



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FREE PERFORMANCES OF *THE MERRY WIDOW* TO RESUME IN 2014

Opera Columbus will continue its successful, innovative collaboration with Shadowbox Live in 2014, resuming free performances of an abridged, English-language adaptation of Lehár's classic operetta, *The Merry Widow*. This lighthearted, romantic story and its engaging characters are transported into a modern-day setting and transformed into an immersive, interactive, and highly accessible experience. Cast with local performers, *The Merry Widow* is supported by a grant from PNC Arts Alive, a multi-year initiative to support visual and performing arts groups with the goal of increasing arts access and engagement in new and innovative ways.

"The PNC Foundation has a long history of providing grants to organizations that strengthen and enrich the lives of our communities," said Michael Gonsiorowski, PNC regional president for central Ohio. "We understand that a rich arts community is a significant driver of our economic success, providing employment, boosting tourism and making the region attractive for businesses, residents, and visitors."

Opera Columbus and Shadowbox Live present *The Merry Widow* at Shadowbox Live's Backstage Bistro (503 S. Front St.) January 11-February 2, Saturdays and Sundays only. Saturday performances are at 4pm, and Sunday performances are at 5pm.

Admission is free, but patrons are encouraged to make advance reservations by calling Shadowbox at 614.416.7625. Patrons without reservations will also be seated as capacity allows. Any reservations not claimed by 4:45pm will be released to walk-up patrons. A limited number of premium seats are also available for \$10 each with a reservation.

This innovative collaboration between Opera Columbus and Shadowbox Live is designed to provide an introduction to opera for those who have no experience with the art form or who may not be inclined to attend a traditional opera performance in a theatre.

www.OperaColumbus.org

CALENDAR LISTING

Opera Columbus and Shadowbox Live present Lehár's *THE MERRY WIDOW*

January 11-February 2

Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 5pm

Shadowbox Live's Backstage Bistro (503 S. Front St.)

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About Opera Columbus

Established in 1981, Opera Columbus enriches central Ohio by educating, enlightening, and entertaining people of all ages and backgrounds through the live music theatre experience, employing a diverse repertoire of creative talent, ideas, and artistic energies. For more information, visit www.OperaColumbus.org.

About Shadowbox Live

Shadowbox Live is the largest resident theater company in America. For more than 20 years, this creative team has produced world-class performances spanning the artistic spectrum while always putting emphasis on the unparalleled live experience. www.ShadowboxLive.org

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