

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Department of Music



CONTACTS:

Adriane Hill
Marketing and Communications Manager
(805) 893-3230
adrianehill@ucsb.edu
music.ucsb.edu

Rick Stockwood
Communications and Marketing Manager
UCSB Library
(805) 893-4261
stockwood@ucsb.edu
www.library.ucsb.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / January 30, 2019

UC SANTA BARBARA LIBRARY AND OPERA THEATRE PRESENT NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF FRANZ LEHÁR'S *THE MOCK MARRIAGE (DIE JUXHEIRAT)*

UC Santa Barbara to present Franz Lehár's rarely performed 1904 women's suffrage operetta at historic Lobero Theatre

Santa Barbara, CA (January 30, 2019)—In an unprecedented collaboration, UC Santa Barbara Library and Opera Theatre will present the North American premiere of Franz Lehár's 1904 women's suffrage operetta, *The Mock Marriage* (Die Juxheirat), on Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17, 2019 at the historic Lobero Theatre in downtown Santa Barbara. Both performances of the operetta—which was selected from UC Santa Barbara Library's Michael and Nan Miller Operetta Archive—will be performed in English by graduate and undergraduate students from the award-winning UC Santa Barbara Opera Theatre program.

Set in Newport, Rhode Island amongst the well-to-do of American society, Lehár's *Mock Marriage* remains particularly relevant amidst the rise of the Me Too movement in recent years, particularly for its focus on women's rights and the growing feminist movement in the early twentieth century. The plot revolves primarily around Selma, the recently-widowed daughter of US billionaire Thomas Brockwiller. Disillusioned by her marital experience, she vows to never marry again and establishes a feminist organization, "Los vom Manne" or "Get away from all men," with her friends Edith, Phoebe, and Euphrasia. Her father, unwilling to let her remain unmarried for long, attempts to arrange a marriage with his business associate, Harold von Reckenburg, which Selma promptly refuses. The plot thickens when Harold's twin sister, Juliane, decides to trick Selma into marrying her brother with a complicated scheme involving cross-dressing and manipulation of Selma's steadfast devotion to her feminist principles. Hilarity ensues as unexpected twists and turns in Juliane's plan result in Selma marrying a man whom she thinks is a woman, who is, in fact, Harold von Reckenburg. In the end, Selma has the final say in her marital status, choosing to stay with Harold, who ultimately embraces her strength and independence.

After its premiere at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna, Austria in December of 1904, the production ran for 39 performances but was quickly overshadowed by Lehár's wildly popular *Merry Widow* in 1905.

Following its initial run in Vienna, *The Mock Marriage* was not staged again until 2016, when it was produced for the Lehár Festival in Bad Ischl, Austria.

The creative team for UC Santa Barbara's production will be led by Director Steven Daigle, Professor of Opera and Artistic Director for Eastman Opera Theatre at the Eastman School of Music, along with UC Santa Barbara faculty members Benjamin Brecher (Producer), Maxim Kuzin (Conductor), and Isabel Bayrakdarian (Music Preparation). Yuki Izumihara, who has worked on productions for the New World Symphony, Miami Music Festival, and San Diego Opera, will serve as Set Designer, Jennifer Phillips as Choreographer, Stacie Logue as Costume Designer, and Theodore Michael Dolas as Lighting Designer. The cast will feature both graduate and undergraduate students from the UC Santa Barbara Voice Program, including graduate students Hailey Atwell (Selma), Tyler Reece (Harold von Reckenburg), Kelly Newberry (Juliane von Reckenburg), Byron Mayes (Philly Kaps), Naomi Merer (Miss Phoebe), Christy Peterson (Miss Edith), Julie Davies (Miss Euphrasia), and Steven Thomson (Huckland/Sheriff/Chorus), as well as undergraduates Alexandria Jackson (The Butler/Chorus), Terra Giddens (Maid/Miss Euphrasia cover), Aldo Navarette (Footman, Captain Arthur cover), and chorus members Seryne Aryeh, Megan Ashley, Violet Joy Hansen, Alexandra Lopez, Lindsay Ray, Soo Hyun Ryu, and Summer Scott. The UC Santa Barbara Opera Theatre students will be joined by Los Angeles-based vocalists E. Scott Levin (Thomas Brockwiller) and Thomas Segen (Captain Arthur), as well as Department of Music alumnus Byron Wu (Colonel Summers/General).

Both performances will be dedicated to the memory of UC Santa Barbara Professor Emeritus Carl Zytowski, who established the choral and opera programs at UC Santa Barbara in the 1960s.

CREATIVE TEAM

Steven Daigle, Director
Benjamin Brecher, Producer
Maxim Kuzin, Conductor
Isabel Bayrakdarian, Music Preparation
Jennifer Phillips, Choreographer
Yuki Izumihara, Set Designer
Theodore Michael Dolas, Lighting Designer
Stacie Logue, Costume Designer
Todd Jared, Technical Director (Lobero Theatre)
Lorely Dedrick, Stage Manager
Anthony Garcia, Assistant Stage Manager
Heather Sterling, Hair and Makeup Designer
Jane Hatfield, Costume Design Assistant/Wardrobe Head
Mandee Madrid-Sikich and Asher Severini, Rehearsal Pianists
Zack Guiler, Set Builder

CAST

Thomas Brockwiller, E. Scott Levin
Selma, Hailey Atwell
Captain Arthur, Thomas Segen
Miss Phoebe, Naomi Merer
Miss Edith, Christy Peterson
Miss Euphrasia, Julie Davies (Terra Giddens, cover)
Harold von Reckenburg, Tyler Reece
Juliane von Reckenburg, Kelly Newberry
Philly Kaps, Byron Mayes
Huckland/Sheriff, Steven Thomson
Colonel Summers/General, Byron Wu
Butler, Alexandria Jackson

Maid, Terra Giddens

Footman, Aldo Navarette

Chorus: Seryne Aryeh, Megan Ashley, Violet Joy Hansen, Alexandria Jackson, Alexandra Lopez, Lindsay Ray, Soo Hyun Ryu, Summer Scott, Steven Thomson

EVENT LISTING

UC Santa Barbara Library and Opera Theatre present Franz Lehár's *The Mock Marriage*

Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 8 pm

Sunday, February 17, 2019 at 2 pm

Lobero Theatre (33 E Canon Perdido St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101)

TICKETS

Reserved seating is available for \$35 for the general public, \$13 for non-UCSB students with ID, and \$8 for UCSB students with ID and children under 12 years of age. Tickets are available at lobero.org or by calling (805) 963-0761 or 1-888-456-2376. Ticket prices include a per ticket Lobero Facility Fee; other fees may also apply.

MORE INFORMATION

music.ucsb.edu/news/event/1783

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at music.ucsb.edu.

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA LIBRARY

The UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) Library sits at the crossroads of campus and serves as the hub of intellectual and cultural activity for more than 2.75M visitors annually. The UCSB Library maintains an interdisciplinary research collection of over three million print volumes, unique manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, maps, and online collections that support UCSB academic programs and scholars around the globe. Meeting the needs of 21st-century researchers, the UCSB Library offers a growing digital collection and digital services that support digital scholarship and curation. The UCSB Library is part of the prestigious University of California Library system, comprising the largest university research library in the world. www.library.ucsb.edu

###