

Festival gem revealed

REVIEW

What: The Lyon Sisters

When: Thursday February 23 2017

Where: Victorian Garden Conservatory

Soloists: Gwen Lyon, Ruby Lyon

Accompanist: David Sidwell

Reviewer: Sam Edwards

The easygoing audience rolled in chatting, happy, expectant.

Ben the Sound, one of Hamilton's best audio techs, gave me directions for best listening spot, and accompanist extraordinaire, David Sidwell, decided to play bare footed so that he would have a more sensitive control of the soft pedal on the mercifully real piano.

Ruby had been delayed, filming on Shortland Street, so Sam Rickett, with guitar and technowizz one man band kit performed.

Most of the audience loved it. A couple of old codgers didn't, and talked. Loudly.



David Sidwell

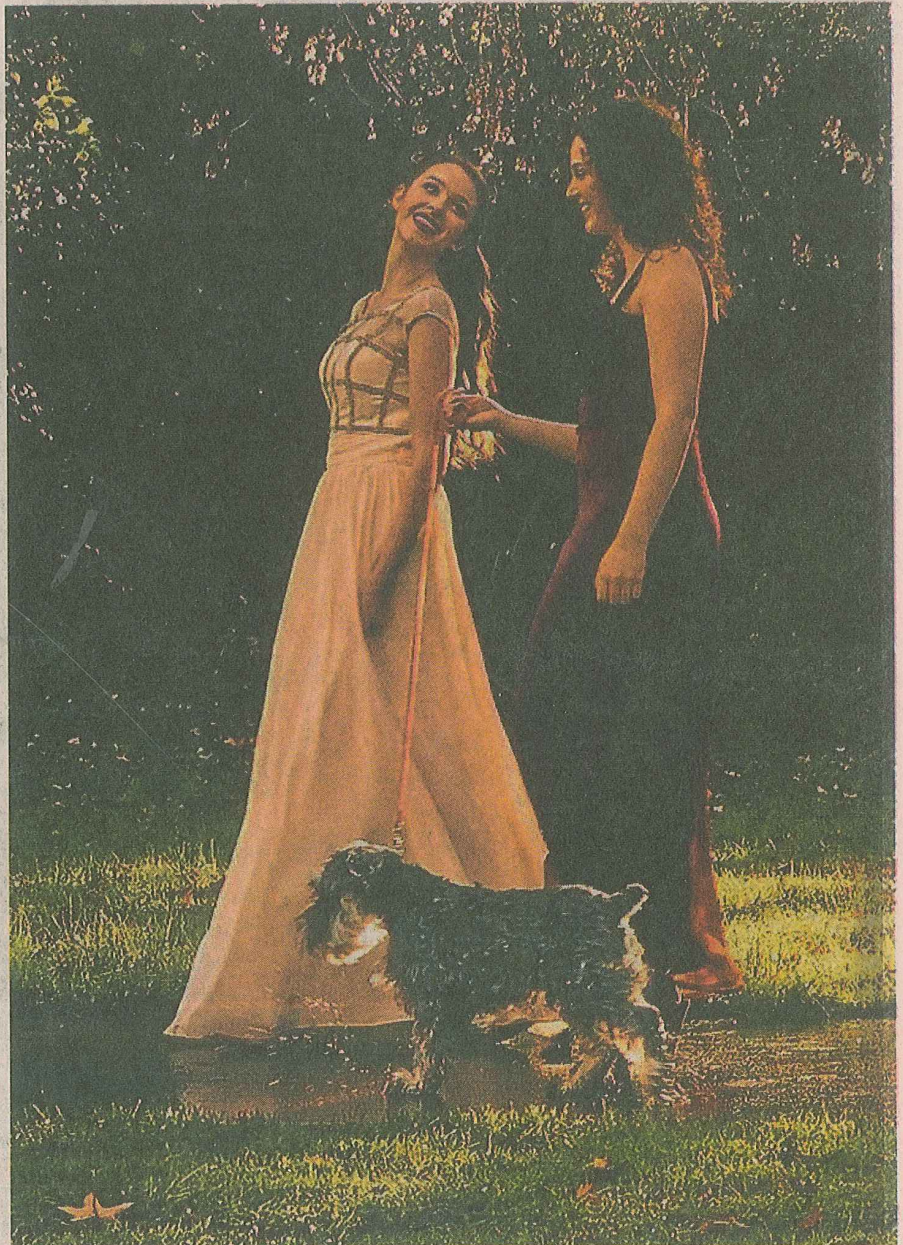
Others followed, or played fone Facebook. Bad form, chaps.

