



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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### MUSICIANS FROM THE COMMUNITY OFFER TO PLAY FOR KENTUCKY OPERA.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Kentucky Opera will present the final production of its BROWN-FORMAN 2011/12 SEASON, Franz Lehár's operetta, THE MERRY WIDOW. We are happy to announce that a group of musicians from the community, dedicated to performing orchestral music in Louisville, have generously offered their services to Kentucky Opera for each performance.

Last month, this group reached out to Kentucky Opera, voluntarily offering to play for the upcoming performances if needed. At that time Kentucky Opera was still seeking an agreement with leaders of the musicians union for players to perform for THE MERRY WIDOW. Our offer to the union was turned down first in December and again in late January. With no end to the labor dispute between the Louisville Orchestra (LO) and its musicians, Kentucky Opera appeared to be out of options for seating an orchestra again.

General Director David Roth says, "Our patrons will recall that back in November, Kentucky Opera was placed in a similar position for THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO when talks between the LO and its players broke down. With the negotiations at a standstill, all possible options were explored to seat an orchestra, yet the circumstance required us to utilize two pianos and a harpsichord for those performances. When this group approached us again in late January, we accepted their offer. How wonderful for our patrons that we will have live orchestral music for Lehár's delightful operetta."

Kentucky Opera always strives to produce opera at the highest standard of quality possible. Our vision is to offer the *Ultimate Opera Experience* for our audiences by providing memorable and captivating events. We believe this orchestral complement will help us create just such an experience and guarantee a memorable opera event for our patrons. An exceptional cast has gathered here in Louisville to share their artistry with us, including Emily Pulley, Christopher Feigum and Victor Ryan Robertson. They have returned to join the wonderful and talented Kentucky Opera studio artists and chorus in a beautiful production of Franz Lehár's most popular work.

Kentucky Opera will always seek to partner with other art groups in the community whenever possible, as we ensure performance integrity for our patrons. We will re-visit collaborations with the LO for the future if possible. Our sincerest hope is that a resolution between the LO and its players will be found soon, ending their prolonged labor dispute and allowing the LO to flourish once again.



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports Kentucky Opera with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Producing its 59th season of production, Kentucky Opera was founded in 1952 and designated the State Opera of Kentucky in 1982. The mission of Kentucky Opera is to entertain and educate a broad, diverse audience by producing opera of the highest quality.