

Die Fledermaus

Ouverture

Johann Strauss (jr.)

*arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion quintet (or orchestra)*

(1, 2, 3, 4, bass)

Die Fledermaus (the Bat, sometimes called “The Revenge of the Bat”) is a (comical) operetta by Johann Strauss junior. It consists of an “Ouverture” and three Acts. It is based on “Das Gefängnis” (The Prison), a farce by the German playwright Julius Roderich Benedix.

While arrangements for accordion ensemble exist of different songs from the operetta this arrangement is of the (entire) ouverture.

The ouverture is rather difficult (especially compared to the individual songs) but also sounds more interesting than just a medley of songs.

In the arrangement it is best if the first voice can reach the high B and if the fourth voice has melody bass, but neither are really necessary.

Bass registers are indicated but also not necessary (as many bass accordions come without registers).

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

This arrangement is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution license.

Die Fledermaus

Ouverture

Johann Strauß (jr.)

arr. Paul De Bra

Allegro vivace ♩ = ca. 125

Acc. 1
Acc. 2
Acc. 3
Acc. 4
Bass

f

6
I
II
III
IV
B

f

first E is D in some editions (bar 7)
(B.S.)

10
I
II
III
IV
B

rit. caesura not original

Allegretto ♩ = ca. 95

p

(or \ominus 8vb)

pp

Die Fledermaus

17

I
II
III
IV
B

p
p
p
p
p

pizz.
pizz.

23

I
II
III
IV
B

p
p
p
p
p

pizz.
(sempre pizz.)

(bellow shake)
(bellow shake)
arco

29

I
II
III
IV
B

p
p
p
p
p

(poco a poco accel.)
(no bellow shake)

Die Fledermaus

Tempo I

33

I *ff* *leggero*

II *ff* *leggero*

III *ff* *leggero*

IV

B *ff* *leggero*

38

(ricochet) (poco rit.)

Lento ♩ = ca. 60

I

II

III

IV

B

fp *pp*

47

Allegretto ♩ = ca. 100

(grace notes before the beat)

I

II

III (bellow shake) *pp* pizz.

IV

B *pp* pizz.

pp

Die Fledermaus

55

string.

mf

(end bellow shake unless diviso)

arco

62

string.

arco

Allegretto ♩ = ca. 120 (rit.)

Tempo ritenuto

fz *f*

p *grazioso*

p

pizz. *p*

p

Die Fledermaus

rit/a tempo not original, but viennese style 5

poco rit. a tempo

77

Measures 77-83 of the score. The first staff (I) features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and a key signature change to one flat. The second staff (II) has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The third staff (III) shows a transition from a whole rest to a chordal accompaniment. The fourth staff (IV) contains sustained chords. The fifth staff (B) includes the instruction 'arco' and 'pizz.'.

84

Measures 84-90 of the score. The first staff (I) continues the melodic line. The second staff (II) has a more complex rhythmic accompaniment. The third staff (III) features a chordal accompaniment with a key signature change to two flats. The fourth staff (IV) contains sustained chords. The fifth staff (B) includes the instruction 'arco'.

91

Measures 91-96 of the score. The first staff (I) continues the melodic line. The second staff (II) has a rhythmic accompaniment. The third staff (III) features a chordal accompaniment. The fourth staff (IV) contains sustained chords. The fifth staff (B) includes the instruction 'a tempo'.

Die Fledermaus

poco rit.

97

I

II

III

IV

B

(diviso or use M.B. if needed)

104

I

II

III

IV

B

pp leggiero

pizz.

arco

mp pizz.

mp

pp pizz.

arco

f

pp

(b) pizz.

arco

f

f

pp

f

a tempo

rit.

a tempo

pizz.

112

I

II

III

IV

B

p

p

p

pp

p

pp

p

pp

p

pp

Tempo di Valse (not too fast)

120 (molto rit.) arco

I *pp* *arco* *cresc. molto*

II *pp* *arco* *cresc. molto*

III *p* *cresc. molto*

IV *pp* *pizz.* *arco*

B *cresc. molto*

G B C# is G B D in some editions, or even G D B

(not original)

125 caesura not original

I *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

II *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

III *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

IV *mp* *rit.* *a tempo*

B *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

131 rit. a tempo

I *p* *mf* *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

II *p* *mf* *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

III *p* *mf* *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

IV *f* *p* *mp* *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

B *p* *mf* *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

8 138 Die Fledermaus

I
II
III
IV
B

poco rit. (not original)

145 a tempo

I
II
III
IV
B

152 rit. a tempo

I
II
III
IV
B

Die Fledermaus

159

rit. *v* a tempo *v*

I
II
III
IV
B

fermata
not original

166

I
II
III
IV
B

174

I
II
III
IV
B

Allegro ♩ = ca. 150

181

Measures 181-186 of the score. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The score consists of five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violin III), and B (Bass). The first staff has a fermata over the first measure. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests in the lower staves.

187

Measures 187-193 of the score. The music continues in the same key signature and time signature. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) in measures 190 and 193, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measure 191. The first staff has a fermata over the first measure. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests in the lower staves.

194

Measures 194-200 of the score. The music continues in the same key signature and time signature. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) in measure 194 and *pizz.* (pizzicato) in measure 197. The first staff has a fermata over the first measure. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests in the lower staves. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

201

arco

Play base notes if needed

p E Fis G A D G#

mp

pp

p arco

p

Low notes can be done by 1st voice.

208

p *pp* *pp* *mp*

p

pp

mp

p

p

p

214

p *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp*

p *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp*

p arco *pizz.* *pp*

pp

221 poco rit.

