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TODAY IN MILWAUKEE



**Miley Cyrus w/ Metro Station**

The plight of child pop stars follows a script as tight as a typical episode of VH1's "Behind the Music," but that doesn't make it any less tragic. Inevitably, these stars want to grow up and establish themselves as adults, while the powers...  
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Oct 10

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## Skylight Opera Theatre's Richly Detailed 'Barber of Seville'

By Rick Walters

The *Barber of Seville*, Rossini's frothy favorite, opened the Skylight Opera Theatre (which previously called itself simply The Skylight) season last weekend. Director Bill Theisen's production, conventionally set in the 18th century, is rich in detail, as is his custom, and comes off rather well.

*Barber* needs inventive direction to come to life; otherwise it can be as tiresome as a party that never takes off. Theisen uses some traditional approaches, such as slow-motion action in the act one finale, and throws in many others. Most ideas work and create character and laughs, though asking the maid Berta to constantly sneeze wore thin very quickly. Van Santvoord's pretty sets were largely customary. It was a surprise to see the interior of Bartolo's house, usually an aristocratic space, show the dowdiness of an old bachelor.

On Saturday evening tenor Gregory Schmidt was indisposed. He sang recitatives only, and otherwise acted Count Almaviva while Peter Voigt sang on the side of the stage. The result was a strange mix of ventriloquism and silent movie. Even acting, it was difficult to believe in Schmidt as someone so impulsively carried away by emotion that he goes to outlandish extremes. Voigt's voice is small but agile and right for the style. As Bartolo, Jason Budd is an expert comic actor, but only passable as a basso buffo opera singer. I've never heard a *bel canto* role sung so casually, more musical theater than opera.

Andrew Wilkowske is an energetic, happy-go-lucky Figaro. His vocal performance was likable enough, with bright sound, though he was not completely at home in the quick running notes of the music. As Rosina, mezzo-soprano Katherine Pracht was lovely and made this ingénue-with-a-hint-of-vixen part interesting. She is an engaging singer with a good voice, but it is not a perfect fit for Rossini's coloratura.

Daniel Klein's Basilio was the most original performance. Usually played as a prissy busybody, Klein gave the role some wacky masculine menace, costumed with dark Spanish garb and carrying mysterious baggage. Pasquale Laurino's conducting and the orchestra's playing was serviceable, though the string sound was noticeably thin.

### COMMENTS

POST A COMMENT

Posted at 09/25/2009 06:23



Hal Of course the Shepherd Express likes the dark, goth character. A predictable review from this paper.

Kyle

REPLY TO COMMENT

Posted at 09/28/2009 02:22

you sound a bit like a dark goth character, sir...



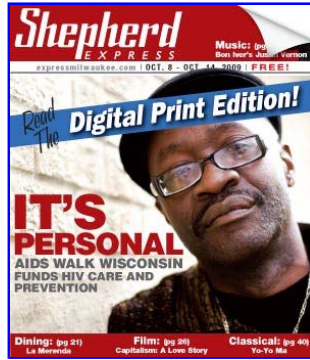
anonymous

### Says You

- AdamS:** Apparently the main person he rubs the wrong way is ...
- Jennifer:** Where's the street food category? I voted for Streetza pizza. ...
- courtney:** i personally thought that, besides yeah yeah yeahs, animal collective ...
- David:** Personally, I think that gun control efforts are a joke, ...
- Jna:** Of course Badger Guns is going to be linked to ...
- Jeff Clinton:** Just wondering if anyone out there has a set list ...
- anonymous:** Saw the Chicago show and it was near excellent. I'd ...
- Kirsten:** Great article! Makes me want to move to NYC.
- kate:** I too, am in NYC at the moment. And it ...
- anonymous:** ... while still appreciating Milwaukee for the wonderful bit of ...
- Matt Freeman :** A sewage drain??? Maybe they kinda do. I ...
- buzzz:** I've seen Tull dozens of times over the years and ...
- anonymous:** Ian's voice hasn't been strong for the last ten years ...

### Also in Classical Music/Dance:

- Cellist Yo-Yo Ma's Gorgeous Tone at MSO Concert
- Edo de Waart's Vibrant MSO Debut
- WCM's 'Music and Times of Jane Austen'
- Wild Space Dance Company's Ambitious 'Elements'
- Early Music Now Presents Galileo's Daughters
- MSO to Perform Mahler's Fifth Symphony
- Wild Space Dance Company's 'Trace Elements' of Milwaukee's Past
- Turner Hall Suits Present Music's 'Gnarly Buttons'
- Skylight Opera Presents 'The Barber of Seville'
- Performance Art Showcase 09/29



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