

Playing
Time
79:06

Franz
LEHÁR
(1870 – 1948)

The Merry Widow (Die lustige Witwe)

Hanna Glawari Elisabeth Schwarzkopf
Count Danilo Danilowitsch Erich Kunz
Camille de Rosillon Nicolai Gedda
Valencienne Emmy Loose
Baron Mirko Zeta Anton Niessner
Raoul de Saint-Brioche Josef Schmidinger
Vicomte Cascada Otakar Kraus

Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra
Otto Ackermann
Recorded 16th-18th and 21st April 1953
in Kingsway Hall, London

The year 2005 marks the centenary of the première of *The Merry Widow*. The most popular operetta ever written, it has since been filmed, recorded, made into a full-length ballet, even an ice show. This famous 1953 recording, featuring internationally renowned singers, a symphony orchestra of the highest quality and a conductor who really understood the idiom, was the first to show the true quality of the work. To praise the performance, the recording ... of the opera, as they deserve would exhaust the limited stock of laudatory adjectives in our language. Emmy Loose is exactly right, Nicolai Gedda is a superb Camille, Schwarzkopf sings Hanna so radiantly and exquisitely, and Otto Ackermann conducts with complete understanding and the Philharmonia Orchestra plays like angels for him' (Alec Robertson, *The Gramophone*, July 1953).

1	Overture	9:00	15-27	Act II	35:28
2-14	Act I	36:20	28-33	Act III	7:08

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover photo: Elisabeth Schwarzkopf (Tully Potter Collection)



All rights in this sound recording, artwork, texts and translations reserved.
Unauthorised public performance, broadcasting and copying of this compact disc prohibited.
© & © 2005 Naxos Rights International Ltd. Made in the EU



www.naxos.com

