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Dear Friends:

Welcome to The Merry Widow!

Last fall, on this page, I promised that the Schenectady Light Opera Company would present outstanding entertainment in whatever facilities were available. Tonight our show comes to you in a new, modern, and most excellent auditorium. We are grateful for being here, and give our warm thanks to the Board of Education and the staff who are our hosts at the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School. If the school's busy schedule will allow it, we will present Finian's Rainbow here next fall.

Despite fine cooperation from our friends here, we would prefer to present our shows in the city whose name heads our own. This is understandable, I think. Of course, fine new schools are being built in Schenectady, and they will contain facilities comparable to these. We hope to be allowed to use them, but they will not permanently solve our problem, and the problems of other similar organizations. The new schools will soon, and quite properly, develop heavy schedules of student activities. No one would wish it otherwise; these activities and the space they require are as important as the classrooms. But adult groups need space also, and for them the answer is a civic auditorium and other facilities making up a civic cultural center.

This is a reasonable goal. Certainly, the problems are formidable. Financing seems very difficult, but it is not impossible. Every week brings news of some new city which has decided to take the path of conviction, to create new civic utility and beauty from old waste and ugliness. And every week brings news of some city's success!

We in the Schenectady Light Opera Company will help. Schenectady can succeed, too!

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THE MERRY WIDOW

The Merry Widow was Franz Lehar's greatest success. It was first produced at Vienna 1905 and was played on the continent more than 1,000 times. Soon it was known around the world and had its New York debut in in 1907 followed by a run of 421 performances. The operetta made Lehar a fortune but he lost it to Vienna stockbrokers. During World War II it was said that he was left unmolested because The Merry Widow was Hitler's favorite operetta. The opereta has had frequent revivals and the Schenectady Light Opera Company is proud of its production tonight.

The story takes place in Paris. Baron Popoff, the Marsovian Ambassador to Paris, has been instructed that Madame Sonia Sadoya, the daughter of a Marsovian farmer and widow of a Marsovian millionaire, must marry another Marsovian, otherwise the country of Marsovia will go brankrupt. Popoff picks Prince Danilo, heir to the crown, to win the widow's hand. He does not know that Sonia and Danilo were once in love with each other and still are.

Danilo professes indifference to the widow because he is not a fortune hunter and does not wish to be classed with the men interested only in her money. He promises Popoff, however, to eliminate other aspirants for her favor.

The wives of the men in the embassy are flirting with Frenchmen. Natalie, Popoff's wife, is having a flirtation with Camille de Jolidon, a French contender for the Widow's hand.

Sonia, hoping to make Danilo propose, announces that she and Camille are engaged. This upsets Popoff and the other Marsovians who see their plans thwarted, Camille and Natalie, and most of all Danilo, who leaves in a rage for Maxim's.

Everyone follows the Prince to Maxim's in order to persuade him to reconsider, but Danilo is more interested in the girls at Maxim's. But have no fear, everything ends happily—as a "champagne operetta" should.

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THE SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

Presents

The Merry Widow

Music by Franz Lehar

1. Opening Chorus_____

Lyrics by Adrian Ross

----- Iolidon, Natalie and Chorus

Adopted from the German by Victor Leon and Leo Stein

Musical Numbers

ACT I

2. 3. 4.	Duet "A Dutiful Wife"Jolidon and Natalie The Widow's Entrance "In Marsovia"Sonia and Male Chorus		
	"Maxims" Danilo Finale Ensemble		
	ACT II		
1. 2.	Opening Chorus and Song "Vilia"Sonia, Chorus and Dancers Sextet "Women"Danilo, St. Brioche, Cascada,		
3.	Novakovich, Popoff, Khadja, and Male Chorus DuetSonia and Danilo		
4. 5.	Duet "Love in My Heart"Natalie and Jolidon Finale Ensemble		
ACT III			
	"The Girls at Maxim's"Fifi and LoLo, DoDo, Jou-Jou, Clo-Clo, Margot, Frou-Frou, and Chorus		
2.	Reminiscence Danilo and girls		
3.	Duet "I Love You So"Sonia and Danilo		
4.	Finale Ensemble		

Synopsis of Scenes

I:

The Marsovian Embassy in Paris. The garden of Sonia's house in Paris the next day. Act II:

Act III: Maxim's that night.

