



Led by Nourabad (Zelotes Edmund Toliver) and Surga (Jake Gardner), the villagers pray to Brahma for deliverance.

## Sweep of action marks opera

By CRAIG REYNOLDS

Georges Bizet beat out the construction of the Paris Opera by more than 10 years. He anticipated that overly grand edifices in 1863 with "The Pearl Fishers," an operatic work which matches the architectural hodgepodge of the opera house stroke for romantic stroke.

In both music and masonry, there are sweeping gestures to inspire great but transitory emotion and devices shamelessly employed for sensory effect rather than meaning. But in both there also dwells the essential good nature of high romanticism, a celebration of unintellectualized

action, reaction and feeling.

Thus it seems somehow appropriate that Michigan Opera Theatre, MOT, chooses to commence its eighth season with a new production of Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers" that is every bit as unabashedly eclectic as the incurably romantic music and libretto.

IF A SPECIFIC criticism is to be lodged against MOT's "Pearl Fishers," it would be that stage director Dominic Missimi has not made the production quite passionate enough. The performers fall short of the out-sized emotions which lend believability to unbelievable actions, like that of burning down a town for the love of a woman.

Still, "The Pearl Fishers" plays with great sweeps of colorful action which propel the highly contrived plot into the realm of pure theatrical joy.

A substantial contribution to this success is made in the sets and costumes by Robert Joel Schwartz. Against the distinctively exotic backgrounds of batik panels and gauzy drops, the company plays out the story of rediscovered love in assorted saris, loincloths and body jewelry to create one of the most colorful and frankly physical productions mounted by MOT on the Music Hall stage.

As for the company, baritone Jake Gardner in the role of Zurga, leader of the pearl fishermen, and soprano Leigh Munro as the fishermen's priestess Leila, maintained good voice and strong characters throughout the opening night performance.

TENOR RICO SERBO as Nadir, the third member of this romantic triangle, kept his tone bottled up for the first act, but finally started to make his contribution to the lush music in the second and third acts.

The company as a whole experienced difficulty with diction, clarity and simple volume, but often delivered the overwhelming melodiousness which Bizet's score demands.

For sheer musicality, much of "Pearl Fishers" was outstandingly lovely. For this accomplishment, the vocal strength of Gardner and rich

tone of Ms. Munro, together with Z. Edmund Toliver's imposing interpretation of the priest Nourabad, must be commended for guiding the production to musical success.

Anna Marie Schary contributed some interesting choreography for the chorus and members of the Clifford Fears Dance Theatre which was occasionally awash in the sea of color on stage, while Dave Garretson's evocative lighting was often mismatched to the glorious waves of emotion sweeping through plot and score.

THIS PRODUCTION marks the debut of the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra, under the direction of Mark D. Flint. After an overly cautious reading of the overture, Flint's pit warmed to the proceedings and dispatched the music with all the verve demanded for the first two acts.

By act three, the musicians sounded a bit tired of racing through Bizet's showily variegated score, but it was good to hear an MOT pit that obviously had more than a passing acquaintance with the music.

We are pleased to announce the appointments of

Barry J. Darwin  
Branch Manager

Paul D. Richmond  
Associate Manager



A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

ESTABLISHED 1887  
Members New York Stock Exchange and  
Other Leading Exchanges

10 West Square Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013  
(313) 334-2411

Over 100 offices nationwide

Manilow,  
Streisand,  
Denver  
and  
Diamond:  
wjmj-c-fm95  
Magic  
Music!

SM—GREATER MEDIA, INC.

Save  
energy

When buying major appliances, such as a refrigerator or an air conditioner, do not make your choice on price alone but take into consideration the probable cost of running the device during its expected lifetime.

FREE!!

ELECTRONIC AIR  
CLEANER

WITH PURCHASE OF  
bryant DELUXE  
FURNACE

With Electronic Ignition and Energy Saving Chimney Damper

Don't be caught with High Fuel Bills this Winter

FOR FREE ESTIMATE CALL

MOR-EZE CO. INC. 548-3773

**HURLEY'S**

A lively group playing favorite disco and top 40 tunes for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday from 9 p.m.  
Midweek Features Wednesday (Exceeder night) and Thursday (Kilobus night).

Northfield Hilton Inn  
5500 Crooks Rd. at I-75  
Troy, Michigan 48098  
(313) 879-2100

I look for trouble—and sometimes the trouble is no insulation.

I'm a Consumers Power gas service man, and it's my job to troubleshoot. If people smell gas in their homes, they call me and I get there fast. But sometimes while I'm working in a customer's home, I find more trouble—like no insulation.

Customers really can't afford to pay for all the natural gas it's costing them by not insulating. Over the long winter, insulation doesn't cost money—it saves money and scarce energy. Believe me, I know. I get a gas bill at my home every month just like you.

"TEN THOUSAND WORKING PEOPLE BRINGING ENERGY TO YOU."

CONSUMERS POWER

LAWRENCE LASZKO

20-26-773-G

winter warmth insurance

Save Money This Winter with More Efficient Heating from BURNHAM AMERICA

Sub zero temperatures, week-long snow storms and high fuel costs made the last two winters the most expensive on record. This winter promises to be just as bad. Will you be stuck again with a cold house and high fuel bills because of an outdated heating system?

Free Home Heating Survey

Now is the time to find out if your house is ready for the winter. Right now, Burnham-America contractors are offering a FREE home heating survey that will show you how to heat your house most efficiently. Perhaps your present system is ready—or only needs cleaning. But perhaps a new clean, quiet hot water or steam heating system could save 10, 25 or even 40% on fuel bills this winter.

Warmth & Efficiency

If your present system isn't up to another winter your contractor can install a new Burnham-America system that will give you more heat for less money this winter. With Burnham-America hot water or steam heating you get clean, quiet comfort and fuel efficiency.

Call for your free, no obligation Burnham-America home heating survey today. It's the best Winter Warmth Insurance you can get.

BURNHAM CORPORATION  
HYDRONICS DIVISION  
Lancaster, Pa. 17604

CALL ONE OF THESE BURNHAM-AMERICA CONTRACTORS, TODAY

Detroit—Blue Ray Gas Burner Co. 859-7200 Deluxe Plumbing & Heating 842-3622 Durant Heating, Inc. 494-7200 National Heating Co. 494-8443 Michigan Lakes Heating & Cooling, Inc. 838-7670 Wm. Logan Heating 836-9001; 341-3584	Birmingham—M. F. Downs Engineering Co. 642-1882 Dearborn—Great Lakes Heating & Cooling 581-1400 M.L. Clemens—Burner Heating Specialties 793-3491 Pontiac—Chandler Heating Co. 674-3411	Remus—Hay Plumbing & Heating Co. 941-0055 Sterling Hts.—Squires Heating Co. 458-0255; 721-4241 Warren—Abdulin Heating & Cooling 758-5900
---	---	--

A Home Heating Survey Could Save You Money This Winter