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03/31

**POCKET OPERA**  
Presents



**JOHANN STRAUSS II**  
**Die Fledermaus**

Original German libretto by  
Karl Haffner and Richard Genée

English Version by  
**Donald Pippin**

**March 19, 2023 | 2:00 pm**  
Hillside Club, Berkeley

**March 26, 2023 | 2:30 pm**  
Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

**April 2, 2023 | 2:00 pm**  
Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco

*We would like to dedicate this performance  
of Die Fledermaus to the memory of*

**Anne Cobey Spencer**

*August 2, 1928 - March 17, 2023*

### A special Pocket Opera Thank You to:

Masquers Playhouse  
John Hull  
Heinz Langford  
Lamplighters Music Theatre  
Melissa Wortman  
Miriam Lewis



### Special thanks from Stage Director Madeline Abel-Kerns

*I am particularly grateful to Pocket Opera's General Director  
Nicolas A. Garcia for coaxing me back into the director's  
chair and welcoming me with such open arms;  
to my mentor Albert Sherman,  
stage director and friend extraordinaire;  
and especially to our dear Donald Pippin  
who hand-picked us, nurtured us,  
challenged us, and believed in us,  
perhaps even before we believed in ourselves.*

### CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

*We would like to acknowledge the crucial role that these generous organizations  
play in the well-being of Pocket Opera*

San Francisco Grants for the Arts · Frank A. Campini Foundation  
Marin Community · National Endowment for the Arts  
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*We would like to express our  
enormous gratitude to the generous  
Anonymous Angel who gave a \$40,000  
Matching Grant for our 2022 Midyear Appeal*

*Thank you*

### LEGACY GIVING

Have you thought about including Pocket Opera in your tax or estate planning? Over the years, a number of farsighted patrons have been moved to support Pocket Opera beyond buying tickets and writing annual checks. In good years this additional backing has enabled expansion of our programming; in lean years it has proved crucial to survival!

Here are ways you can help ensure the company's financial health now and in the future:

- ◇ Remember Pocket Opera in your will, living trust, or other estate planning instrument.
- ◇ Donate appreciated stock or other securities to Pocket Opera, perhaps with a substantial tax benefit to you.
- ◇ Designate Pocket Opera as a beneficiary in your IRA, retirement account, or life insurance policy.
- ◇ Of course, you should consult with your legal and/or tax advisor to determine what strategy is best for you.

*For more information, feel free to contact us at [info@pocketopera.org](mailto:info@pocketopera.org), or call 415-972-8930*

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## THE ELSEWHERE FOUNDATION

While attempting to raise money for the 1983 season, Pocket Opera's management continually received polite declines, suggesting that they look "elsewhere" for funding. So, they looked to long-time loyal supporters, the audience, for assistance and ... The Elsewhere Foundation was born!

The Elsewhere Foundation members listed here have made gifts of \$250 or more to Pocket Opera between January 2022 and March 2023. They receive priority seating at all performances, advance season notice, invitations to VIP events and, of course, **our gratitude**.

### Individuals Giving \$10,000+

The Vance E. Carney Trust  
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Anonymous

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While we endeavor to keep our records correct and current, we apologize for any mistakes.

If you notice an error in our records, please let us know: [info@pocketopera.org](mailto:info@pocketopera.org)

JOHANN STRAUSS II

# Die Fledermaus

Rosalinde ..... Cheryl Cain  
Eisenstein ..... Patrick Hagen  
Adele ..... Melissa Sondhi  
Alfred ..... Kevin Gino  
Doctor Falke ..... Liam Daley  
Prince Orlofsky ..... Leandra Ramm  
Frank ..... Jonathan Spencer  
Ida ..... Maria Caycedo  
Frosch ..... Michael Mendelsohn  
Blind ..... Eric Mellum  
Melania ..... Alondra Orellana  
Hermine ..... Caroline Flett  
Renusie ..... Ben Sasnett