Time: Around 1900.

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Cast in Order of Appearance

Camille De Jolidon	Lozere Thompson
Natalic	_ Lorraine Bluhm
Novakovich	_David Roykouff
Olga	Davida Hackbarth
Khadja	_Richard Decker
Marquis De Cascada	Allan D. Foster
Nisch	_Edgar Brown
Baron Popoff	Donald Mack
Marquis De St. Brioche	_J Coleman White
Sonia	_Sylvia Smith Horwitz
Prince Danilo	_Arthur De Luke
Madame Khadja	
Waiter	_Peter L. Strong
Fifi	Fulvia Brun
Lolo	
Do-Do	Jean Liston
Clo-Clo	_Joan Daly
Margo	_Ann Tetrault
Jou-Jou	Patricia Murphy
Frou-Frou	Marilyn Finik

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Shirley M. Clemovich Joan Daly Alice Doin

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Carolyn Lewinski Patricia Murphy

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Shirley Phillips June Trigger Gioia Ottaviano Pat Wylie Claire Gitsham Janice Teagle Joan Wallingford Betty Van Driesen Jane Kronmiller Pat Sherman Bettie Rodgers Shirley Duffy Beverly Fasake Shirley Stover Marion White Beverly Hommel Dorothea Hilbert IIelen Sprinkle Carmela DiGesare

Scholarships

Each year the Light Opera Company sponsors two scholarships for furthering the voice training of qualified residents of the Schenectady area. The awards are based on a public audition in the Spring of each year. The scholarship judges are musically qualified residents of this area.

This Spring will be the tenth year of awarding these scholarships. The auditions will be held June 9th at the Schenectady Museum Auditorium at 7:30. The Light Opera Company invites you to attend.

If you are interested in auditioning call Mrs. Vernon Bluhm FR 7-8217 for further information.

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INCORPORATED

Who's Who in Cast

- SYLVIA SMITH HORWITZ (Sonia) has won acclaim in many leading roles with SLOC... the roles of Dorothy in Chanticleer Hall, Cleopatra in The Wizard of the Nile, Chocolate Soldier, and Elsie in Yeoman of the Guard are among her triumphs... audiences remember her recently as Adele in Die Fledermaus... soloist in Musical Kaliedoscope... SLOC TV shows... active member of Etude Club... guest soloist with Schenectady Symphony... attended Julliard School of Music... mother of three active boys.
- ARTHUR De LUKE (Prince Danilo)—SLOC welcomes this talented Schenectadian to his first performance with the company... previous experience in Happiness Street with Musical Comedy Players... studies voice with George Pickwing in N.Y.C.... soloist with Schenectady Symphony... has won many vocal awards including S.P.E.B.S.Q.A., SLOC scholarship, WTRY New Voices Contest... guest soloist with Electricaires... had his own radio show over American Forces Radio Network in Germany... appeared on Arlene Frances Talent Patrol show.
- DONALD MACK (Popoff) is another newcomer to SLOC . . . experience in college and summer stock musicals include Brigadoon, Finian's Rainbow, and Connecticut Yankee . . . theater roles in Goodby My Fancy, Tovarich, My Three Angels, Arms and the Man, Angel Street . . . prominent in Civic Playhouse, Dial "M" for Murder, An Inspector Calls, The Browning Version . . . Assistant Director The Front Page . . . sixth grade teacher in Scotia Schools.
- LORRAINE BLUHM (Natalie) has appeared in eight SLOC shows including the leading role in Sweethearts... other solo appearances include Tri-city Symphony, St. Andrews Society, SLOC radio and TV shows, recital at Schenectady Museum... winner of SLOC scholarship, Albany League of Arts Audition, and Young Artists Concert... coached by Mack Harrell of Metropolitan Opera, and Bernard Taylor of Julliard... now studying with Douglas E. Bailey of Schenectady Conservatory... soloist in Union Presbyterian Church.
- LOZERE THOMPSON (Jolidon) brings a wealth of experience in leading roles in six Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to his second appearance before a SLOC audience... his first performance with the company was Musical Kaliedoscope in 1955... member of Schenectady Choral Society... choir director at St. Andrews Church in Scotia and First Reformed Church... teaches music in Schenectady Schools.
- EDGAR D. BROWN, JR. (Nish) comes to SLOC with past performances in Civic Players *Harlequinade* and *Anastasia* . . . active with Boy Scouts . . . a chemist.
- DAVID C. ROYKOUFF (Novakovich) was an active member of the company six years ago . . . recently returned to town SLOC welcomes him back . . . has performed in Saratoga Spa Theater . . . Civic Playhouse . . . FBI in Action on WGY.
- J COLEMAN WHITE (St. Brioche) is remembered by SLOC audiences as Mr. Snow in Carousel, Alain in School for Wives, and as producer of Yeoman of the Guard... past business manager, executive vice-president, and president of SLOC... now on Board of Directors... G.E. development engineer.
- RICHARD DECKER (Khadja)—Previous experience with SLOC includes Die Fledermaus, School for Wives, and Chocolate Soldier . . . also active in make-up and program advertising . . . active in Civic Players . . . a teacher.

