin's young lover (Mezzo)

Herr von Faninal, rich merchant who has just acquired a noble title (Baritone)

Sophie, his daughter (Soprano)

Valzacchi, Conspirator (Tenor)

Annina, his accomplice (Contralto)

A singer (Tenor)

A notary (Basso)

THE PLOT

The opera is set in 18th century Vienna and rotates around the tormented love story between two youngsters whose engagement is threatened by former guy's mistress Marschalin.

Act 1

Following a passionate night of love, the Marschallin and her young lover Octavian watch the day dying from the bed they're lying in when her cousin, Baron Ochs, suddenly steps in, Octavian is quickly on the move and manages to dress up as a maid saving his own life. Ochs went to see her cousin seeking for advices. He is looking for a knight, suitably honourable, to give his beloved a silver rose, as tradition requires. Marschallin suggests Octavian gave young Sofia the silver rose and Ochs leaves to go to the notary. Alone in the house, Marschallin is overwhelmed with sadness, she starts to notice the time passing by and realises young Octavian would give her up with no second thought should he find a pretty young girl.

Act 2

Octavian enters Faninal's house and upon living the rose to young Sofia the two fall in love with each other. Baron Ochs goes to Faninal's to claim what he knows it's his but his rudeness scares young Sophie who begs Octavian to protect her. When Ochs learns about the feelings his future spouse has for Octavian, he flies into a rage and challenges Octavian to a duel. Mr Faninal, fearing this whole situation might jeopardise the wedding, finally kicks poor Octavian out and threat to send his daughter to a convent should she change her mind about Ochs. The latter is joined by Annina who gives him a letter from the maid-Octavian.

Act 3

Octavian cannot accept his demise and, aided by two cunning Annina and Valzacchi, plots to get back at Ochs. He dresses up as the maid and invites Ochs at hers, where an alleged former wife with Ochs'alleged son came in; the mess is served. Marschallin intervenes and after working out the whole situation invites her cousin to leave and takes Faninal away so to leave the two youngsters alone.

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