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QUEENSLAND

Classical and opera

Rigoletto

Emma Matthews creates an unusually multifaceted heroine in her debut appearance as Gilda in Opera Queensland's revival of Elijah Moshinsky's well-imagined production of *Rigoletto*. Not only can Matthews act but the soprano's voice is magic, consistently radiating lovely colour and control across her range. Matthews's technique is always harnessed towards a musical outcome. The self-destructive Gilda is crippled emotionally just as her hunchback father, Rigoletto, is crippled physically. John Bolton Wood gives a strong performance in the title role. Italian conductor Giovanni Reggioli's leadership prompts a keening Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Verdi's melodrama is present from the softest instrumental whisper to the loudest dynamic and everything in between. The extravagant tapering of phrase endings during the overture seems to linger like heartfelt sighs.

Gillian Wills

The Queensland Orchestra and Opera Queensland Men's Chorus. Lyric Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, South Bank.

Tomorrow, 7.30pm (2hr 55min, two intervals).

Tickets: \$46-\$149.

Bookings: 136 246.