

**Journalist / Critic:** Peter Burdon  
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## Sweet operatic allsorts

### **Adelaide Youth Orchestra**

#### **MUSIC**

**When:** Monday  
**Where:** Elder Hall  
**Reviewer:** Peter Burdon

THE Adelaide Youth Orchestra commenced its 2009 Elder Hall season with *A Night At The Opera*, a handful of operatic allsorts and Tchaikovsky's 2nd Symphony.

Proceedings began unevenly, with the overture to Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* destined for the witch's oven. Toe-curling horns and approximate winds made for a difficult time of it.

The vocal numbers were much better. First up was the excellent Rachel McCall in arias from

Handel's *Alcina* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. In the former, Morgana's *Tornami a vegheggiar*, she combined perfect diction with vocal flexibility, with stylish ornamentation on the repeat.

Pamina's heart-rending *Ach, ich fühl's*, was similarly good, and the much-reduced orchestra a fine match.

Tenor Robert Macfarlane was spot-on, as ever, though he occasionally struggled to be heard.

Delight of the evening was the duet *Cara Cara* from Cimarosa's *Il Matrimonio Segreto*.

The Tchaikovsky started auspiciously, though the dense orchestration proved a challenge.

The rest, however, was more than adequate, with the 2nd movement theme, borrowed from the composer's unpublished opera *Undine*, given out with a confidence that set the tone for the remainder of the performance.