



Today: 03.29.2012 - 7:38 am EST

Welcome to Spring

03-28-2012 – Meche Kroop

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Who doesn't enjoy a recital program with a theme? The Chelsea Opera presented a charming tribute to Spring with a program entitled Music of the Flowers. Clearly, a lot of thought went into the program which comprised arias and songs related to flowers. The program was introduced by President/Treasurer Lynne Hayden-Findlay and Vice-President/Secretary Leonarda Priore who also entertained us with an hilarious rendering of David Baker's "Someone's been sending me flowers". Audrey Saint-Gil accompanied the singers with great sensitivity to stylistic differences.

The program was wide-ranging and generous in scope and gave opportunities to over a dozen singers to show their stuff. The material was well chosen and varied. A few performances stood out for a variety of reasons. "Come to my garden" from The Secret Garden was movingly performed by Susan Holsonbake who has a lovely ringy-pingy soprano and young Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg who sings in the children's chorus at the Met. Ms. Holsonbake was also memorable in "Ninfe! Elfi" from Verdi's Falstaff.

Darcy Dunn used her fine mezzo voice to portray Siebel in "Faites-lui mes aveux" from Gounod's Faust and in Mahler's "Ging heut morgen" from Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen. Heather Michele Meyer was affecting as Vitellia singing "Non piu di fiori" from Mozart's La Clemenza di Tito.

The delightful finale was "The flowers that bloom in the spring" from Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado. What fun! It was a delightful evening. The only thing missing was Carmen's "Flower Song". (She really won't be missed.)

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