Then Mr Sidwell flexed his flexible fingers, and sat, poised... and the double act arrived on stage. Ms Gwen Lyon sang an opening song about selfconsciousness and fear of mistakes on a first date.

It could have been schmaltzy and trite, but Ms G. disappeared straight into the vulnerable character and turned the song into a movingly beautiful portrait of human fallibility.

Then came an apparently innocuous duet which turned into a vocal duel inspired by their dislike of each other, and we had the wonderful paradox of violent animosity delivered in exquisite harmony, unimaginable dynamics, and spellbinding rhythms.

Over The Rainbow took mezzo Ruby through a solo where the lower register was velvety and rich, and the upper voice as clear and pure as the rainbow she was delivering, and it hit the audience that this was not merely a couple of local girls



Gwen and Ruby Lyon - two remarkable voices, each enhancing the other, disciplined and sensitive at the same time.

PHOTO: FAIRFAX NZ

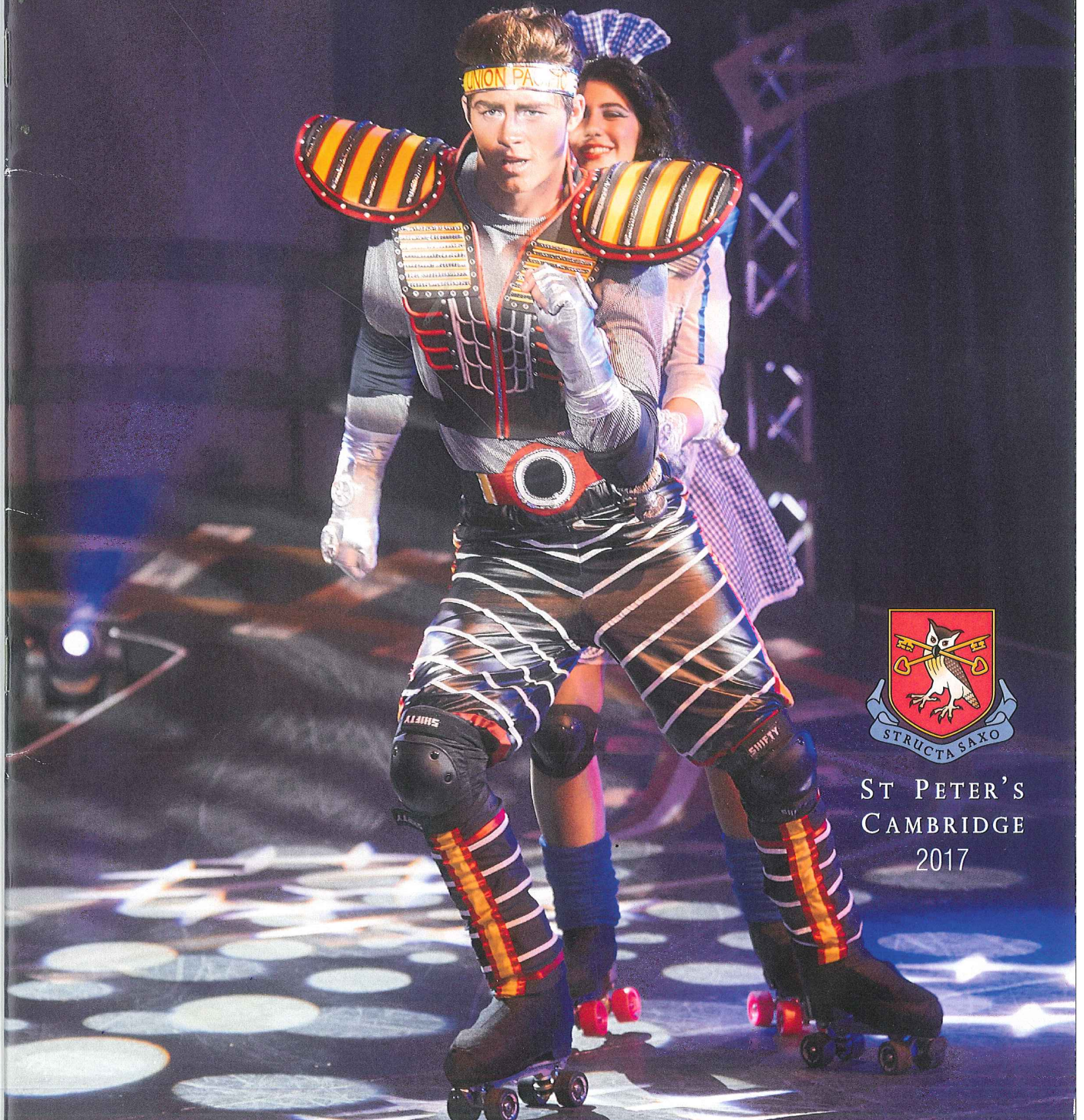
earning a buck busking at a festival.