Music Director ..... Paul Dab  
Stage Director ..... Madeline Abel-Kerns  
Production Stage Mgr. .... Chase Kupperberg  
Costumes Coordinator ..... Taurean Feaster  
Properties -  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Daniel Yelen  
Orchestra Contractor ..... Nicola Gruen

## POCKET PHILHARMONIC

Violin I ..... Sarah Biagini  
Violin II ..... Nicola Gruen  
Viola ..... Patrick Kroboth  
Cello ..... Gabriel Beistline  
Bass ..... Alexandria Kelley  
Flute/Piccolo ..... Diane Grubbe  
Oboe ..... Jon Arneson  
Clarinet ..... Lawrence London  
Bassoon ..... Robert Todd  
Trumpet ..... Kenneth Olson  
Piano ..... Paul Dab

Act 1: 60 minutes

*20-minute Intermission*

Acts 2 & 3: 85 minutes

This production is made possible by  
the generous and ongoing support from



## A message from the General Director

To Our Beloved Audience,

Pocket Opera is thrilled to welcome you back to another season of live theater! We kick off the year with one of my personal favorite operettas, Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. Audiences always love the catchy tunes and comedic romp of this mainstay of the operatic repertoire. But our particular production has even more to recommend it.

Our stage director is the incomparable Madeline Abel-Kerns. Many of you will remember Madeline from her time onstage and directing past Pocket productions. In fact, over twenty-five years ago, Madeline was the director for *The Tales of Hoffmann*, which was my very first time performing in the chorus at Pocket—actually, my first professional opera gig ever. Madeline essentially created the Pocket Opera directing style: efficient, minimal, with a great respect for both the music and the English text. I am delighted to have her back after more than two decades away.

Conversely, we have a brilliant young music director joining us for the first time. Paul Dab brings his talent as a collaborative pianist, his deep love of working with singers, and his focused attention to bringing out all the colors and details in the score with our Pocket Philharmonic. Paul has been a delight to work with, and I know we'll be seeing more of him at Pocket Opera.

Similarly, in this production we have cast and orchestra members who have been in dozens of Pocket shows dating back to the 80s, and five singers and four instrumentalists making their Pocket Opera debut! It's exciting to anchor Pocket in our traditions, while pushing forward into a new era of making art.

Lastly, this year we say goodbye to our longtime Orchestra Contractor, Diana Dorman, who has retired. Diana has been with Pocket for decades, and we are sure you'll still see her in the audience, enjoying a show. We welcome Nicola Gruen as our new Orchestra Contractor with this, her inaugural show in the role.

Now, please sit back and delight in the pleasure that is live theater here at Pocket Opera!



NICOLAS A. GARCIA

### Chung-Wai Soong *General Manager*

Chung-Wai's extensive repertoire includes world premieres by David Chesworth (*Sabat Jesus*); Lisa Bielawa's groundbreaking opera, *Vireo*; Elijah (Meira Warshauer's *Elijah's Violin*). Concert soloist in works of Bach, Fauré, Mozart, Dvořák, Berlioz, Handel, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* under Kurt Masur, also performed at Ojai Festival with Jeremy Denk. Operatic roles include Mityukha (*Boris Godunov* - San Francisco Symphony), Erster Nazarener (*Salome*), Sadistic Sailor (*Breaking the Waves*), Melchior (*Amahl and the Night Visitors* - Hawaii Opera Theatre), Un vieux paysan (*Ariane et Barbe Bleue* - West Edge Opera). Upcoming engagements include Marco (*Gianni Schicchi* - Hawaii Opera Theatre), and Chamberlain (*Le Rossignol* - West Edge Opera).

## A Pocket Magic Flute

Our work continues on an exciting, groundbreaking project, Pocket Opera's animated/live-action hybrid program. We have completed filming of the live-action sequences and are nearly halfway through the animation process. Our youth orchestra recorded the score in February, and our team is hard at work on the study guides that will accompany this educational program.



Set in Africa, this retelling of Mozart's masterpiece features an all-Black cast, and a predominantly Black (and largely female) creative team.

