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BROOKLYN'S LEADER IN CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

VOLUME 61 NUMBER 49

November 21 - November 27, 2013

a view from the cliff



A VIEW FROM THE CLIFF

BY CLIFF KASDEN

There's a wedding or two in Brooklyn this weekend. Figaro, Susanna and a few more couples are getting married. Yes, they're in love but events become very confusing. The talented performers at Regina Opera Company would be happy to share Mozart's classic comedy with you at 5902 Sixth Avenue.

At Sunday afternoon's performance, basses, tenors and sopranos sing with passion. Their always outstanding orchestra provides strong musical support. The story is complicated, running four acts. With all its comical twists, turns and misunderstandings, it feels like an 18th century sitcom!

Figaro (David Tillstrand) and his beautiful Susanna (Maryam Amatullah-Wali) are extremely capable and charismatic. Mr. Tillstrand complements his light-hearted vocal presentation with great physical humor. Ms. Amatullah-Wali offers excellent facial expressions, along with her superb voice.

Count Almaviva (Kuwon Lee) is a manipulative, brooding bass, yet he somehow earns our sympathy. Perhaps

his willingness to ask forgiveness makes him more human. His longsuffering Countess Almaviva (Alexis Cregger) receives several "bravas" during her performance. Undoubtedly, her vocal skills are highly appreciated.

A very funny and charming performance is given by Jennie Mescon as Cherubino. Her daunting role requires several costume changes from male to female and back again. She is so vulnerable and so visually funny that she adds an extra special touch to the opera's farcical mood. Of course, her singing resonates as well.

Every supporting player provides a distinct piece of the operatic puzzle and leaves an impression. Dr. Bartolo (Peter Ludwig) and Marcellina (Elena Sandella) create one of the funniest twists in the storyline. Antonio (Jacopo Buora) and his bubbly daughter Barbarina (Yoko Yamashita) also enhance the improbable plotline.

Christopher Sierra as Don Curzio steals the show. He portrays an extraordinarily flamboyant attorney with a bright pink powdered wig. Other scene-stealers include little flower girls Nomi and Shelly Barkan and Anya Tillstrand.

As usual, the orchestra (Conductor Scott Jackson Wiley) provides a highly polished performance. Producers Francine Garber-Cohen and Marie L. Cantoni are ever present dynamos throughout the process. Kudos as well to

“Marriage of Figaro” at Regina Opera



Susanna (Maryam Amatullah-Wali, left), tries to fend off the Count's (Kuwon Lee, right) unwanted advances.

Photo by Steve Faust

Principal Stage Director Linda Lehr and to everyone who has devoted time and energy to bring Mozart's work to its worthy conclusion.

For information on this and future productions call 718-259-2772 or surf to www.ReginaOpera.org. As always, save me a seat on the aisle.