

April 2018 operettas

13 April 2019: 3 p.m.

Suppé, F. Boccaccio. Operetta in three acts. Libretto by Friedrich Zell (aka Camillo Walzel) and Richard Genée after a play based on *The Decameron* by Giovanni Boccaccio. First performed Vienna, 1879.

In 14th century Florence, the erotic novellas of the poet Boccaccio cause a stir and the locals are divided into the female fans of his scandalous tales and their jealous husbands. Boccaccio's excuse for pursuing the ladies is his 'research'. A plot is hatched by the husbands to chase Boccaccio from the city and have him locked up. Boccaccio has other plans, including one to win the hand of the Lambertuccio's foster daughter, Fiametta, who is the illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Tuscany. Fiametta is summoned to the court to marry a royal husband.

Fortunately, the royal in question is none other than Pietro, Prince of Palermo, who has been in Florence attempting to emulate Boccaccio's seductions. Pietro is willing to forgo the marriage in favour of the slightly reformed Boccaccio who has found favour with the Duke. Boccaccio writes a play for the Tuscan Court celebrating their betrothal.

27 April 2019: 3 p.m.

Strauss, J. II The gypsy baron. Operetta in three acts. Libretto by Ignaz Schnitzer. First performed Vienna, 1885.

Sándor Barinkay returns from exile to claim his estate and, as the new local squire, is elected chief of the gypsies. He begins to dress as a gypsy baron. The fortune-telling Romany Queen, Czipra, tells Sándor that his future wife will discover a hidden treasure. He falls in love with Czipra's daughter, Sáffi who dreams of the treasure's location. When Czipra reveals that Sáffi is the daughter of the last Pasha of Hungary and the rightful owner of the treasure, Sándor says that he cannot marry one so exalted. Men are being recruited for the army and Sándor marches away with them. After successful battles, Sándor and others come back as heroes who have been raised to the nobility. So Sáffi and Sándor are able to marry.