We are incredibly grateful to the **National Endowment for the Arts**, **Opera America**, and our **Lead Sponsor Ruth Reznikoff** for their support of this project.

If you would like more information about this project, including ways to sponsor it, please contact Nicolas A. Garcia at [nicolas@pocketopera.org](mailto:nicolas@pocketopera.org)

## PRODUCTION STAFF

### **Chase Kupperberg** *Stage Manager*

Chase Kupperberg is so glad to be back with Pocket Opera for another season! Chase was most recently costumer for The Pear Theatre's productions of *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea* and their original adaptation of *Frankenstein*. After *Fledermaus*, they will be stage managing Lamplighters Music Theatre's production of *By Georges!*, a completely new light opera. Following that, they will be back for Pocket Opera's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Tosca*. They are unendingly thankful for the opportunities Pocket Opera provides and to the complete support of their family, most notably their father and sisters.

### **Taurean Feaster** *Costumes Coordinator*

Taurean Feaster has been involved with several small theater companies in San Francisco for nearly 20 years, after a theater production internship at City College of San Francisco. She has been most happy doing costume, assisting the three loveliest people/mentors she has met: Maria Graham, Cozette Cravens, and Miriam Lewis. She thanks Pocket Opera for so many opportunities and memories and wishes to honor Jose Leiva and Rey Carolino who never let a year go by without a show...or two...or three....

### **Daniel Yelen** *Properties—Assistant Stage Manager*

Daniel started his theatrical career in the chorus of Oakland Opera's *The Magic Flute* over three decades ago. From the beginning he couldn't help meddling with props, or applying needle and thread to costume pieces. He has performed, designed, built, sewn, and provided technical support for many Bay Area stages, including Lamplighters Music Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre, The Mountain Play, The San Francisco Mime Troupe, and A.C.T. Daniel has been prop designer for more than 80 Pocket Opera productions since 2003, and he hopes to get the hang of it soon.

### **Nicola Gruen** *Orchestra Contractor*

Nicola first performed violin in Pocket Opera with Donald Pippin while a UC Berkeley undergraduate. She studied violin performance at the Royal Academy of Music and performed for several years in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony and English National Ballet and on film soundtracks such as Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge*. After freelancing for ten years on the East Coast, Nicola returned to the Bay Area in 2012 and has been performing regularly with Pocket Opera and regional orchestras. When she's not performing, Nicola works full time in gifts and endowments at the University of California.

## LEADERSHIP STAFF

### **Nicolas A. Garcia** *General Director*

Nicolas began his career with Pocket Opera over twenty five years ago in the chorus of *Tales of Hoffmann*. Since then he has gone on to perform many roles with many companies throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Nicolas began his directing career fifteen years ago, again, right here at Pocket Opera. Over those years, he worked as Assistant Director at Opera San José, Michigan Opera Theatre, and for several productions at San Diego Opera. In 2017 he worked at the Royal Swedish Opera as Associate Director on their production of *La Cenerentola*.



## ARTIST PROFILES



### **Cheryl Cain** *Rosalinde*

Cheryl Cain, soprano, has sung with the San Francisco Symphony since 2006, the San Francisco Opera since 2013, American Bach Soloists, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale, and many other professional ensembles. She has her Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music, and her Bachelor of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She continued her post-graduate studies in opera in Florence, Italy. She is a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is delighted to be making her Pocket Opera debut as Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*.



### **Patrick Hagen** *Eisenstein*

Patrick Hagen, a lyric tenor, has been lauded for his "deep, curled tone" and "expressive" vocalism, and has been seen in many operatic productions on both East and West coasts. Favorites include *The Magician* (Menotti's *The Consul*), Rodolfo (Puccini's *La Bohème*), Ruggero (Puccini's *La Rondine*), Albert (Britten's *Albert Herring*), and Martin (Copland's *The Tender Land*). Patrick is also regularly seen on the stage of San Francisco Opera and in the classroom as a Teaching Artist with San Francisco Opera Guild. Patrick is overjoyed to join Pocket for his first Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*.