I *mf*

II *f*

III *mf*

IV *mf*

B *mf*
arco

Allegro moderato

226 caesura (if desired, start slower and then accelerate)
not original

I *p* *pp* *leggiero*

II *p* *pp* *leggiero*

III *p* *pp* *leggiero*

IV *p* *pp* *leggiero*

B *pp* *leggiero*

233

I *f*

II *mf*

III *f*

IV *f* *leggiero*

B *f*

241

I *molto leggiero*

II *f* *molto leggiero*

III *molto leggiero*

IV *molto leggiero*

B *molto leggiero*

248

255

I


II

III *p*

IV *fp*

B *fp* *fz*

Die Fledermaus

use  loco on small acc.

262

I

II

III

IV

B

fp

f

ff

8

270

I

II

III

IV

B

ff

ff

ff

ff

p

p

pp

pp

8

G.P.

G.P.

G.P.

G.P.


G.P.

G.P.

G.P.

G.P.

280

Tempo ritenuto 

I

II

III

IV

B

p

p

p

p

p

mf

8

Die Fledermaus

288

MP

P

I

II

III

IV

B

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 288 to 294. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Cello/Double Bass), and B (Bass). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The music is in a 3/4 time signature. Measures 288-290 show a melodic line in the first violin with a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measures 291-294 show a melodic line in the second violin with a dynamic marking of *p*. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note pattern. There are some fermatas in the cello and double bass parts.

295

I

II

III

IV

B

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 295 to 301. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Cello/Double Bass), and B (Bass). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The music is in a 3/4 time signature. Measures 295-301 show a melodic line in the first violin with a dynamic marking of *p*. The second violin part has some rests. The bass line continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. There are some fermatas in the cello and double bass parts.

302

(poco rit.)

I

II

III

IV

B

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 302 to 308. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Cello/Double Bass), and B (Bass). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The music is in a 3/4 time signature. Measures 302-308 show a melodic line in the first violin with a dynamic marking of *p*. The second violin part has some rests. The bass line continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. There are some fermatas in the cello and double bass parts.

a tempo

Die Fledermaus caesura not original

Tempo di Valse

310

I *pp*

II *pp* *cresc. molto*

III *pizz.* *arco* *p* *pp* *pp* *cresc. molto*

IV

B *p* *pp* *pp* *cresc. molto*

318

I *f* *rit.*

II *f*

III *f*

IV *mp*

B *f*

324

I *mf* *rit.*

II *mf*

III *mf*

IV *mp* *mf* *mp*

B *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Die Fledermaus

fermata not

original

331 a tempo

339

348 Allegro moderato

original keeps 3 sharps (with lots of accidentals)

354

I
II
III
IV
B

f

molto leggiero

This system contains measures 354 through 358. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violoncello), and B (Bass). The key signature is B-flat major. Measures 354 and 355 show the Violin I and II parts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a melodic line. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts provide harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line. The instruction *molto leggiero* is present in measures 356, 357, and 358.

359

I
II
III
IV
B

This system contains measures 359 through 364. The Violin I and II parts continue their melodic lines. The Viola and Cello parts play sustained chords, while the Bass part continues with a rhythmic accompaniment. The key signature changes to C major at the end of measure 364.

365

I
II
III
IV
B

This system contains measures 365 through 370. The Violin I and II parts have a melodic line with some grace notes. The Viola and Cello parts play sustained chords, and the Bass part continues with a rhythmic accompaniment. The key signature is C major.

371 rit. accel. (not original)(not original)

I
II
III
IV
B

p
mp
p
p
p

M.B. or S.B.
pizz.
arco
pizz.

378

I
II
III
IV
B

f
f
f
f
f

arco
M.B. or S.B.
f

f

385 **Piu vivo**

I
II
III
IV
B

f
f
f
f
f

arco
M.B. or S.B.
f

20
391 Die Fledermaus

First system of musical notation for measures 391-395. It consists of five staves labeled I, II, III, IV, and B. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music features a melodic line in the first staff, a rhythmic accompaniment in the second, and harmonic support in the third, fourth, and fifth staves. A fermata is present over the end of measure 395 in the third, fourth, and fifth staves.

396

Second system of musical notation for measures 396-401. It consists of five staves labeled I, II, III, IV, and B. The key signature is three sharps. The music continues with melodic and harmonic development. A fermata is present over the end of measure 401 in the third, fourth, and fifth staves.

402

sempre staccato

Third system of musical notation for measures 402-406. It consists of five staves labeled I, II, III, IV, and B. The key signature is three sharps. The first two staves (I and II) are marked with the instruction "sempre staccato". The music features a melodic line in the first staff, a rhythmic accompaniment in the second, and harmonic support in the third, fourth, and fifth staves. A fermata is present over the end of measure 406 in the third, fourth, and fifth staves.

Die Fledermaus

406

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 406 through 409. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violoncello), and B (Bass). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music is in 2/4 time. Measures 406-407 show a melodic line in the upper strings and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower strings. Measures 408-409 are marked *ff* and feature a more active melodic line in the upper strings and a sustained accompaniment in the lower strings.

410

Detailed description: This system contains measures 410 through 415. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violoncello), and B (Bass). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music is in 2/4 time. Measures 410-411 show a melodic line in the upper strings and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower strings. Measures 412-415 feature a more active melodic line in the upper strings and a sustained accompaniment in the lower strings.

416

Detailed description: This system contains measures 416 through 421. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violoncello), and B (Bass). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music is in 2/4 time. Measures 416-420 show a melodic line in the upper strings and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower strings. Measure 421 features a more active melodic line in the upper strings and a sustained accompaniment in the lower strings.