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7 November 2007

Reviews

Yuri Temirkanov conducts a traditional Traviata

by Silvia Luraghi

Verdi: La Traviata
Festival Verdi
2 October 2007



La Traviata at Parma's Festival Verdi featured the debut of Yuri Temirkanov in a work he has frequently conducted in St. Petersburg. In an interview before the opening night, Maestro Temirkanov declared that his view of *Traviata* is very close to the composer's intentions and traditions. For this reason, he accepted the cuts that were already included in the production before it reached Parma. This was a co-production of the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, the Theatergemeinschaft Düsseldorf-Duisburg and the Théâtre de la Monnaie Bruxelles, directed by Karl-Ernst and Ursel Herrmann, which featured traditional sets and elaborated costumes (also by Karl-Ernst

Herrmann).

There was quite a lot of dancing during the party scenes, and a lot of often unnecessary acting (for example, why does Alfredo throw a snow ball on the window before entering Violetta's cottage in the second act?), which also resulted at certain moments of unwanted extraneous noise.

Svetla Vassileva (Violetta Valery) has a nice, lyric soprano whose strength lies in her middle register with her physical beauty being a requirement of the production allowing her to dance showing off her legs and jumping on the table in the first act. Massimo Giordano did his best as Alfredo, with some vocal limitations. Vladimir Stoyanov's interpretation of Germont père was very convincing with a sizable voice which is technically flawless. He was adequately unsympathetic toward Violetta in the second act, in which the duet between the two was the best part of the performance.

Maestro Temirkanov conducted the orchestra as he had announced, with a view to tradition. The audience approved.

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