
Andrew Griffiths

Selected Reviews

La Cenerentola at Iford, (June 2010)

"The conductor Andrew Griffiths managed Rossini's overall crescendo to this peak with similar control and flair, ensuring a wholly satisfying end to the evening. It was a reminder that there is almost nothing to beat the magic of Iford at its intimate best."
- **Opera Magazine, Rian Evans, September 2010**

"Happier times in Iford's enchanted Somerset cloister, where Rossini's Cinderella, directed by Bill Bankes-Jones, turns out to be more than summer fluff. The score is reduced to eleven instruments, sounds rather Schubertian, and comes across with great verve, clarity and elegance in Andrew Griffiths's conducting of the Chroma ensemble, every one a virtuoso, of whom Tom Hankey (violin) stands out for energy and style. Griffiths paces things brilliantly, not afraid to draw out a yearning strain that is often lost in the welter of Rossinian ebullience, but equally driving the ensembles along with scary speed."
- **The Tablet, Robert Thicknesse**

"Supported by vivacious playing from the ensemble Chroma under Andrew Griffiths, Caryl Hughes sang warmly as an endearing Cenerentola... Cenerentola will never be my favourite Rossini opera, but in Iford's Italianate cloister, it shone with gentle charm."
- **The Daily Telegraph, Rupert Christiansen, June 2010**

"Caryl Hughes gave a feisty account of the title role, fluent in her colatura with her small frame packing a big punch. The Chroma ensemble, under Andrew Griffiths, provided effervescent accompaniment that made the show fizz along nicely."
- **Opera Now, Ashutosh Khandekar, November 2010**

The Barber of Seville at Iford, (June 2009)

"Iford Arts' opera summer season has kicked off with a lively take on Rossini's ever-green comic masterpiece... Andrew Griffiths - a graduate of the Royal Opera's Young Artist Programme - managed to keep things together with a sure hand, produced some seductive Rossinian rubato and elicited a great deal of characterful playing from the ten-piece orchestra, CHROMA...".
- **Musical Criticism, Hugo Shirley, June 2009**

Hansel and Gretel at Opera North, (December 2008)

"Opera North did it with a six-piece band, and an audience of squirming 9-year-olds. The Royal Opera production was all about luxury casting and a sublime orchestral sound. Yet it was Opera North that won hands down... if I had to go and see one of those productions again, I'd pick Opera North's. Bigger, it turns out, doesn't always mean better."
- **The Guardian, Charlotte Higgins, December 2008**

Jette Parker Summer Concert at the Royal Opera, (2008)

"Richard Farnes and Andrew Griffiths conducted the Orchestra of Opera North... 'Deh, vieni' was perfectly passed and all three composers' ensembles generated exuberant theatrical momentum ..." - **Opera Magazine, October 2008**

Andrew Griffiths

Selected Reviews

The Marriage of Figaro at Iford, (July 2008)

"Conductor Andrew Griffiths kept the drama moving at a good pace... without losing a delicateness that suited the singers, Mozart's music and the setting very well." - **Early Music Today, October/November 2008**

"Andrew Griffiths' brisk musical direction, meanwhile, ensures plenty of musical snap, crackle and pop throughout." - **Venue**

"My visit to Iford manor on 16 June for the opening night of their summer opera season was to specifically watch the Welsh baritone Mark Evans sing the role of Figaro in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro. It was an impressive performance... Add to that Owen Gilhooly's very stylishly sung Count and the pacy conducting of Andrew Griffiths and one comes away even further convinced of the high virtues of this tiny venue." - **Musical Opinion, September/October 2008**

"...I doubt very much that you will find a more magical performance that this... Iford Festival Opera's own production with young, beautiful voices, and players on period instruments, all under the youthful but ever watchful eye of Andrew Griffiths."

- **Bath Chronicle**

Donizetti's Rita at the Royal Opera, (October 2007)

"A musical triumph... conductor Andrew Griffiths draws from his orchestra (the Southbank Sinfonia) a rhythmically incisive, instrumentally detailed reading of Donizetti's compelling score." - **musicOMH.com Dave Paxton, October 2007**

"Young Artist Andrew Griffiths conducted an excellent account of the score, inspiring the Southbank Sinfonia to give of their all. Both the balance of the instruments and the tempi were well handled, and the accompaniment was sensitive to all three singers." - **musicalcriticism.com Dominic McHugh, October 2007**

"Andrew Griffiths conducts the youthful players of the Southbank Sinfonia with a fair degree of panache."

- **The Stage Edward Bhesania, October 2007**

Jette Parker Summer Concert at the Royal Opera, (July 2007)

"Griffiths conducted one of the evening's particular highlights, Liora Grodnikaite's assumption of Charlotte in Massenet's Werther... the duet from Mascagni's L'amico Fritz... also made a lasting impression." - **theoperacritic.com**

"Young Artist Andrew Griffiths took the baton for the Mascagni, bringing out many details of the composer's lush orchestral palette and engaging well with the singers." - **musicOMH.com Dave Paxton, July 2007**