**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA**
**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

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# 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

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|---|---|
| Bobinet, a Parisian dandy | Blake Waters |
| Raoul de Gardefeu, another Parisian dandy | David Meredith |
| A railway worker | Drew Rowell |
| Métella, a Parisian *demi-mondaine* | 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**

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

**RECITAL HALL**
**LAIDLAW 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
Sieanna 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.