### **Melissa Sondhi** *Adele*

Indian-American soprano Melissa Sondhi is thrilled to be returning to Pocket Opera for this wonderful production. Melissa has performed with various opera companies, including Opera San José, Pocket Opera, Lamplighters Music Theatre, and Lyric Theatre of San Jose. This season, she made her debut with the San Francisco Opera Guild as Musetta in *La Bohème*, and returned to Opera San José to cover the role of Nannetta in *Falstaff*. In the 2023-24 season, she will be debuting the roles of Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, and Rosalba in *Florencia en el Amazonas* with Opera San José.



### **Kevin Gino** *Alfred*

Kevin Gino (He/Him) is an alumnus of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has been performing with the greatest talent the Bay Area has to offer, appearing with the San Francisco Opera Chorus, West Edge Opera, Opera San Jose, The American Bach Soloists, Ars Minerva, Philharmonia Baroque, and many others. In addition to performing the great standards of Western Classical repertoire, Gino continues to advocate for marginalized voices inside and outside the classical music community, as well as joyfully representing the Filipino-American and AAPI communities as he seeks opportunities to tell untold stories of People of Color.



### **Liam Daley** *Doctor Falke*

Liam is a baritone, composer/arranger, and visual artist from San Luis Obispo. He studied voice with Zachary Gordin, and has recently graduated from Sonoma State University with a BM in vocal performance, with a concentration in composition. Previously, he sang with many groups such as Opera San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo Master Chorale, The New World Baroque Orchestra and Resonance Vocal Ensemble. He immerses himself in the arts, and hopes to continue using them to build community.

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**Leandra Ramm** *Prince Orlofsky*

Leandra Ramm (mezzo-soprano) starred as a soloist in *Ecstasy* at SoundBox (2022), Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* (2018) and Bach's *Magnificat* (2017 and 2023) at San Francisco Symphony. A member of San Francisco Opera Chorus, Ms. Ramm can be heard on the SF Opera Guild cast album of *Lucinda y las Flores de la Nochebuena* with Albany Records. Recent performances include *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* with Pacific Symphony, Anybodys in *West Side Story* with Opera San José, and Cunning Little Vixen with West Edge Opera. Concert soloist performances include Duruflé's *Requiem*, Schubert's *Miriam's Song of Triumph* and Mendelssohn's *Drei Geistliche Lieder*.

**Jonathan Spencer** *Frank*

Jonathan Spencer has appeared with Pocket Opera as Agamemnon (*La Belle Hélène*), Krusina (*The Bartered Bride*), Ford (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*), Taddeo (*Italian Girl in Algiers*), La Rocca (*King for a Day*), Raimondo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Kromov (*The Merry Widow*), The Professor (*Count Ory*), Rambaldo (*La Rondine*), and Maxie (*The Haunted Manor*). Each December he plays Squire Bracebridge in *The Bracebridge Dinners at Yosemite* (returning in 2024). Favorite roles at Lamplighters Music Theatre: Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Judge (*Trial by Jury*), Pooh-Bah (*Mikado*), Captain Corcoran (*HMS Pinafore*), and The Playwright (*Enter the Guardsman*).

**Maria Caycedo** *Ida*

Colombian-American soprano Maria Caycedo was most recently seen as Phyllis in Lamplighter's *Iolanthe*, in which she premiered a new aria using recovered libretto material. Other world premieres: Pammy (*Finding Medusa*), Bette Davis & Quinn (*Castle O*) and Temple Member in gospel-chamber opera *Heaven Down Here*. Opera roles include: Bernice (*L'Occasione fa il Ladro*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*), Lucy (*The Telephone*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Frasquita (*Carmen*), Belinda (*Dido & Aeneas*), and Sara (*La Llorona*). A versatile performer, Maria also has film credits (music videos, commercials, opera films), dance training and sung rock vocals for Santa Cruz band Brightshine. [www.mariacaycedo.com](http://www.mariacaycedo.com)

**Michael Mendelsohn** *Frosch*

Michael P. Mendelsohn has done lots of stuff in all kinds of places and is considered by many of his colleagues to be a person. He plans to do more stuff in more places as the years roll endlessly on. Mr. Mendelsohn wants to be an astronaut when he grows up. (This bio was adapted for radio by sticking it to a piece of wood and banging a few nails through it.)

