



SUD-OUEST
LA ROCHELLE 03/29/99
"THE BARBER OF SEVILLE"
Quality, Quality
FRANÇOIS BLAZY

There is no doubt about it. Just like the 1000 people from La Rochelle who came to the Coursive, Rossini would have appreciated the ingenious, bizarre, rhythmic and, in the nicest way, puerile production of the immortal "Barber" as conceived and presented by Laurent Laffargue.

At a time when everyone is "revisiting" everything (and often should have gone on a trip somewhere else or, better yet, refrained altogether) here is a refreshing, intelligent "reread" which in no way spoils a story that could easily be made into a comic book. With doses of seriousness and extravagant deliberateness, given that it is an opera, comic indeed, but it isn't theater.

For Laurent Laffargue is only the talented director of a masterpiece written by a brilliant composer. And, you will smile often, laugh sometimes, without being distracted from the essential, which is Rossini's music – inventive, bubbly, full of vigor, sun, and youth.

In one word – beautiful. It couldn't have been written better to be sung, and sung in Italian, even if our language (or another one) only spoils our pleasure a little bit.

A pleasure that the singers share, in particular Victoria Manso (Rosine), beautiful timber and wonderful presence, whereas with Nikola Todorovitch (Almaviva), we haven't quite yet found our count.

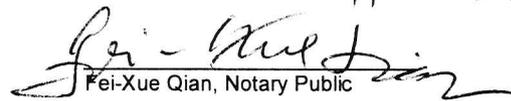
The National Orchestra of Bordeaux-Aquitaine also contributes to this pleasure, directed up to tempo with passion and precision by Philippe Béran.

Michael Kowalewski, a professional translator of French into English, has translated the attached document under contract to 1-800-Translate, an American Translators Association (ATA) corporate membership company. We have examined the document and have found it to be a complete and accurate translation of the original provided to us.


Janneth Alfaro, Project Manager

State of New York, County of New York

Sworn to me before me this 17th day of Oct. 2007


Fei-Xue Qian, Notary Public

Fei-Xue Qian
No. 01Q16057816
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires April 23, 2011