Cosi Fan Tutte

Mozart’s comic opera ‘Cosi Fan Tutte’ was first performed in 1790 in Vienna. Mozart was 34 years old. Within two years he would be dead. ‘Cosi’ was the last of his three comic operas with plot and words by Da Ponte, a partnership some have called the most creative artistic collaboration the world has known.

The opera was popular and frequently performed for the next twenty or so years and then sank into oblivion for the rest of the nineteenth century, a victim of the distaste of the Victorians for its ‘modern’ attitude to sex. Now it is among the most performed of all operas and widely regarded as an outstanding masterpiece.

Later this month it is being performed at the Barn by Starlight Opera, in English, fully staged and costumed with orchestra and fine singers. The ticket price is less than the price of a pizza - don’t miss the chance to see it. You can introduce your kids to the world of opera at the matinee for 5 pounds per child.

Oxted Players

Twenty three of our Young Players participated in our Summer Workshop in August overseen by David Rowan culminating in their performance on Saturday 24th August, of Robin Hood of the Children of Sherwood. They all appeared on stage in a variety of roles in a lively adaptation by David of the legendary tale. The play included the usual characters of Robin Hood, Little John, Friar Tuck, Sheriff of Nottingham, Maid Marian, etc. but there was the extra addition of the children of Robin Hood’s Merry Men who set about rescuing Maid Marian, who was then seized by the wicked Sheriff. Our youngsters thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the workshop and presentation of their play to a very appreciative audience with some outstanding performances. This was our fifth Summer Workshop which has now become a regular annual event.

As we go to press our ‘Older’ Players (together with one Young Player) have just completed their production of Michael Palin’s The Week directed by Guy Hudson. The play was very well received by the audiences. Tony Flook reviewed the play for Surrey Mirror and extracts from his review are as follows:

‘Michael Palin’s play adds a new dimension to the well-worn scenario in which welcomed and less welcomed guests cause chaos when they descend on hosts for the weekend. The writer gives the story a twist because, in this case, the key problem turns out to be the householder himself, not the visitors who, despite their own idiosyncrasies, are mainly catalysts. There is a certain degree of humour, some gratuitous near farce and, ultimately, pathos. However, not all strands are pulled together, leaving questions posed but, in some cases, unanswered. Guy Hudson directed a thoughtful production of this intriguing if not totally satisfying play, which was performed at Oxted’s Barn Theatre last week.

The central character is Stephen, a middle-aged curmudgeon who fears and resents the arrival of his daughter and her family, complete with incontinent dog. It’s a huge, demanding role – the actor is on stage almost throughout and initiates many of the sharp exchanges that characterise the play. Chris Hepher seemed to relish the challenge and, in particular, coped through and initiates many of the sharp exchanges that characterise the play.

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remaining characters were Duff, played by Mike Rourke, who falls out with his daughter and her family, complete with incontinent dog. It’s a huge, demanding role – the actor is on stage almost throughout and initiates many of the sharp exchanges that characterise the play.

The script is a hilarious mixture of traditional story and unexpected twists and similarly, the music is a clever blend of period-style and up-beat melodies. Musical numbers include “Shy”, “Normandy” and “Happily Ever After”. All-in-all an entertaining evening for the whole family.

Tickets are available now from the Phoenix Box Office on 020 8405 9946.