

The Washington Post

Hot Topics Clinton Portis Frank W. Buckles Gmail accounts vanish PS 22 chorus Dennis Wideman Kirk Douglas Carolyn Hax



washingtonpost.com > Arts & Living > Style

> FOLLOW STYLE ON: [Social media icons]

OPERA REVIEW 'Magic Flute' hits the right notes -- except for the dramatic ones

By Joan Reinthaler
Monday, November 1, 2010

Catholic University's Opera Theater offered four performances of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" at the Hartke Theatre this past weekend with four different casts. Friday's performance was generally well sung (expertly in the case of Sun A. Yeo's Pamina) but, except for the shenanigans of a delightfully agile and zany Papageno and an obnoxious Monastatos, dramatically inert.

The balance between fairy tale and ritual in this opera is always a crapshoot and, although audiences love fanciful animals and flying spirits, Mozart's Masonic message tipped that balance here. There were some light moments besides Alex Indelicato's well-sung turn as Papageno the bird-catcher and Michael Brown's Monastatos. Monica Harwood's appearance in the opera's last minutes as the frenetic Papagena and the slithery snake that had its two minutes of glory in the opening scene reminded us that this was, after all, a fairy tale.

Eric Gramatges's Tamino (earnest, pure and in pursuit of Pamina) came to life in his arias. He has a voice that is smooth throughout his range, and although he seemed to tire at the end, he was able to inject a gratifying warmth and intensity to his role. When he wasn't singing, however, he was a lump, as were many in the cast. Yeo's beautifully voiced Pamina suffered from this same inertness as did Damian Savarino's sonorous Sarastro, and the guards and the priests.

Conductor David Searle contributed also by leaving gaps between the scenes just long enough to kill whatever momentum had accumulated. His orchestra, however, did an admirable job throughout, particularly the flutist, whose timing was outstanding.

Friday's (and Sunday's) Queen of the Night was soprano Jessica Bachicha, a PhD candidate at Catholic University and an up-and-coming recording star in the Charlotte Church mold. She is blind but navigated the

Network News PROFILE
View More Activity
TOOLBOX
Resize Print E-mail
Yahoo! Buzz Reprints
COMMENT
1 Comment | View All >
COMMENTS ARE CLOSED

Sponsored Links
Need Debt Relief Advice?
Get personalized advice to reduce your debt and turn your life around.
www.FinancialStrengthCenter.com
Dread Creditors Calling?
Qualify for a new debt reduction program. No obligation. Start today!
www.FinancialStrengthZone.com
Buy a link here

Best matches for magic flute review washington post
OPERA REVIEW. 'Magic Flute' hits the right notes -- except for the dramatic ones ... [Jump to text >](#)

Advertisement

Advertisement



"Flat Belly" Veggies
These amazing veggies burn belly fat and help you get in great shape.



3 Foods to NEVER Eat
Beware of some foods that you think are "healthy" that can actually increase your abdominal fat.

BestFoodSecrets

set -- with its many steps -- with ease and grace. She also nailed the highest notes of her famous aria (and drew the greatest applause). But the Queen of the Night is not her role, at least not yet. Her voice is pretty but not commanding and, at this point, she seems able to project only a narrow emotional range.

The trio of spirits, who seemed to have no obvious role in this production, sang with an irritating edginess while the trio of queen's assistants were a well balanced and nicely modulated ensemble. The direction was in the hands of Jay D. Brock and the simple but effective set was designed by Dominic Traino.

CU's new president and all-around good sport, John Garvey, made a cameo appearance at the beginning to introduce the opera and produced, credibly, several of the lowest notes of Sarastro's "O Isis and Osiris" aria, much to the delight of the largely CU-connected crowd.

Reinthal is a freelance writer.

Sponsored Links

[Mom Is 55, Looks 35...](#)

Her shocking \$5 wrinkle therapy angers Botox Doctors. We reveal the...
ConsumerDigestReports.com/Wrinkle-F

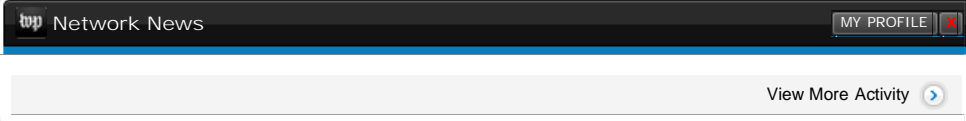
[Travel Guard® Insurance](#)

20+ Years of Travel Experience! Coverage Starting at \$30.
www.TravelGuard.com

[Spinal Stenosis Pain?](#)

See where laser Spine Surgery Began-No Hospitalization!
www.bonati.com

[Buy a link here](#)




44

More ways to share this Article...

- Reddit
- Twitter
- myspace
- del.icio.us
- NewsTrust
- Stumble It!

More From Style

Blogs
Style writers riff on pop music, comics and other topics.
▪ Full Blog Directory



Advice
Get words of wisdom from Carolyn Hax, Ask Amy, Miss Manners and more.



Reliable Source
Columnists Amy Argetsinger and Roxanne Roberts dish dirt on D.C.



© 2010 The Washington Post Company

TOP JOBS

The Washington Post

- Business Jobs
- Computer Jobs
- Construction Jobs
- Education Jobs
- Engineering Jobs
- Healthcare Jobs
- Legal Jobs
- Management Jobs
- Media Jobs
- Non-Profit Jobs
- Sales Jobs
- Science Jobs

Find Your Dream Job Now!

FIND JOBS

Jobs by SimplyHired

FEATURED ADVERTISER LINKS

Mesothelioma, Defective Drugs/Medical Devices, Environmental Pollution, Accidents, Asbestos Cancer, BP Oil Spill

Zimmer High Flex, Malpractice, Personal Injury, Fosamax Femur Fracture, DePuy Hip, Gas Drilling





Looking to buy a home? Visit TWP Real Estate section for the latest open houses.

Enjoy a Taste of Ireland Tour, one week all inclusive from \$658

Make Your Vanguard Investing More Profitable - Free Research Report Reveals Best & Worst Funds



Featured Stories

-  **A federal government shutdown: What happens if the funds run out**
-  **Amid Mideast turmoil, it's business as usual at big Persian Gulf arms show**
-  **'Two and a Half Men' halts production after Sheen's latest radio rant**
-  **Slate: Why are so many questions on U.S. citizenship test wrong?**



- James Franco Cracks Oscar Jokes on General Hos...
- Charlie Sheen on Two and a Half Men: 'A Pukefe...
- Oscar Producers Wanted to Recreate the David N...
- Hear Jason Sudeikis's Thoughts on the Evolutio...

[See all of Vulture »](#)

Ways you can get us

- Mobile
- Apps
- Newsletters & alerts
- RSS
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Podcasts
- Widgets
- Post Store
- Photo Store
- Washington Post Live

The Washington Post

- About us
- Work for us
- Community Relations
- PostPoints
- Corrections
- Archive
- Contact the Ombudsman

Web site

- Make us your homepage
- Newspaper
- Subscribe to the newspaper
- Home delivery service
- e-Replica

Advertise

- In the newspaper
- On the Web site
- Mobile
- Events
- The Washington Post Company
- Corporate Web site

Partners

