

Show review

Comic opera students give A+ performance

Semester workshop came to the stage in Whitley Auditorium Sunday afternoon

Bree Sherry

Reporter

The opera workshop class performed scenes from "The Marriage of Figaro," "The Magic Flute" and "Patience" Sunday in Whitley Auditorium. The students showcased what they have been working on in class this semester.

The performance began with director Hallie Coppedge introducing Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." Andrew Frace as Figaro was wonderful, as well as the rest of the singers who performed five songs from this opera. Their characters were very well defined with clear relationships to one another.

Whitley was a good setting for the show, as the characters were able to make the setting very real using few props. The students' voices carried the show, leaving little need for extravagant scenery. It was obvious the class focused on operatic singing; they projected their lines well and their tonal quality was evident.

The costumes were exquisite. They were authentic period costumes that displayed attention to color and detail. The quality of these elaborate outfits was detracted by a few costumes of obviously modern clothes.

The director's decision to costume the boys in lacrosse uniforms for "Patience" could have been reconsidered as well. Although these uniforms fit the characters and were very humorous, they were too modern and clashed against the rest of the authentic looking costumes and set pieces.

All but one of the songs was in English making the show more enjoyable for the audience, as they would not have understood many of the humorous moments. One song was done in Italian because "it was too beautiful to take out of its native language," according to Coppedge.

Coppedge's narration through the scenes was good; it allowed the class to perform parts of each show without having to focus on making sure enough pieces were presented so the audience understood the plot.

“ Don't be frightened, it's only poetry.

—Andrew Frace as Bunthorne in "Patience" ”

The narration told the audience what happened in the scenes that were not seen.

Ashley Hunter gave a memorable performance in "Patience," playing the part of Lady Jane with over-exaggerated emotions and facial movements that set her apart from the rest of the chorus.

Frace and Michael Daly, who played the leading men in "Patience," were also hysterical. Freshman Amanda Taylor used the opportunity to show off her beautiful voice.

Everyone in the show was well cast, and the blending of their voices filled the auditorium. The power of the voices from the girls in the chorus was amazing and left audience members wishing there were more than two or three scenes throughout the performance.

Tackling three plays was an ambitious task, but it went over well, especially in the

ensemble piece, "Patience."

The students used a variety of pieces, comical characters and scenarios to make the performance move quickly. The audience was rolling in their chairs with laughter.

While the purpose of the class was to "introduce the public to opera," according to Coppedge, perhaps if the class presented a complete opera instead of a few scenes from three, the audience could really become connected with the actors. However, the audience seemed to love the show.

Rating: The students should get an A+ for great stage presence and comedic performance.

Contact Bree Sherry at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Want to assume a leadership role on campus? Join The Pendulum executive staff.

We are now accepting applications for openings as News Editor, Assistant News Editor, Opinions Editor, Sports Editor and Business Manager.

*Come to Moseley 233 today and pick up an application.
Be part of the award-winning Pendulum and report
on what matters to the Elon community.*