



THE TIMES

Live Reviews



Watching the Olympics is watching a disaster waiting to happen
Hugo Rifkind

News Opinion Business Money Sport Life **Arts** Puzzles Papers |

Thursday, February 20

| London

| Max 9C



Nicole Cabell / Matthias Goerne


Hilary Finch

Published at 12:00AM, February 23 2007

Nicole Cabell

St John's Smith Square

Matthias Goerne

Wigmore Hall 

It's a voice that wraps itself around you. That is how Marilyn Horne described the lyric soprano of the Californian Nicole Cabell, who took first prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the Year in 2005 and who presented her solo calling card to London on Wednesday in her Rosenblatt Recital.

The voice does, indeed, have something of the pashmina about it: long, sinuous phrasing, warm tone and a sophistication that touches everything she sings. Cabell does no more and no less at present than simply sing the music that fits her voice best: Puccini, French opera and American song.

Every register of her voice is illuminated through her generous smile; there's a sudden sense of lift-off into coloratura and an irresistible glide through every second of schmaltz. Whether experience or a new singing teacher will give her a wider palette of vocal colour, a sharper focus, a punchier edge to phrasing and inflection remains to be seen. But this audience was enthralled by her Musetta *Quand m'en vo' soletta per la via*, by her Rondine *Che il bel sogno di Doretta* and by her Gounod Juliette *Je veux vivre*. She also brought close focus to three songs by Liszt, consummately accompanied by Simon Lepper.

And it was good to hear Ben Moore's responses to Keats's nightingale in his setting *Darkling I listen*, followed by a tricky, witty performance of *Amor*, one of William Bolcom's superb *Cabaret Songs*.

Bernstein's arch *I Hate Music* spoke of "a lot of folks in a big dark hall where they really don't want to be at all". Hardly the Wigmore experience. The hall was packed twice in the week to hear Matthias Goerne, and to witness the German baritone receive the first Wigmore Medal. He chose a challenging programme of rarely performed long and serious Schubert settings of Schiller, Mayrhofer and the like. Alas, he seemed scarcely more familiar with them than the audience, and despite much subtle beauty of expression and trademark quiet, inward singing, his profile was on show for too much of the evening, as his eyes were glued to the score concealed on the piano lid.

 Post a comment

 Print

Share via

 Facebook

 Twitter

 Google+

More from Live Reviews

Radio 2 Folk Awards

Published 17 minutes ago
The folk industry knows how to put on a decent party with Suzanne Vega, Peggy Seeger and Martin Carthy all shining

Kodo at Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Published at 12:01AM, February 20 2014
The sound of thunder returns

Laura Cantrell/Barb Jung

Published at 12:01AM, February 18 2014
A self-deprecating country-tinged singer-songwriter and some jazzy interpretations of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen

Foals at Alexandra Palace, N22

Published at 12:01AM, February 18 2014
The five piece played with nimble excellence but finally seemed like a remote adjunct to a stylishly bombastic lightshow

Sponsored Editorial



Destination Jamaica
From grey skies to white sands



Let the Caribbean sun melt away the January blues

Find

Jobs | Motors | Property | Holidays

0 comments

robert lavigne

Empty text box for comments

Comment controls: edit icon, @ mention, + Follow, Post comment button

Newest | Oldest | Most Recommended



Most Read | Most Active

- 1** Bloody carnage in Kiev as Ukraine teeters on brink of civil war
- 2** Mysterious Saudi 'princess' wins legal battle over £14m ...
- 3** All killed cleanly with a single shot
- 4** Celebrity watch: has Jim Davidson angered God?
- 5** New kosher meat ban sparks fears of rising anti-Semitism in Europe

Join The Times on Facebook



Join The Times on Twitter



The Times and Sunday Times for Android tablets



<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>	
President Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) - Ireland - Salary Not Specified	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales National Assembly for Wales - Wales - £139,933
Board Members DEFRA - England - £11,808 / £21,000	Chief Investigation Officer Department for Business Innovation & Skills - Manchester or Watford - £52,772 or £56,272

v