

Bach and the Barber: City Recital Hall

By [Victor Kline](#) ArtsHub | Monday, August 10, 2009



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What fun! What a beautifully balanced programme, building from the almost somber tones of WASSENAE's Concerto Armonici and BACH's Cantata Ich habe genug, BWV.82, in the first half to a second half of HANDEL's Overture to Ariodante, HWV.33 and Aria Scherza Infida from Ariodante, HWV.33, MOZART's lively Overture to The Magic Flute, K.620, followed by his Aria Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen also from The Magic Flute, and finishing with the delights of Rossini's Overture to The Italian Girl in Algiers and his crowd pleasing Aria Largo al factotum from The Barber of Seville.

Characters driven by life and love are the inspiration of this concert. Naughty, playful and even profound, these arias were fabulously brought to life by the charismatic German baritone Hans Georg Wimmer, together with the Brandenburg performing on period instruments. Wimmer is the consummate entertainer. His deep, resonant, rich sound was brought to what is really a stunning range of music including the irreverent rendition of the Barber of Seville. Was he man or superman? At first, it seemed like a superman impersonation, but later it was clear he was giving us the Bugs Bunny of Seville, or maybe? Whatever it was, it served to distinguish this performance from the stuffed shirt approach of many others to this sort of concert. The audience loved it, and they loved his peerless voice too.

Brandenburg's Paul Dyer is a first rate entrepreneur as well as a first rate performer. His ability to source period instruments that have never been seen before is a real bonus. The audience was in awe when he performed Mozart on the glock, a minute tinkling keyboard affair whose delicacy rang out in the semi intimate space of the City Recital Hall.

Madeleine Easton as concert master and first violin was inspired, as were all the players. I was particularly taken with the timpani of Leigh Giles and for a time I was sure I was on an eighteenth century battlefield. All in all, a cracker of a night. I can't wait till the Brandenburg's next concert in September entitled *The Three Faces of Vivaldi*.

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Bach and the Barber played 31 July to 8 August at the City Recital Hall in Sydney. For future bookings phone the City Recital Hall on 82562222 or the Brandenburg on 93287581.

Season Closed

Victor Kline

Victor Kline started his working life as Sydney's youngest barrister. He is now Editor of the Federal Court Reports, and an award winning playwright, director and actor who has worked extensively in theatre in Sydney and off Broadway in New York. He is also author of the novel 'Rough Justice'.

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