

home again

A Trip to Bountiful

When » Reviewed Jan. 26; plays at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 2-7, with a 2 p.m. matinee today and Feb. 7.

Where » Grand Theatre, 1575 S. Main St., Salt Lake City.

Info » Tickets, \$10-\$24 (\$5-\$12 students, \$9-\$22 seniors), available at 801-957-3322.

Bottom Line » Quiet, eloquent production recalls the importance of home.

feel we are eavesdropping on real people discussing the dreams, desires, and frustrations of their everyday existence. Anne Stewart Mark's direction refuses to hurry, allowing us to savor moments as they unfold.

Performances are remarkably natural and perceptive, as well. Luke's Carrie is vulnerable, yet steely strong, in a finely detailed, nuanced portrayal. Nelson's earnest, eager-to-please Ludie only gradually reveals his disappointment due to missed opportunities. West's dithery, self-absorbed Jessie Mae would make anyone want to take a trip.

Rodney Elwood's set design evolves fluidly throughout the story, while Spencer Brown's nostalgic lighting transitions deftly from muted to golden as Carrie progresses on her journey. The most indelible image is the bus ride, where Carrie and a new friend, Thelma, sit bathed in light against the backdrop of the starry sky.

The past is a legacy we can never leave, and "A Trip to Bountiful" celebrates our connections to our roots and the strength they give us. As Carrie says of the farm in Bountiful, "We left it, but we can never lose what it gave us."

Fischer invigorates the Utah Symphony again

Review » Swiss conductor delights crowd and orchestra.

By CATHERINE REESE NEWTON

The Salt Lake Tribune

Swiss conductor Thierry Fischer returned to conduct the Utah Symphony on Friday. Just as he did a little over a year ago with his no-holds-barred reading of Berlioz's "Symphonie fantastique," Fischer invigorated the orchestra and audience with a Technicolor interpretation of Stravinsky's "Petrouchka."

The opening scene of Stravinsky's ballet suite is a riot of orchestral color, and Fischer brought an irresistible piquancy to the proceedings. His reading captured the hustle and bustle of a street fair perfectly. The characters in the tragicomic tale that ensued were masterfully drawn by various members of the Utah Symphony. Among the many standouts were pianist Jason Hardink, trumpeters Jeffrey Luke and Peter Margulies, clarinetist Tad Calcara, flutist Erich Graf, bassoonist Lori Wike, contrabassoonist Leon Chodos, concertmaster Ralph Matson and the entire percussion section. Perhaps more telling than the audience's standing ovation were the hearty bow taps and foot



Courtesy photo

Thierry Fischer conducts the Utah Symphony this weekend.

stamps from the orchestra.

Canadian pianist Louis Lortie was the soloist in Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1. Lortie made his entrance in a blaze of brilliance that beautifully complemented the lean, focused sound of the orchestral accompaniment. He displayed a lovely, delicate touch in the slow movement and a most charming joie de vivre in the fast ones.

The concert opened with Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony. While not far removed from the Mendelssohn in its overall flavor, the Schubert symphony allowed Fischer to demonstrate his light, transparent conducting technique.

Catherine Reese Newton is a music critic. Contact her at creese@sltrib.com or 801-257-8616. Send comments about this review to livingeditor@sltrib.com.

Utah Symphony

A bright, infectious performance of a colorful Stravinsky ballet.

With » Conductor Thierry Fischer and pianist Louis Lortie.

When » Reviewed Friday; repeats tonight at 8.

Where » Abravanel Hall, 123 W. South Temple, Salt Lake City.

Running time » Two hours, including intermission.

Tickets » \$16 to \$60 at 801-355-ARTS, www.utahsymphony.org or the box office.

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