

# Savoyardage

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON SAVOYARDS, LTD.

## Die Fledermaus, or, The Bat

by Johann Strauss, Jr  
Sung in English

July 20, 27, 28 at 7:30pm

July 21, 22, 29 at 3:00pm

at the UW Music Hall



Poster Art by Ingrid Kallick

### Die Fledermaus, or The Bat

by Johann Strauss II

Join us in celebrating our 55th anniversary with a comical tale of playful deceptions, enveloped in the Viennese melodies of Johann Strauss II. Sung in English, with comic libretto based on W.S. Gilbert's play, *On Bail*.

**7:30pm July 20, 27, 28**

**3:00pm July 21, 22, 29**

**at UW Music Hall**

Directed by J. Adam Shelton

Music Direction by Kyle Knox

#### Ticket Prices:

\$30 - General

\$28 - Seniors

\$15 - Students / Youth

\$5 - Children 5 or under

\$1/ticket Campus Arts fee

\$4/ticket convenience fee for

purchases via phone or website

**ASL Service** is available for the July 21 performance. To request, email [madison.savoyards@gmail.com](mailto:madison.savoyards@gmail.com) by July 14

#### To Buy Tickets:

Campus Arts Ticketing: **265-2787**

In person: Memorial Union or Vilas Hall Box Offices

Online via: **madisonsavoyards.org**

Discounts available for groups of 10 or more (\$25 / each) must be purchased in-person or over the phone at 265-2787

**Postshow Talkbacks:** stay after the show for a discussion of the show and W.S. Gilbert's play, *On Bail*. **July 20 and 21**

#### 4th annual Children's Pre-show

Sunday, July 22 at 1pm FREE!

Meet our performers, hear a summary of the *Fledermaus* story, and get a backstage tour! For children 12 and under; RSVP to [madison.savoyards@gmail.com](mailto:madison.savoyards@gmail.com)

#### FREE Preview Concerts!

Oakwood Village West:  
6209 Mineral Point Road, Madison  
Friday, June 29, 7:00pm

Hilldale Shopping Center  
726 Midvale Blvd, Madison

Saturday, July 7, 1:00 to 3:00pm

Capitol Lakes

333 W. Main Street, Madison

Friday, July 13, 7:00pm

**See us** Backstage with Bruno at the 4pm hour on News 3, Friday, July 13!

Like us on Facebook or join our email list and keep up to date with other special events!



Costume Design by Rebecca Stanley

## Meet Our Featured Cast



**Erin K. Bryan** was Josephine in our 2017 *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and returns this year as Rosalinda. Erin is a recent graduate of the UW-Madison School of Music, and currently teaches at Central College in Pella, IA.



**Nick Kaplewski** plays Alfred, an old flame of Rosalinda's who is still smitten with her. We last saw Nick on our stage as a Gondolier in 2016, promoting equality across the social classes.



**Tim Rebers** is Gabriel von Eisenstein, Rosalinda's husband. Tim is a Milwaukee native and has performed with Florentine Opera, Skylight Music Theatre, and Milwaukee Opera Theatre.



**Benjamin Swanson** is studying vocal performance at UW-Whitewater. He plays Eisenstein's friend, Dr. Falke, who convinces his friend to attend a lavish ball and plots light-hearted revenge for a past practical joke.



**Michelle Buck** is Adele, Rosalinda's ambitious chambermaid who attends the same ball as her employers. Michelle is a native of Elburn, IL, and currently resides in Berlin, Germany.



**Kirsten Larson** was most recently on our stage in 2017 as Cousin Hebe, and returns to Madison this year as a Madison Opera Studio Artist. She is our eccentric Prince Orlofsky, the host of the ball.

### Die Fledermaus and the Gilbert & Sullivan Connection

by Peter Gascoyne, Treasurer

*Die Fledermaus* is one of the most celebrated operettas of all time, and one of the distinct highlights of Johann Strauss II's extraordinary career. The story is based on *Le Réveillon*, a three-act play written in 1872 by Henri Meilhac and Ludovica Halevy, centering around the 19th century French tradition of breaking a daylong fast with a festive meal following Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. But Strauss wasn't the only one to borrow from *Le Réveillon*.

In 1873, W.S. Gilbert was a comedy playwright of considerable renown. He had collaborated with Arthur Sullivan two years before in the production of *Thespis* (a show the Madison Savoyards has never presented because Sullivan's original score completely disappeared decades ago). But the two were not yet an established team: that would have to wait until Richard D'Oyly Carte combined them for *Trial by Jury* in 1875. But in 1873 Gilbert was in the midst of what was described as a "mini-career" translating foreign works, one of which was *Le Réveillon*. However, Gilbert shortened the work by removing the masked ball scene, for fear it was too bawdy and risqué. The result was the two-act farce *Committed for Trial*, which opened at the Globe Theater in January 1874, three months before the premiere of *Die Fledermaus*.

