

OPERA EXPLAINED

This series introduces, in words and music, the plot and background of major operas. Using the principal themes and arias, taken from the Naxos recording of the complete work, Thomson Smillie is informative yet entertaining, enabling the listener to get more from this remarkable art form.

An Introduction to... J. STRAUSS Jr Die Fledermaus

written by **Thomson Smillie**
narrated by **David Timson**

Die Fledermaus is one of the few operatic works to which the phrase 'never a dull moment' can be truthfully applied. From the explosive opening of the famous overture – reminiscent of a volley of champagne corks – through the surging energy of the 'Fledermaus Waltz' and the many comic numbers, of which the *accelerando* trio is the finest, up to such huge concerted numbers as the 'Duidu' finale to Act II, this is an operetta which almost incarnates nostalgia.

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