

OPERA WORKSHOP

THE LANTERN MARRIAGE
Operetta in one act

Jacques Offenbach
(1819-1880)

Stage Director -- MARTIN JOHNSON

Music Director -- CAROLYN HART

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Guillot, a farmer	John Russell
Denise, his cousin	Peggy Head
Fanchette, a widow	Agnes McCarthy
Catherine, a widow	Carolyn Reid
The Village Constable	Mike Molloy

The action takes place in a village square.

English translation by Veronica Reed.

THE LANTERN MARRIAGE

When Offenbach was struggling to leave his life as a salon cellist and gain recognition as a composer of light theatre works, he rented the new 200-seat Salle Herz in Paris on 7 May 1853 for a performance of his third attempt of the kind: he had set to music a libretto of Léon Battu, *Mathurin's Treasure*, which was very well received by the musical press. Four years later, on 10 October 1857, Offenbach presented at his theatre, the Bouffes Parisiens, a revised version of the work, now slightly enlarged (Michel Carré became co-librettist) and retitled *Le mariage aux lanternes* (*The Lantern Marriage*), but still in one act and with the same cast of characters and plot. Of all of Offenbach's operettas which preceded *Orphée aux enfers* (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) (A.599) (1858), this was without a doubt his most popular work.