

A night of 'hot and spicy' music

Cambridge Community Orchestra performs its final concert of the season tomorrow

Melissa Hancock

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For those with ears not often exposed to the sounds of opera, tomorrow's Hot and Spicy Opera concert will make for a good place to start, according to a local soprano.

Adriana Verdonk, who teaches locally both voice and piano students, is one of five operatic singers who will perform with the Cambridge Community Orchestra tomorrow at Forward Baptist Church.

"I think they're going to get quite the concert," Verdonk said of tomorrow night's audience.

Orchestra conductor Sabatino Vacca has selected pieces that will appeal to many people, she noted, including a Johann Strauss piece often called, The Laughing Song - also Verdonk's solo for the evening. She called it a "playful" piece.

The concert will include works by Mozart, Puccini, and more. Each singer will perform a solo, she said.

Other singers include sopranos Meghan Fleet Annetta Whetham; baritone Nicolae Raiciu, of the Canadian Opera Company; and tenor Philip Grant, whom some may remember from his annual performances to raise funds for youth programs at Cambridge's Wesley United Church. He also performs with Romanza, a trio of tenors that has performed across Canada, in Italy and Mexico.

Although she doesn't get the jitters much anymore before going on stage, Verdonk said breathing technique is important to maintain the voice needed to deliver the right sounds.

"People appreciate so much that you can sing," she said. It's one of the most rewarding feelings of the singing business, she added.

Verdonk admitted that she does not have any pre-performance rituals, but rather she'll just be ready to go on stage and sing some Hot and Spicy tunes.

This will be the community orchestra's final concert of the season. Admission is free but donations will be accepted. The show starts at 8 p.m. at Forward Baptist Church, 455 Myers Rd.



Verdonk