**Eric Mellum** *Blind*

A recent transplant, Eric sang with Minnesota Opera for more than 20 seasons, including the world premieres of *Silent Night* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Handmaid's Tale* (North American premiere), performed several principal roles with The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company, and appeared with Out of the Box Opera, The Minnesota Orchestra, Colorado Opera Festival, and in numerous Mill City Summer Opera and Skylark Opera productions. Locally he has performed with Lamplighters as Lord Tolloller (*Iolanthe*) and Edgar (*Choirstarter!*); in Pocket Opera's *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein*, and with Opera San José and Lyric Theatre.

**Alondra Orellana** *Melania*

San Francisco native, Alondra Orellana, is thrilled to take part in her first show with Pocket Opera. She is a graduate of San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music for her Bachelor's and Master's degrees, respectively. Notable performances include the title roles of Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* in collaboration with the San Francisco Opera Education Department, Handel's *Atalanta* and *Alcina*, as well as Giunone in Cavalli's *La Calisto*.

**Caroline Flett** *Hermine*

Caroline Flett, lyric mezzo-soprano, was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her BM in Vocal Performance from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in 2017, where she studied with Professor Timothy Noble. Her passion for music and song has led her to work as a freelance vocalist, instructor, and songwriter. She has performed with Pocket Opera since 2018 and is delighted to join this cast of *Die Fledermaus*. Commended for her poise and grace on stage, Caroline brings life and light to every project and performance.

**Ben Sasnett** *Renusie*

Tenor Ben Sasnett grew up in a family of professional singers. He began singing professionally as a young child, and has performed in over 30 professional productions. Equally at home with Opera and Musical Theatre, some of Ben's favorite roles include: Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Tony (*West Side Story*), and Jean Valjean (*Les Misérables*). Thanks to Nicolas, Madeline, Paul and the cast for such a warm, kind environment in which to make music, and special thanks to Mary for her love and support.

**Madeline Abel-Kerns** *Stage Director*

Productions include *Imajica* (Cantiamo Opera Theatre), *Die Walküre* (Wagner Concert Orchestra); *Tales of Hoffmann*, *A Soldier's Tale*, *Alice in Opera Land*, *Duo with the Divas* (Pocket Opera); *Gianni Schicchi*, *Die Kluge*, *Il Tabarro* (Oakland Lyric Opera); *Der Rosenkavalier* (BAPOP); *Time for Courage* (West Coast Broadway); *Law Offices*, *Foam* (SF Music Center); *Gala Under the Stars* (OSF, Rogue Opera); *An Evening of Rodgers*, *An Evening of Porter*, *Love Songs & Sonnets* (Camelot Theatre Company); *It Takes Two* (Hamilton House); *Carmen-in-Concert*, *The Musical Century*, *Songs of American Musical Theatre* (Oregon Arts Council, U.S. Consulate, Deutsche-Amerikanische Chor, Bahamas Youth Choir).

**Paul Dab** *Music Director*

Paul Dab is a San Francisco based pianist, teacher, vocal coach, and music director, thrilled to make his debut with Pocket Opera. Presenters have featured his performances at Center for New Music, Old First Concert Series, and the Shenson Faculty Artist Series at SFCMC. He collaborates regularly with Bay Area organizations including Lamplighters Music Theater, West Bay Opera, and Cinnabar Theater and has been part of the creative process for world premier operas by Hector Armienta and Joseph Colombo. He engages students on a weekly basis through programs at SF Community Music Center, SF Opera Guild, and SF Conservatory of Music.