

Haslemere

Lucia di Lammermoor

Opera Omnibus had Zoe Turner in mind for the title role when they chose *Lucia di Lammermoor* after her success as Countess Adele in *Count Ory* last year.

They were not disappointed because she rose to the occasion, as a coloratura soprano with considerable vocal talent.

The high tessitura of Lucia's part is a huge challenge even to the fully fledged colouratura, but in one so young, Turner showed exceptional ability and composure.

She rose to the high register effortlessly and there is clarity in her cultured voice. She stayed in E flat (sometimes singers modulate to G major) for a memorable mad scene and as she develops the role, she will no doubt vary the histrionics. She does not overplay.

Peter Barber was a commanding and sympathetic chaplain (Raimondo) with his well-controlled bass voice and excellent diction, while Andrew Morris contrasted as a powerful Edgardo. The role calls for belting, and he certainly went hell for leather through the many arias.

Steven Faughey sang Lord Ashton well enough and Sean Sweeney (Normano), Lindsay Bramley (Alisa) and Daniel Meades (Lord Bucklaw) completed the cast.

An excellent chorus added much to the dramatic effect, and David Wright conducted a good orchestra. Costumes designed by Joyce Conwy Evans were well in character.

Peter Tatlow