

Will Fig-face get the babe? Well its all over bar the shouting and wunderkind pj does. A lot.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

(CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY ENSEMBLE)

In being brought up in a less than classical atmosphere I had always assumed that opera was dull, dreary and acoustically irritating. This adolescent prejudice was summarily quashed after viewing Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro performed by the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble at the Playhouse last Thursday.

The story is one of love, lust and scheming in a humorous sense which requires little effort to be enjoyed. It revolves around the anxious desires of Figaro (who left the hair business in Seville for bigger and better things) and his love Suzanna (a beautiful young flower) to be married. The only problem is that Figaro's boss, the Count, will grant them permission to marry only if he is allowed to exercise the droit de seigneur, a frosty old legality which allows him the right to spend the first night with the virgin bride. Figaro is not, to say the least, impressed by the Count's covetous desires and the story follows the plats and trickery of the Count vs. Figaro in Who Gets the Babe.

The place goes nuts. People start spying, lying, cheating and conspiring. All kinds of tawdry little affairs are uncovered, rediscovered and perpetuated by everyone, it seems, within a day's walk of the place. Servants court higher ups. Higher ups entertain the passions of the employees. These people were selfish, hedonistic users of whomever they wished. My, how we have evolved from those days.

It all ends up with Figaro getting his babe and the Count having to settle for reconciliation with his wife (she's a sweetie; why would he want anyone else in the first place). Everyone ends up loving everyone; Figaro even finds out who his real parents are in the midst of the confusion etc, etc... happily-ever-after.

The performance itself was wonderfully entertaining. The voices and stage acting were near flawless (although Figaro could have used some added volume). The accompaniment was precise under the direction of Georg Tintner who also toured through recently with the National Youth Orchestra. For what its worth, to me his abilities and performance

are outstanding and were key to the overall strength of the event. The only complaint I've heard consistently is the variability in sound quality throughout the theatre due to placement of the instruments in the wing. But hey, it sounded fine from my seat.

Too bad I can't understand the original script though. I think some of the feeling is numbed in the conversion of some of the more serious parts to an English script.

But anyways, this is a good opera. It's funny. The humour cannot be outdated or stifled by the fact it's been around a while and requires a performance significantly more elaborate than the usual sitcom crap on the tube. Even if the plot isn't appealing, one can still be impressed with the quality of the performance that has passed through this little burg-in-the-valley. Next time a performance like this comes by, get your buns down the hill and check it out. For five bucks, its unlikely you'll be disappointed.

PJ

chsr STEREO 97.9



WITH D.J.Y.

TUNE IN.
TURN ON.
THE DANSE CRASE

RECYCLING AWARENESS WEEK NOV. 6 - 10



ON NOVEMBER 6TH PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS BECOME RECYCLABLE IN YOUR BLUE BOX.

BLUE BOX HOTLINE 453-1648

PHOTOGRAPHY

OF DISTINCTION
by Tom Kerr

Free Sittings

For Graduation Portraits

Plus

Discounts on all packages for complete class bookings

Call Today

450-8597

NewMaryland Place

Highway 101 3 k Past Regent MALL