

'It's a Musical World' - all aboard for a fantastic flight of musical medleys!

Monmouth Music Theatre proved that it is truly a musical world as they performed their latest concert of magical musicals this week at the Savoy Theatre. Their varied and highly polished performances had the audience enthralled each night, with many people longing to join their entourage. Showcasing the fantastic Savoy Youth, the songs showed terrific talent from all.

The MMT crowd performed musical numbers as a tour of the world: starting in the UK with 'My Fair Lady' we began with 'Wouldn't it be lovely' from the whole cast to next being delighted by the beautiful voice of Louise Miller, cleverly showing pre- and post-Higgins Eliza and her counterpart, the arrogant but mellifluous Graham Bryant, who delivered the opposing songs 'Without you' and 'I've grown accustomed to her face.' Doug Hall and the Men's Chorus looked suitably kowtowed as they went off to face the terrorising 'Pirates of Penzance'.

A quick trip over the Channel brought us to hear about a night in Paris re-remembered (with varying accuracy) from 'Gigi', Raul in 'Phantom' and the hardships from 'Les Miserables'. A quick stop in Germany for Lynn Hounsomes's hopeful 'Maybe This Time' and then we flew over to Israel for a 'Joseph Medley'. Africa for 'Lion King', Thailand for 'Chess' and Solomon Island for 'South Pacific': we were transported all over the place - it was thrilling! The stage directions and costumes of the cast gave a step-up to the standard fare of concerts. Just like their shows, MMT wanted to give their audience a real show-stopper performance!

The penultimate stop of the journey was a tour of the USA: Sarah Hayward shone as the battered and bruised Audrey from 'Little Shop of Horrors'; Louise and Nick played terrible teens for 'Annie, Get Your Gun!' and the brilliant Savoy Youth staged extracts from 'West Side Story', 'Chicago', 'Grease' and 'Hairspray'. The 'Showboat' docked with Doug's 'Ol' Man River' and Lynn's 'Can't help lovin' that man o' mine', both soulful and sweet renditions.

Stage Directors were Jane and Graham Bryant and the show was conducted by the Society's Musical Director, Ian Russell and the Accompanist was Alastair Cameron.

Finally, MMT showed they are ready and raring to go with their next production of 'Oliver', as they brought us home to the UK with a taste of the great songs they will be bringing to life at the Haberdashers' School for Girls from 10th to 12th April 2014. Be thankful not to be on the casting committee for this production: with such amazing talent across the board, the choice will be extremely difficult.