

DER ROSENKAVALIER

MUSIC BY RICHARD STRAUSS

LIBRETTO BY HUGO VON HOFMANNSTHAL

BROADCAST DATE: AUGUST 19, 2024

Conductor Karina Canellakis*

Director Bruno Ravella*

Cast

Marschallin, Princess Marie Thérèse von Werdenberg Rachel Willis-Sørensen+

Octavian, Count Rofrano Paula Murrihy+

Baron Ochs von Lerchenau Matthew Rose

Sophie von Faninal Ying Fang

Herr von Faninal Zachary Nelson+

Italian Singer David Portillo

Valzacchi Gerhard Siegel*

Annina Megan Marino+

Marianne Leitmetzerin Kathryn Henry=

Police Commissar Scott Conner

Notary Keith Klein=

Innkeeper Spencer Hamlin=

Marschallin's Major-Domo Wayd Odle=*

Faninal's Major-Domo Ryan Bryce Johnson=

Dressmaker Natasha Isabella Gesto=

Animal Tamer Nathan Bowles=*

Noble Widow Anna Thompson

Noble Orphan 1 Isobel Anthony=

Noble Orphan 2 Ashlyn Brown=

Noble Orphan 3 Christina Grohowski=*

Lackey 1 Matthew Goodheart=

Lackey 2 Randall McGee=*

Lackey 3 David Bogaev=*

Lackey 4 Bernardo Medeiros=*

Waiter 1 Garrett Evers=

Waiter 2 Nathan Bowles=*

Waiter 3 Tzvi Bat Ashera=*

Waiter 4 Drew Comer=

Boots Dylan Gregg=

Cupid Maximilian Moore

The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Music Director Harry Bicket; **Chorus Master** Susanne Sheston

*Santa Fe Opera debut, +Former Santa Fe Opera Apprentice, =Current Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Singer

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Setting: Vienna, 1950's. The Marschallin's bedroom

The Marschallin, Princess Von Werdenberg, and the youthful Octavian, Count Rofrano, rise from their evening in bed. The two hear a sound in the hallway and Octavian hides, fearing it is the Marschallin's husband, but it is only a pageboy bringing breakfast. When they hear another sound Octavian hides again, disguising himself as a chambermaid named Mariandel.

The noise turns out to be the sound of the Marschallin's cousin, Baron Ochs (auf Lerchenau). He asks the Marschallin if she has chosen a Rosenkavalier, or Knight of the Rose, the man who'll bring the customary silver offering to the Baron's new fiancé, Sophie von Faninal. Sophie's wealthy father has recently been ennobled, giving the Baron considerable bragging rights.

The Marschallin suggests Octavian as the Rosenkavalier and shows the Baron his picture. Ochs cannot help but see his resemblance to the chambermaid, "Mariandel." The Baron begins to lustfully pursue her.

The Marschallin holds her morning audience. She is petitioned by an animal tamer, a dressmaker, three noble orphans and two Italian scoundrels! An Italian tenor sings to her, but Ochs impatiently interrupts his song over the marriage business. Irritated, the Marschallin sends the guests away, leaving her with the silver offering, in the form of a rose. The Baron persuades the Italian visitors to help him find the chambermaid he is shamelessly pursuing. The Marschallin slips into melancholy, ruminating on the passage of time and her experiences.

Octavian returns to the bedroom in his own clothing. Noticing the Marschallin's melancholy, he declares his love for her. She tells him one day he will leave her for a younger woman and sends him away; only to realize he left without a goodbye kiss. She sends her page after him, but it is too late; he has already ridden away. She calls her page back and sends him to take the silver rose to Octavian.

Act II

Setting: Herr von Faninal's salon

Sophie and her governess Marianne anxiously await the arrival of the Cavalier with the silver rose. Octavian arrives and brings the rose to Sophie, and their instant mutual attraction is obvious.

Sophie's betrothed Baron enters in quite a rude fashion, leaving Sophie appalled by his manners. The Baron then leaves to discuss the marriage contract with her father, Faninal. Sophie pleads with Octavian to help her evade the Baron. He of course agrees, and they embrace... just as Valzacchi and Annina, the Italian visitors, catch them in the act.

The visitors immediately call Baron Ochs. Octavian challenges the Baron to a duel and wounds him lightly on the arm. Ochs dramatizes his injury and calls for a doctor.

Sophie tells her father, Faninal, she can never marry the Baron, but her father insists. The Baron, meanwhile, is nursing his pitiful injury with a glass of wine. Annina returns, carrying a note inviting him to a rendezvous with “Mariandel” that evening. He is delighted but does not tip Annina for his work, and she is furious

ACT III

Setting: A Room at an Inn

Octavian has won the support of the two Italians, Valzacchi and Annina. They set the stage to confound the Baron. When he and “Mariandel”, the disguised Octavian, sit down for supper, strange figures begin to appear everywhere. Ochs is convinced he is seeing spirits of the dead.

A woman bursts in claiming to be Ochs abandoned wife. But it is Annina dressed in disguise, followed by a band of dressed up children shouting “Papa! Papa!”. The innkeeper and servants hear the screams and rush in. Ochs finally calls the police, claiming the disguised “Mariandel” is actually his fiancé, Sophie. When Faninal arrives, he sees through the disguise and infuriatingly calls for his daughter, the real Sophie.

Finally, at the height of chaos, the Marschallin arrives. Recognizing her, the police allow her to explain the situation as a sham. She insists the Baron depart Vienna.

The Marschallin is now alone with the two young and confused lovers. She realizes the moment he predicted has finally come...and she leaves the new lovers in solitude.