

## **LA MASCOTTE**

Music by Edmond Audran

Libretto by Alfred Duru & Henry Chivot

First Performance: Bouffes Parisiens, Paris, 26 (29) December 1880

The farmer Rocco is sent the goose-girl Bettina by his brother as a mascot in the hope it will cure his bad luck; this greatly delights Pippo, his shepherd, in love with Bettina. Prince Laurent appears, bewailing his ill luck, and persuades Bettina that she is of noble blood and must return to his castle; his daughter Fiammetta meanwhile tries to seduce Pippo. At Court, Laurent tries to keep Pippo from Bettina, for he knows that her secret as a mascot depends upon her virginity. Pippo is made to believe her about to marry the Prince, so he agrees to marry Fiammetta; but as the marriage is about to take place, Pippo turns to Bettina, and they escape through the window. War breaks out, and Pippo, with Bettina disguised as a boy by his side, has covered himself with glory; Laurent, on the other side, is out of luck, and rejected by his subjects he comes to the enemy's camp and finds Pippo. Eventually all is forgiven, and Pippo marries Bettina, in the expectation that her powers as a mascot will prove hereditary.