DER ROSENKAVALIER

Richard Strauss

As he makes arrangements for his wedding to the youthful Sophie von Faninal, the crude and condescending Baron Ochs requests that his cousin, the Marschallin, select the person who shall present the customary Silver Rose to his betrothed. The Marschallin sends her young lover, Octavian, to fulfill the Viennese tradition, and after the famous presentation of the rose to Sophie, the two teenagers fall in love. Determined to discredit the baron and win Sophie, Octavian carries out an elaborate practical joke, all to the beautiful soaring music of Richard Strauss.

Charles Mackerras conducts a newly revised staging of this San Francisco Opera favorite directed by Lotfi Mansouri and operatic legend Elisabeth Söderström. Soprano Renée Fleming shares the role of the Marschallin with Yvonne Kenny, and mezzosoprano Susan Graham—who will create the role of Sister Helen Prejean in Dead Man Walking—portrays Octavian. The large cast also features bass Franz Hawlata as Baron Ochs, soprano Juliane Banse in her Company debut as Sophie and baritone Peter Sidhom as Sophie's father, Herr von Faninal.