

## LLO Presents *The Merry Widow*

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by [Samantha Bartram](#)

**A charming widow with 20 million francs in hand is the focus of Loudoun Lyric Opera's latest production, *The Merry Widow*.**

Franz Lehár's classic tale follows Hanna Glawari, who has just inherited the heavy purse from her recently deceased husband. All the movers and shakers in Marsovia are interested in her plans—will she marry a local and stay in the tiny county, or will a suitor from the outside earn her love?

It'd be a trivial question if not for the money, which Baron Zeta, the highest political official in the land, desperately wants to remain within the county's borders. Without Glawari's cash, the whole place will go bankrupt.

What follows is Baron Zeta's concerted effort to keep Glawari Marsovia-side, some cat-and-mouse games with her ex-lover Count Danilo and many other auxiliary romantic hijinks that make for the most charming of stories.

Young talent Melissa Jean Chávez—a truly impressive soprano with a host of lead roles under her belt—stars as Glawari. She's complimented by an equally accomplished cast including Gregory Stuart as Danilo, Bill Harris as Baron Zeta, Erin Winkler as the Baron's "respectable wife" Natalie, David Merrill as Viscounte Camille de Rosillon, who's got Natalie in his sights, and a whole host of supporting characters.

This opera has it all—scandal, intrigue and even a gaggle of Can-Can dancers—Les Grisettes of the famed nightclub Maxim's. Passionate and playful music, striking costumes and more vocal talent than you can shake a fishnet-clad leg at make LLO's *The Merry Widow* an event not to be missed.

**Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. April 13, 14, 20 and 21, and at 3 p.m. April 15 and 22 at Franklin Park Arts Center.**

**Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$17 for seniors or \$12 for students.**

**For directions or ticket reservations, call 540-338-7973 or visit [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).**

**To learn more about LLO, visit [www.loudonlyricopera.com](http://www.loudonlyricopera.com).**

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