

Toby Stafford-Allen reviews

BBC Proms, Yeomen of the Guard

Toby Stafford-Allen was a lairy, leering Wilfred Shadbolt - **The Guardian**

Dialogue was amplified; songs (rightly) were not. As ever with G&S it was the ensembles that shone – particularly in Act Two: the quartet ‘Strange Adventure’, the duo ‘Hereupon We’re Both Agreed’ for Point and Toby Stafford-Allen’s laconic Shadbolt and the typically contrary opinions of Dame Carruthers and Sergeant Meryll (the wonderful Felicity Palmer and Mark Richardson) in ‘Rapture, Rapture’ (Meryll’s response being ‘Doleful, Doleful’) - **Classical Source**

Thankfully the voices were strong enough to carry for most of the time, and Toby Stafford-Allen’s young Shadbolt, and Felicity Palmer’s seasoned but charged Dame Carruthers showed what could be done - **Lark**

BBC Proms, Patience

The central joke is that we get two aesthetes for the price of one - one a fraud, the other not - though, of course, quite indistinguishable from each other. Simon Butteriss’s Bunthorne, repeatedly crushed as surely as the foppish velvet of his suit, was razor sharp and redefined extravagance with his ill-rhyming couplets; Toby Stafford-Allen’s Grosvenor took conceit to new heights - **The Independent**

Simon Butteris (Bunthorne) was outstanding: agile, tragicomic (as he should be) and he delivered his role with an astonishing variety of vocal shades. Toby Stafford-Allen (Grosvenor) was the perfect counter-part to Butteriss’ Bunthorne. Indeed, one could have been forgiven for thinking that they

were one and the same person with different facets. Their double act in their extended dialogue/duet in Act 2 was almost mesmerising - **Musical Criticism**

Toby Stafford-Allen was a Grosvenor of some charm – **Daily Telegraph**

He had a terrific foil in Toby Stafford-Allen’s narcissistic but highly personable Grosvenor – **Classical Source**

Opera Holland Park, Iolanta

Mark Stone's Robert, Toby Stafford-Allen's Arab doctor Ibn-Hakia and all the smaller roles fulfil every demand - **The Stage**

Apologies were made for Toby Stafford-Allen as Ibn-Hakia, suffering from a cold, but I thought he paced himself well and sang with style even without taking his ailment into consideration - **Musical Criticism**

Despite an announcement of indisposition Toby Stafford-Allen was a strong Ibn-Hakia - **Classical Source**

Candleway / Broad Street / Sutton Valence / Kent / ME17 3AJ
telephone (44) (0) 1622 840 038/ email:staffordlaw@btinternet.com
<http://www.stafford-law.com>