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Who's Who in Cast—Continued

DAVIDA HACKBARTH (Olga) began singing in her native Scotland with the Edinborough University Dance Band . . . active in Civic Players . . . first appearance with SLOC.

ALLAN D. FOSTER (Cascada) making his first appearance with SLOC... brings experience from Yale University singing groups, and light opera... church soloist in St. Chads, Bristol, England, and St. Johns, Stamford, Conn... plays on the Schenectady Rangers Soccer Team... Metallurgical Engineer with G.E.

FULVIA BRUN (Fi-Fi) has a talent for dancing and singing roles shown by her performances as Katrinka in Chocolate Soldier, Ida in Die Fledermaus, and Ellie in Show Boat . . . active in Civic Players, Union College Mountebanks . . . studies ballet . . . secretary to program manager WRGB.

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Who's Who in Production

- RICHARD H. BLACKMER (Producer) has been associated with SLOC for four years . . . formerly with Childrens Theatre, Palo Alto, California . . . lighting technician for SLOC's last six shows . . . responsible for the purchase of the lighting equipmentt used in Erie Theatre since New Moon . . . active in YMCA Skin Divers . . . employed as advance development engineer with G.E.
- ROBERT BOGGS (Director) has talents in music and drama that suit him particularly well for his first performance as a director . . . SLOG audiences remember his fine role of Captain Andy in Show Boat . . . A Texan with experience in television, Dallas Community Opera Guild, and S.M.U. college musicals and plays . . . boy soprano soloist with Dallas Symphony Orchestra . . . active in Civic Playhouse . . . Harlequinade role . . . employed in Advertising and Public Relations at G.E.
- DONN CHOWN (Conductor) both a singer and a conductor, SLOC is fortunate to have him as conductor in his first appearance with the company . . . B.A. and M.A. in music theory and voice from University of Michigan . . arranging and conducting for university band, symphony, and choral groups . . . guest conductor of Grand Rapids symphony . . . roles in Vagabond King, Bartered Bride, Yeoman of the Guard, Henry VIII . . . manager of programs for WGY.
- WARREN G. HOLTER (Production Manager) has been active with the company for two years . . . chorus member in Music in the Air, Die Fledermaus, Show Boat . . . Mr. Bascomb in Carousel . . . at present is Facilities Manager and member of Board of Directors . . . active in ASME . . . flying is an important hobby . . . employed as engineer in Large Motor and Generator Department, G.E.
- JANE COFFEY (Chorus Master) brings a wealth of past experience with SLOC to her role in this show . . . served as chorus master for Chanticleer Hall; understudied in Patience and Mikado; chorus of Chimes of Normandy, Wizard of the Nile, Brigadoon; Aurelia in Chocolate Soldier, Dame Carruthers in Yeoman of the Guard . . . Burnt Hills Methodist Church choir director.
- ADRIENNE GRENFELL (Assistant Director) comes to us from Civic Playhouse where she has had experience in acting, directing, and costuming . . . member of chorus of Patience with SLOC . . . costuming with Mountebanks . . . a Schenectadian for fifteen years, her hometown is in Scotland.
- BETTY EGER (Costume Designer) has SLOC experience as set designer for Show Boat . . . Syracuse University BFA . . . worked for television on WSYR
- DAVID JONES (Set Designer) first SLOC production . A. . Civic Players set design . . . talented in display work . . . employed in Public Relations at KAPL.

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