

'AN AUDIENCE WITH JONATHAN VEIRA'
Emmanuel Church, Plymouth
24/10/03

Praise as opera singer jacks up his act

Performers who attempt the difficult crossover from classical to popular music can run the risk of alienating both sets of fans, who then often cite financial, rather than artistic motives for such a switch. And when it's an otherwise well-established and successful opera singer presenting his own one-man show, not surprisingly there will be even more raised eyebrows!

Of course, this is not to reckon with the immense and varied talents of Jonathan Veira, singer and pianist, who kept a packed audience absolutely spellbound for over two hours with a fascinating mix of humour, anecdote and, of course, superb music. There was Gershwin, a Donizetti aria, a Billy Joel number, Gospel, Country and Western, Blues, standards like Mona Lisa, My Funny Valentine, and much more besides, a veritable potpourri which, on paper, would have seemed totally ill-suited in juxtaposition. However, whilst Jonathan is a true Jack-of-all-trades, he is an unsurpassed master of them all, subtly changing his delivery from one genre to the next, allowing the programme to unfold seamlessly, yet still maintaining an almost impromptu feel to the whole show.

Jonathan Veira is not only blessed with a quite superb voice and keyboard skills to die for, but it is with his endearing sincerity and demeanour that he is consummately able to win over everyone who was fortunate enough to have been granted an audience with such an eminently likeable, amusing and thoroughly entertaining artist.

REVIEW by PHILIP R BUTTALL
