SOMTOW GIVES DEATH THE LAST LAUGH

Siam Opera takes a dark turn in a powerful production of ‘Savitri’ by Gustav Holst

First violinist Nathayan Vathsanarkhamb was displeased with a技术-like technique in passages of true Baroque music. Surrendawmkham contributed technically correct and precise delivery and timing. The playing of violinist Angel Wang showed accuracy and precision. The performance by all the soloists was remarkable and the results were truly outstanding. It is a pity that the group did not make the best of this talented young group but also to Opera Siam’s Amon for bringing them together.

Classic cuts
Put same vroom into your life at MBK Center’s ‘Winter Kids Classic Carnival’. The event, which runs until January 2 on the shopping centre’s first floor Activity Hall, showcases classic cars and motorcycles, art, music, couture show. This traditional festival will celebrate the New Year, mime plus street food and beverages. We open every evening from 4 to 11.30pm.

Misty mountain high
Drive to Nakhon Ratchanaka’s Wang Nam Kheow district next month and admire the chrysanthemums in the Misty Mountains Festival. Tucked away in a cold-climate valley, there are rolling hills of corn, mountains and agricultural products. It’s open every day from 8am to 5pm. Call 086 624 1777 or (044) 201 234.

Action, lights, cut!
Toyota is offering a Christmas treat by inviting selected school and university stu- dents to the company’s headquarters on December 15 to see the DVD of the hit film “Toyonp presents Think!” a road safety educational short film. Concerts. Groups of 5 to 8 stu- dents can send in a plot showing courtly and regulations on the road leading to road safety for an eight-minute film. Submission date is December 28 and the selected nine teams will get Bt10,000 to Bt30,000 to produce their film with professional short film technicians. The winners get a free educational trip to Japan. Visit www.toyota.co.th.

Christmas on the beach
Celebrate Christmas Eve at the Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket. On December 24 from 6:30pm Marie Antoinette’s Thai traditional doll show is performed every hour. Dance by the mouth-watering buffet with an extensive range of dishes. Christmas favorites, turkey and much more. There’ll also be a live band, carol singing and spectacular fireworks throughout the night with Santa Claus arriving to meet the children and give them presents. The cost is Bt2,000 for adult and Bt1,400 for child. Call (076) 201 234.

Soy the night-time of life is death. At other times her notes were in line with the piano playing, showing the indomitable will of Satayavan. Antoinette Garth as Savitri, force- ful at times, but solidly lyrical. The pair shared a power- ful chemistry that was especially moving when they were looking for each other’s arms. As for Death, Pitichaya Kornmongkol used dark, ominous tones for an intense effect that focussed the audience on the surrealism of the story. The moment where he wrapped Satayavan in a black shroud was as gentle as it was horrifying. The female members of the nine works by Chon sang beauti- fully and the youthful Siam Philharmonic Orchestra Ensemble rose to the challenge of this techni- cally-demanding piece, which was ad- ministered by Nadao. The ensemble was once the best of Wang Nam Kheow – 250 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, Wang Nam Kheow is a district next to Nakhon Ratchasima. Tucked away in a cold-climate valley, there are rolling hills of corn, mountains and agricultural products. It’s open every day from 8am to 5pm. Call 086 624 1777 or (044) 201 234.

OUT & ABOUT
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JONATHAN RICHMOND
SPECIAL TO THE NATION

Not all would choose the sub- ject of death for a night of entertainment, but Somtow Sucharitkul’s Siam Opera has once more gone beyond the conventional and has inserted a reality into their transcendental, fantasy-based opera ‘Savitri’. Holst is best known for his colourful ‘The Planets’, and lit- tle else; the score of ‘Savitri’ shows that he had far more to offer, and conductor Nadao Laohakunakorn made much of the intricacies of this composer’s dense music. ‘Savitri’ tells an ancient Indian story of a wife who outwits Death when he comes to take away her husband Satayavan. Death turns out to be a surprisingly sympathetic character, offering to grant Savitri any wish but the return of her husband. She asks for life, and when the wish is granted she notes that life in the form of a new baby is impossible without her hand- lay. ‘Savitri’ tells an ancient Indian story of a wife who outwits Death when he comes to take away her husband Satayavan. ‘Savitri’ tells an ancient Indian story of a wife who outwits Death when he comes to take away her husband Satayavan. ‘Savitri’ tells an ancient Indian story of a wife who outwits Death when he comes to take away her husband Satayavan. ‘Savitri’ tells an ancient Indian story of a wife who outwits Death when he comes to take away her husband Satayavan.

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Assuring safety through technology
Agriculture Minister Tiwana Wongsurat, right, recently presented a plaque of appreciation to Sethapant Tuitupou, president of Food Safety and Quality Assurance Office of Belagro Group at the anti- tactics of a pilot project that uses international standard technology to check the source of food and agricultural products.

Sofitel managers meet in Bangkok
Area general managers of Sofitel Luxury Hotels were in Bangkok recently for a joint conference held at the Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit. The two-day meeting was Markland Blaiklock, seat- ed, first left, front row, senior vice president, Sofitel Asia Pacific, Robert Gaymer-Jones, seated centre, front row, chief operating officer of Sofitel Worldwide and the Sofitel Bangkok’s hotel general manager, als- o presented a plaque of appreciation to Sethapant Tuitupou, president of Food Safety and Quality Assurance Office of Belagro Group at the anti-tactics of a pilot project that uses international standard technology to check the source of food and agricultural products.

Award-winning Siam Opera dons a dark turn in a powerful production of ‘Savitri’ by Gustav Holst

Takako Otsu, centre, Siam Philharmonic Orchestra Ensemble got the two awards in the same categories.

The jury comprising judges from film producers. The winner gets Bt20,000 to make short films with professional short film technicians. The winner gets a free educational trip to Japan. Visit www.toyota.co.th.

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