



Society : The Sainsbury Singers
Production : Showtune
Date : Friday 28th October 2016
Venue : Oakwood Centre - Woodley
Report by : Jeanette Maskell

Show Report

I really enjoy revue's that focus on the music of one composer. I have seen and enjoyed Red Hot Cole but have never seen this Jerry Herman piece. I was totally enamoured with the whole feel of this show; the music was superb and well sung by every member of the cast. There were some superb solos, delightful duets, trios and quartets and finally energetic harmonious chorus numbers.

Every actor had been given a real role to play and they kept this throughout. They were animated lively and clearly enjoying the whole experience.

The three main couples were excellent portraying their differing relationships with outstanding acting and singing. They performed all their numbers in character with good projection and diction; but I particularly enjoyed "Wherever He Ain't" and "Hundreds of Girls".

All soloists were exemplary and had been selected to perform the number that best suited their voice and personality.

ACT 1

Notable solos were;

"A little more Mascara" which was sung with a genuine natural sincerity!

"The Man in the Moon" The soloist here was enchanting, she has a charisma that draws you in and compels you to watch her.

"And I was Beautiful" For me this was the highlight of the evening. The soloist had an exquisite voice with a mellow rounded tone which complemented the number fully.

The counterpoint at the end of act 1 "Before the Parade"/"One Person"/"Open a new Window" was absolutely fabulous; with each part clearly audible.

ACT 2

Notable solos were;

"Movies were Movies" which was fun and entertaining

"Nelson" This was sung freely with great expression.

"What do I do Now?" This was such fun and the young lady that performed it had brilliant facial expressions that enhanced the number greatly.

I really enjoyed "Tap Your Troubles Away" this was upbeat slick and jaunty.

Dolly and Mame were deliciously sarcastic in "Bosom Buddies" and really brought out the humour of the lyrics.

“Shalom” was a number I did not know and found myself totally transfixed by it.

For me the most enjoyable light hearted and fun numbers were those from Hello Dolly; Put on Your Sunday Clothes – It Takes a Woman – Before the Parade Passes by and of course Hello Dolly all of which were put over with great aplomb!

Wendy Carne – (Producer/Director) – Although there was no dialogue to enable the director to develop in depth characters, Wendy had managed to bring real life to every actor on the stage. She brought out the humour and pathos of the piece creating a complete amalgamation of storytelling through song and dance; with the whole show flowing seamlessly and effortlessly with great pace and energy. Positioning groupings and spacing was excellent and although there was a large cast the stage never looked overcrowded. This was helped immensely by the use of the back rostra, which added another dimension to the acting area. I really liked the way she encouraged the cast to interact with the audience which drew them in and made them feel part of the action.

Trevor Defferd – (Musical Director) – When I see Trevor’s name as MD I know the cast will bring the lyrics of the songs to life. He is a stickler for ensuring they understand what they are singing and thereby able to act through the music. Principals were confident with excellent entries and immaculate diction. Chorus had been well drilled and harmonies were superb. The small band were outstanding and a joy to listen to. They accompanied the actors brilliantly and at no point did they overpower the singers.

Denise Schult – (Choreographer) – The routines were diverse and well devised making good use of patterns and simple movement which encapsulated the essence of the numbers. The cast had been well drilled and were able to perform the whole program to a high standard. She had made certain that the cast were lively and energetic throughout all the numbers I particularly enjoyed “Tap your Troubles Away” and “The Best of Times”

Kim Hollamby/Rebecca Simons – (Lighting Designer/Operator) - I was so impressed with the lighting for this piece. The colours that flooded the acting area were ambient and atmospheric. The fixed spots worked extremely well and had been used by the director to maximum effect. I especially liked the creative lighting when the lanterns were being used it really gave an ethereal vibe. Operation of the board was excellent and expertly cued.

Joe Daniels/John Simmonds – (Stage Crew) - There was not a great deal for this couple to do; however they kept the action moving and Zaza’s dressing table was set and struck quite unobtrusively.

Kazia Grainger/Wendy Carne – (Props/Set) – The stage looked amazing with park benches, café table and chairs flowers and lanterns scattered around the peripheral; it really was very colourful and jolly. Every detail had been thought about even down to the items that should be on Zaza’s makeup table. Well done ladies!

Amanda Bretney – (Wardrobe Designer) – **Emma Reeves** – (Supervisor) – These were bright and attractive adding a real splash of colour to the stage. Amanda had really gone to town in

act 2 with the cast dressed in an array of theatrical characters. It was lovely to see accessories and shoes had been thought about and completed the overall effect.

Kerry Thomas/Jessamy Vincent – (Makeup Design/Team – Makeup had been well applied looking fresh and natural. When the audience is so close it is a challenge to get the balance right so that it does not fade under the lights but is not so heavy that it looks plastered on. In this instance it was perfect so well done.

Catherine Hannan – (Hair & Wigs) – This young lady had done a great job with hair styles making sure they right for the costume. The wig for Zaza looked fabulous and the other wigs suited the characters perfectly.

John Jones – (Front of House Manager) – John has a good team around him and he runs a tight ship ensuring everything front of house goes smoothly. I would like to thank him for looking after me so well.

Thank you

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Jeanette Maskell - NODA Representative - London Region - Area 13