

### *The Story of Les Ruses d'Amour*

Long ago, when parents chose whom their children would marry, the bride and groom frequently did not meet until the wedding. Isabelle and Damis find themselves in this position. Damis is the son of a Duc, while Isabelle is the daughter of a wealthy family. Their families have already signed the marriage contract, and once signed, it cannot be broken without serious consequences. However, both Isabelle and Damis are reluctant to enter into this marriage.

One of Isabelle's friends suggests that she disguise herself as a maid to at least look at Damis before the marriage. Isabelle agrees and changes clothing with her maid, Marinetta. Meanwhile, Damis tells his valet, Antonio, about his concerns then exits to think things over, leaving Antonio holding Damis' fine jacket. Yielding to temptation, Antonio puts on the jacket and begins to strut around the square.

Isabelle returns and sees Antonio's pompous display. Thinking that he is her betrothed, she panics and instructs her maid to pretend to be the prospective bride. When Damis returns and sees the unsophisticated Marinetta, he fears that she is the woman that his parents have arranged for him to marry.

The resulting confusion sets the stage for some delightfully absurd situations. Ultimately, everybody believes that they have fallen in love with somebody that they will not be able to marry. The wedding continues as planned, with the heavily veiled bride sobbing her way up the aisle. But, as in all good stories, all ends happily with a double wedding.

### *The History of Les Ruses d'Amour*

A great Russian composer, Alexander Glazunov wrote *Les Ruses d'Amour* to be performed at the Hermitage Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia during 1900. Glazunov's more familiar compositions include *Les Saisons* and *Raymonda*, however his lush style is clearly apparent in the less often heard *Les Ruses d'Amour*. The original choreography for this work was by Marius Petipa. As masters of their respective arts, they created a charming production that should have become very popular. However, *Les Ruses d'Amour* had the misfortune to premier during an unsettled time of Russian history and did not receive the benefit of continued performances. Regrettably, much of the original choreography has been lost. However, through the talents of gifted choreographers, Metro Dancers has created a vibrant new staging for *Les Ruses d'Amour*. It is with great pleasure that we bring this wonderful story back to our audiences.