Here were two remarkable voices, each enhancing the other, disciplined and sensitive at the same time, delivering songs of love and separation, of loss and redemption, and of reality and wishful thinking, and winning every

time. Even the crusty critic, found himself not quite able to see to write as his eyes moistened during Gwen's poignant realising of barricades and bravery in her song from Les Miserables. Every festival has its gems.

This was one for 2017.

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
**STARLIGHT
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ST PETER'S
CAMBRIDGE
2017



ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
STARLIGHT EXPRESS

Music by
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Lyrics by
RICHARD STILGOE

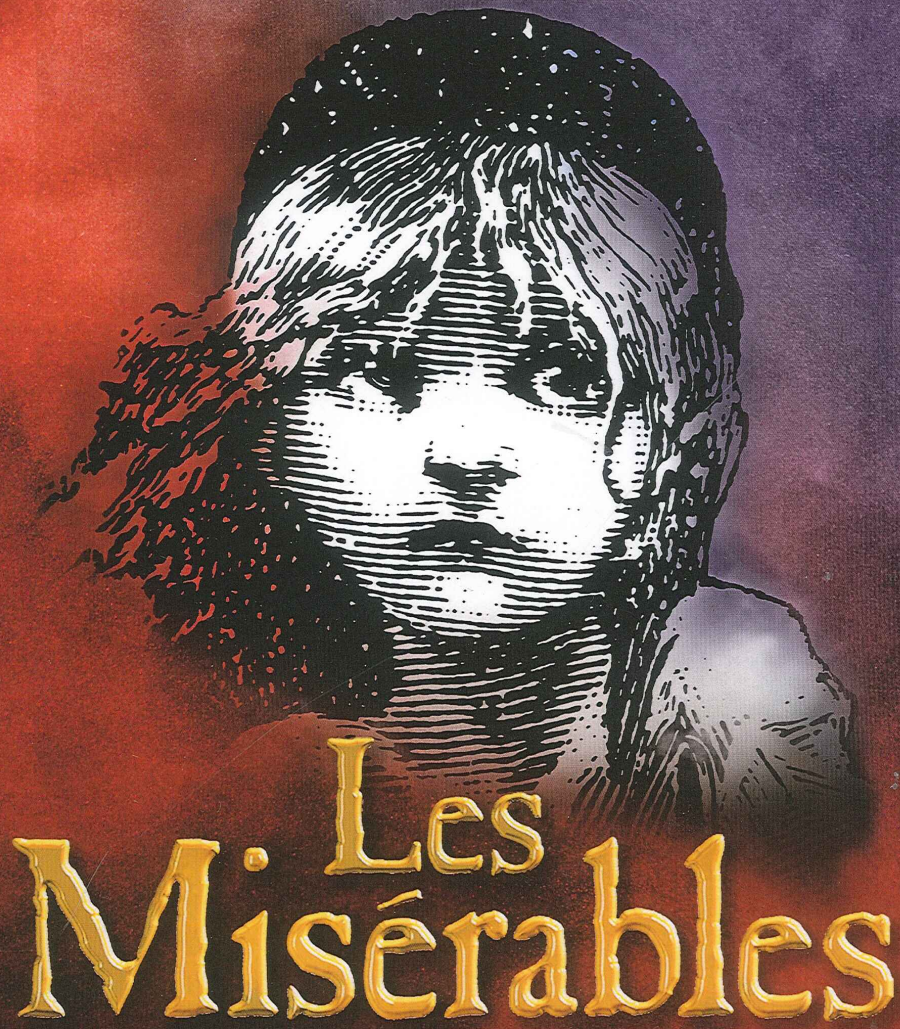
Additional Lyrics by
DAVID YAZBEK

Choreographer
Jenna Bagshaw

Musical Director
Victoria Trenwith

Director
David Sidwell

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M. Les
Misérables

HAMILTON OPERATIC SOCIETY

presents

a new production of
BOUBLIL and SCHÖNBERG'S

Les Misérables

A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

Based on a novel by VICTOR HUGO

Music by CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG Lyrics by HERBERT KRETZMER

Original French Text by ALAIN BOUBLIL and JEAN-MARC NATEL

Additional material by JAMES FENTON

Adapted and originally directed by TREVOR NUNN and JOHN CAIRD

Orchestrations by JOHN CAMERON

Director DAVID SIDWELL Musical Director ALEX WILTSHIRE

Original London Production by CAMERON MACKINTOSH
and THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

23 JUNE - 8 JULY 2017

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