



## *The Merry Widow - Down in the dumps*



- \* For more than 40 years the musicians of the Louisville Orchestra have performed for the productions of the Kentucky Opera.
- \* In November 2011, Kentucky Opera management chose to dump its orchestra and present *The Marriage of Figaro* with pianos and harpsichord - cheating its patrons, cheating its musicians out of their livelihood, and making a mockery of Louisville's "arts town" reputation. This caused the Kentucky Opera to be placed on the Unfair List of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM), sharing space on the list with the Louisville Orchestra, Inc., with which it shares so much.
- \* Now, February 2012, the Kentucky Opera has sunken to a new low by deceiving and engaging non-union musicians and students for *The Merry Widow*, still rejecting the seasoned professional ensemble which for decades audiences have paid for and enjoyed.

If you are planning to take part in this scheme, understand that this cannot be the good experience you hoped.

Please consider the following:

- **If you are a performer:** contrary to what you've been told, you are not saving jobs for professional musicians, but are taking away their work as part of a strategy that undermines the performing arts in our city - including yourself.
- **If you are a student:** you risk never having the opportunity of playing with a professional union American orchestra, and you risk losing the respect of your present and future teachers.
- **If you are a teacher:** imagine if you were locked out and musicians of the Louisville Orchestra showed up to teach your classes - what you are doing is the equivalent of that.

You cannot be forced to do this, even if you signed something. You can **do the right thing**: support fair collective bargaining for the musicians who have served as the Kentucky Opera's Orchestra for so long. **It's easy**: get together with colleagues this evening instead, or just **go home**.