

## Make Merry

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I've known a few widows in my lifetime, and nary a one was merry.

But Paris in the early 20th century apparently was the place to be if your late husband left you a few million francs. There were parties and great ball gowns, and suitors vying for your attention. It was enough to make any widow merry.

So it goes in Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow," which the Garde Arts Center is presenting at 8 p.m. Saturday. The opera, which features soloists from the Prague State Opera, will be performed by the Czech Opera Prague in German with English subtitles.

It is set at the embassy of the mythical kingdom of Pontevedro and is a farcical cat-and-mouse game of love, lust and fortune. There are lovers' trysts, lavish parties and spirited hijinks. And it all ends on a happy note when the widow agrees to remarry a long-lost love.

A dinner in the Garde Oasis Room at 6 p.m. at the Garde will precede the performance.

**"The Merry Widow," 8 p.m. Sat., Garde Arts Center, 325 State St., New London; \$39-\$60; the dinner at 6 p.m. is \$50; (860) 444-7373, [gardearts.org](#).**

*Regional*

Total 1 images.



• *Hristo Sarafov as Baron Mirko Zeta, with members of the chorus, in "The Merry Widow."*