

A Grand Night For Singing is lush in warmth

By Gary Smith

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If you love the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein you'll have a good time at A Grand Night For Singing. This romp through the catalogue of their great show tunes -- as well as a stop or two to look at a couple of flops -- is a pleasant enough evening.

Not entirely enchanted, as Nellie and Emile might suggest in South Pacific, but agreeable all the same.

A good cast mostly does justice to the big love songs and comic numbers that propel this show along.

Lyla Miklos has the best voice, filling HTI's Studio with lush, appealing warmth. Her take on the love ballads, Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful and It Might As Well Be Spring, is entirely winning. So too is her dramatic understanding of that regal character song, Something Wonderful, from The King And I.

Barbara Fisher makes a meal of A Hundred Million Miracles, from Flower Drum Song, and she stops the show cold with a knockout version of It's Me, from Me and Juliet.

Pamela Marques provides attractive onstage presence, connecting nicely with her comic and dramatic numbers even if If I Loved You, from Carousel, seems to tax her vocal range.

The boys here, Cameron Moncur and Stephen B. Andrews, seem more comfortable with comic zingers such as Don't Marry Me than they are with the big love ballads. It also has to be said they look a tad fresh and, well, young beside the ladies they accompany here.

Musically, the show is less driven than it might be, with flaccid unimaginitive accompaniment.

Tom Levely's terrace set provides an attractive playing area, even if Beryl Harrison's costumes look a touch dowdy and unattractive.

Sharon Reynolds hasn't quite worked the same miracle she did with Jerry Herman's revue Jerry's Girls, but she's packaged this songfest neatly enough, with a welcome sense of fun.

SHOWTIME

What: A Grand Night For Singing

Who: Hamilton Theatre Inc.

When: Continues April 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 at 8 p.m. Matinees at 2 p.m. April 10 and 17

Where: Hamilton Theatre Inc. Studio, 140 MacNab St. N.

Tickets: \$20. (\$2 discount for students and seniors)

Phone: 905-522-3032.