Several years later Gilbert was commissioned by Charles Wyndham, the star and manager of the Criterion Theater to expand the play, and to re-insert the masked ball scene since, as *The Times* put it, "everyone knew what had been omitted anyway." Wyndham was regarded by many, including George Bernard Shaw and Oscar Wilde, as the foremost actor of modern comedy. The result was *On Bail*, a three-act play that opened in February 1877, and ran for about five weeks. Wyndham wanted to advertise the play as an original work, but Gilbert insisted, successfully, that it be labelled an adaptation.

*From our President:*

*How engaging,  
how exciting,  
how adorably inviting!*

**...is our 55th summer production of *Die Fledermaus*!**

We have been working diligently to prepare this outstanding show! We're taking you into the near future to meet our romantically stale couple, Eisenstein and Rosalinda, who fall prey to a comedy of errors orchestrated by Dr. Falke. The tangled web involves a masquerade ball, a Hungarian countess, ballet dancers, and a Russian prince played by a woman. In the end, they learn to love again, but not without breaking the heart of a foppish tenor in the process. And let us not forget W.S. Gilbert, whose play, *On Bail*, inspires our English translation! (With some local humor as well!)

Each summer we engage some of the finest local talent both on and off stage. We will see **costume design by Rebecca Stanley** that will surely knock your socks off while **Kristin Roling's choreography** will make you want to get up and dance. **Kyle Knox returns to music direct**. In the 55 years Madison Savoyards has existed, I guesstimate we have employed over 1000 artisans who have given much of their time, talents, and energy to this company. If you are one of them who helped us make it to this point, thank you for your hard work and dedication. Madison Savoyards would not exist without these folks and their craft.

Additionally, it is exciting to think of the thousands of folks who have donated to Madison Savoyards from across the globe! None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors past and present who believe in the mission and vision of the

company. As public funding for the arts is reduced, donor contributions become increasingly more important. I am truly grateful to our granting organizations for their generosity and assistance. I am even more grateful to **Aimee Broman** who has led our grant writing efforts, and submitted several successful grant applications on our behalf. When you see her this summer, please extend your congratulations for all of her diligence!

We're excited to feature students from the **Central Midwest Ballet Academy** in our second act ballet, and hope this is the first of many collaborations together. We're also excited to try something new this year while remaining dedicated to performing comedic musical works in English! While we commonly think of Gilbert & Sullivan as an exclusive duo, we sometimes forget the additional jobs they performed to pay the bills. Sullivan composed hymns, operas, and symphonic works outside of the 14 collaborations with W.S. Gilbert. Moreover, Gilbert's plays, burlesques, and theatrical translations are rife with his unique wit and wordplay which we know and love from the works with Sullivan. We chose to perform *Fledermaus* with his translation as a celebration of our past and a potential bridge to our future.

I invite you to plan a night at the theatre with us and help us celebrate our 55-year heritage of music-making and theatre in Madison! Donations and ticket sales combined give us the ability to continuously support hundreds of musicians. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page for some fun video interviews with our cast and crewmembers!

**Happy 55th Anniversary and here's to 55 more,**

*Dr. J. Adam Shelton*

**Thank you to our Granting Organizations!**

Madison Savoyards is a proud and grateful recipient of grant awards from the **Wisconsin Arts Board, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, and Madison Arts Commission!** These boards are publically funded entities supporting and promoting arts and culture here in the State of Wisconsin, Dane County, and the City of Madison. Their support allows us to continue our legacy of presenting full lyric productions of Gilbert and Sullivan and other light opera to our community, engaging local artists, and educating our patrons on the joys of light opera! We are excited to partner with them again this year for our 2018 production of *Die Fledermaus*.



The Madison Savoyards, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 1612  
Madison, WI 53701-1612

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**Madison Savoyards, Ltd. Donation Form**

**Yes, I wish to ensure more Madison Savoyards productions** at the following level:

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Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Madison Savoyards, Ltd.**

Mail your check and this form to: **P.O. Box 1612, Madison, WI 53701-1612**

Madison Savoyards is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible to extent allowed by law. Contributors will be acknowledged in the program and online, unless otherwise requested.

**Thank you for your contribution!**

**Order your copy of our 2017 H.M.S. Pinafore:**

In addition to my charitable contribution, I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ DVDs (\$20 each) of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. All prices include sales tax; please add \$5 for shipping. See [madisonsavoyards.org](http://madisonsavoyards.org) for more information.