

EXTRACTS FROM REVIEWS OF MELBOURNE OPERA'S PRODUCTION OF  
*THE MERRY WIDOW* (FRANZ LEHÁR), MARCH 2011

'Delight in Merry Widow's Company'

When it is well conducted and played, wittily directed and expertly sung, *The Merry Widow* can be sheer delight, the ensemble piece it is always supposed to be, Melbourne Opera's new production of Lehár's operetta is all these things. It also benefits from the relative intimacy of the Athenaeum. The English lyrics and dialogue came across crisply.

On opening night, David Kram conducted an idiomatic, noble, assured performance, with treacherous Viennese tempi just right and with playing of clarity and charm from the company's orchestra. This was matched on stage by Hugh Halliday's effervescent production.

Michael Shmith in *The Age* (Melbourne) 12/03/2011

'Merry and Memorable'

Melbourne Opera launched its 2011 Season with an unmissable production of Franz Lehár's operetta *The Merry Widow*. David Kram conducted a superbly nuanced performance, beautifully maintaining the requisite balance between pit and stage, while veteran Hugh Halliday's direction saw him return to top form.

Peter Burch in *The Australian* 14/03/2011

'A Merry Opening Offering'

...In particular, this production benefits from the conducting of David Kram...

Sybil Nolan in *The Herald Sun* (Melbourne) 14/03/2011