

Blindekuh ('Blind Man's Buff') was Johann Strauss II's sixth operetta and his least known. Neglected for well over a century, it was revived by Dario Salvi and the forces on this album in January 2019. The work's initial lack of success is hard to explain but it may have been caused by a confusing libretto – the music itself is vibrant and captivating with waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, marches and *bel canto* arias. Performed in a concert version without dialogue, and in accordance with performing traditions, this production restores the work to the status of one of Strauss's most melodically seductive works.



Johann
STRAUSS II
(1825–1899)



Blindekuh ('Blind Man's Buff') (1878)
Operetta in three acts

Libretto by Rudolf Kneisel (1832–1899) after his comedy of the same name

Herr Scholle, landowner	.....	Robert Davidson, Bass-baritone
Frau Arabella, his wife	.....	Kirsten C. Kunkle, Soprano
Waldine, his daughter from his first marriage	.....	Martina Bortolotti, Soprano
Hellmuth Forst	.....	Roman Pichler, Tenor
Adolf Bothwell, Scholle's nephew from America	.....	James Bowers, Tenor
Betsy, Adolf's wife	.....	Andrea Chudak, Soprano
Herr Kragel, officer of the Court	.....	Daniel Schliewa, Tenor
Fräulein Elvira, governess to Waldine	.....	Emily K. Byrne, Mezzo-soprano
Johann, Scholle's servant	.....	Julian Rohde, Tenor

Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus • Dario Salvi

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

CD 1 1 Overture 9:23 2–8 Act I 40:30 CD 2 1–8 Act II 40:26 9–13 Act III 14:48

A detailed track list and full recording details can be found inside the booklet.

The German libretto and an English translation may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660434.htm

Edition: Dario Salvi • Booklet notes: Robert Ignatius Letellier

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Cover: Lithograph cover for the 'Opern-Maskenball-Quadrille' on themes from *Blindekuh* (Op. 384) (1878).

The illustration depicts the leading actors of the world premiere, Hermine Meyerhoff, Albin Swoboda and Felix Schweighofer in a key scene from the operetta (from the collection of Dario Salvi).

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Playing Time
1:45:11



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