

# OPERETTA PROGRAM

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

## Emmerich Kálmán's Countess Maritza



“Waltz Your Worries Away” - “Countess Maritza” by Imre (or Emmerich) Kálmán is one of the greatest of all Silver Age Viennese operettas. Maritza, a wealthy landowner, is constantly besieged with proposals of marriage by impoverished noblemen. Knowing that all they are interested in is her money, she announces her engagement to the fictitious Baron Koloman Zsupán. To Maritza’s surprise and consternation a baron of that very name turns up to claim Maritza as his fiancée. Meanwhile, Maritza is falling in love with the bailiff Bela Törek, who is in reality Count Tassilo, an impoverished nobleman who has taken on the work to pay off his father’s debts and amass enough money for a dowry for his sister Lisa. The barriers of wealth and class are compounded by suspicions on each side as to the real intentions of the other, giving the work a complex psychological dimension not always found in operetta.

**Speaker:** Erika Reitshamer is an engaging teacher whose knowledge and love of opera will inspire all, and her open style and sense of humor are irresistible. She has lectured on opera and great singers of opera for many years and was active in the formation of the Boston Lyric Opera Company many years ago. She is a board member of the New England Opera Club, former vice president of the Boston Wagner Society, member of the Sudbury Opera Lovers Organization, teacher of opera appreciation for LLARC at Regis College, and Lifelong Learning in Newton, Sherborn and Sharon.