

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

USA OPERA THEATRE

THOMAS L. ROWELL, DIRECTOR

PRESENTS

La Vie Parisienne

An operetta in four acts

Performed in French with English dialogue and supertitles

Music by Jacques Offenbach

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

Bobinet, a Parisian dandy	Blake Waters
Raoul de Gardefeu, another Parisian dandy	David Meredith
A railway worker	Drew Rowell
Métella, a Parisian <i>demi-mondaine</i>	Evan Mazur
Gontran, a Parisian gentleman	Shanarrous Briggins-Pollard
Joseph, a guide from the Grand Hotel	Quinten Favorite
The Baron de Gondremarck of Sweden	Tobin Nelson
The Baroness de Gondremarck of Sweden	Megan Zuhowski
The Brazilian, a South American dandy	Tim Aguirre
Alphonse, Gardefeu's butler	Greg Wheat
Frick, Gardefeu's bootman/Prosper, Bobinet's butler	Thomas Rowell
Gabrielle, Gardefeu's glover	Elizabeth Bemis
Urbain, Bobinet's Underbutler	Cody Morrison
Pauline, Bobinet's chambermaid	Janie Chow
Léonie, Bobinet's maid	Eraka Millhouse
Clara, Bobinet's maid	Olivia Drake
Louise, Bobinet's maid	Victoria Goodwin

Scene: Paris, France

**The Sixty-eighth, Sixty-ninth and Seventieth Concerts of
Academic Year 2016-2017**

RECITAL HALL

LIDLAW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

USA Opera Theatre

Tim Aguirre
Elizabeth Bemis
Shanarrous Briggins-Pollard
Janie Chow
Necolet DeWeever
Myler Dobbins
Olivia Drake
Quinten Favorite
Victoria Goodwin
Tim Griffin
Evan Mazur

David Meredith
Eraka Millhouse
Cody Morrison
Tobin Nelson
Drew Rowell
Matt Selete
Blake Waters
Lily Webb
Greg Wheat
Sienna Zapata
Megan Zuhowski

University of South Alabama Opera Orchestra Robert J. Seebacher, conductor

Flute/Piccolo

Nicole Carrion *
Rebecca Reinhardt

Oboe

Tiffany Fresne *

Clarinet

Alexys Bush *
Sierra Huggins

Bassoon

Jake Cannon *

Horn

Dustin Miller *
Amber-Lynn Booth

Trumpet

Paige Nelson *
Erick Wicklund

Trombone

Destin Hinkel *
Tyler Brandon

Timpani

Ryan Boehme *

Percussion

Alex White *
Kevin Newsome

Violin I

Hannah Dunnam, concertmaster
Elizabeth French +
Esther Borlovan +

Violin II

Daven Ervin *
Victoria Bishop
Barbara Flechsenhar +

Viola

Jim Lichtenberger +
Julie Marks +

Cello

Juan-Jose Gutierrez #
Paul Hanceri +

Bass

Rodik Newsome *

* principal

+ guest artist

USA music faculty

Production Personnel

Director	Thomas L. Rowell
Musical Director/Conductor	Robert J. Seebacher
Rehearsal Accompanist	Jennifer Bemis
Diction Coach	André Chiang
Stage Management	Morgan Carithers
Set Design	Thomas L. Rowell/Paul Furlong
Set Construction	USA Opera Theatre Students
Supertitles	Jennifer Bemis

USA Opera Theatre wishes to thank the following persons and organizations whose vital support made this production possible:

Andrzej Wierzbicki
Greg Gruner
Will Petersen
Peggy Doyle
Joy Crawford-Washington
Allison Harris
Keith Bohnet
Keith Rivers, USA Property/Inventory
Lyle Miller
Rebecca Britton
John Hancock and USA Maintenance
Mike and Joni Mazur
Babs Zuhowski
Anonymous Donor

Synopsis: *La Vie Parisienne*

Act 1

The story begins at the Gare d l'Ouest, where the employees list the provenance of trains arriving from different places in France. Two Parisian dandies, Bobinet and Gardefeu are waiting for the train from Trouville, but avoid each other while they walk around. They have fallen out over the *demi-mondaine* Métella. She arrives with Gontran and pretends not to recognize the two previous lovers. Her rejection reunites the two friends and they vow to seek a better class of mistress. While wondering how he will achieve this, Gardefeu sees his former servant Joseph, who is now a tourist guide. Joseph reveals that he is to meet a Swedish baron and his wife, and that he is to show them around Paris, but for a large sum agrees to let Gardefeu take his place. While he goes to look for the baron, Gardefeu wonders what will happen with the baroness. The Baron and Baroness Gondremarck enter and he promises to show them everything they want to see in the French capital. The station fills with more passengers arriving for a good time in Paris, including a Brazilian returning after having spent his fortune once before in the city.

Act 2

At Gardefeu's home, his glove-maker Gabrielle and his boot-maker Frick await the master's return. Gardefeu continues his pretense with the Swedes, explaining that they are in an annex to the hotel, hoping to get the baron out of the way so that he can pay attention to the baroness; the baron already has his plans based on a letter from a friend. The baron then asks to take the table d'hôte. The problem of missing hotel guests is solved by getting Gabrielle, Frick, and their friends to impersonate other hotel guests. Bobinet comes by and offers to stage a party for the Swedes at his absent aunt's mansion the following night, with the baron invited. The baroness finds remnants of Gardefeu's affair with Métella in her room. Métella herself now arrives hoping for a reconciliation with Gardefeu and ends with offering to entertain the baron in a few days. The guests arrive for the *table d'hôte* with Frick disguised as Major Edward and Gabrielle as the widow of a colonel. Gabrielle leads everyone in a raucous *tyrolienne*, and everyone retires to dinner.

Act 3

At a party the next evening hosted by Bobinet his servants dress up as the crowd of aristocrats. Gondremarck arrives and is taken by Pauline 'Madame l'amirale' (in fact a chambermaid). Gabrielle arrives and Bobinet as well is dressed as a Swiss admiral with a slight wardrobe malfunction. Bobinet rises to greet the crowd with a drinking song and as the champagne flows, the baron and everyone else gets drunk.

Act 4

The Brazilian millionaire is offering a masked ball at a restaurant. Urbain tells his staff to be discreet about the liaisons occurring among the guests. The baron arrives for his assignation with Métella, while growing increasingly suspicious of the goings-on. Métella tells the baron to be patient but she will not be his entertainment: she is in love with someone else but has brought a friend for him. The baron is furious when he discovers that her lover is Gardefeu. The Brazilian arrives, then Bobinet and Gardefeu. The baron challenges Gardefeu, Bobinet and the Brazilian square off to fight, and the baron's fury only stops when baroness and the other ladies intervenes. All toast Paris.