

Frothy rural tale of mistaken identity is perfect spring opera at Haddo House

REVIEW

By Roddy Phillips

There is always something singularly charming about opera at Haddo House, and when it's as good as the production of Flotow's *Martha*, which opened last night, it's like all your Christmases come at once.

Haddo House Opera have certainly chosen an ideal vehicle to show off their talents. This mid 19th century frothy tale of mistaken

identity is the perfect spring opera – it even has a rural setting.

Armed with a brilliant team of professional soloists and production crew, the chorus performed with a breezy confidence, while conductor James Grossmith carved a thrilling sound from the orchestra.

Minty Donald's stunning set and Simon Gane's beautiful lighting created an

extraordinary depth to the stage while Nicholas Bone's direction lends a welcome witty edge.

Catherine Harper and Jason Bridges lead an absolutely outstanding cast in a production that is quite simply flawless.

Martha runs at Haddo House Hall until Saturday and should not be missed.