

CULTURE

Last concert of year brims with talent

MUSIC

Orchestra Wellington conducted by Marc Taddei (violin). Music by Beethoven and Bernstein
 The Opera House, November 17
 Reviewed by John Button

FORCED to move from the Town Hall, Orchestra Wellington gave their final concert of the year before a lively, appreciative audience in the dry, immediate acoustics of The Opera House.

There is nothing conventional about Marc Taddei's programming, yet Beethoven and Bernstein proved dynamic companions, and few could quibble with the playing. The concert opened with Taddei's continuance of the overtures that Beethoven wrote for his only opera *Fidelio* – the *Leonore No 3* – and it was a wonderfully dramatic performance highlighted by the searingly confident trumpet of Barrett Hocking.

Bernstein's *Serenade (after Plato's Symposium)* is a fabulous violin concerto. Bernstein took his concert music seriously and



Natalia Lomeiko

although Broadway is never far away, this is a lyrically intense, classically constructed concerto that makes its full impact even without reference to Bernstein's detailed programme. Natalia Lomeiko gave it a wonderful performance and Taddei, who conducted the only other live performance of the work I have heard, drew playing from his strings and percussion that was authority itself.

Taddei handed the baton for Beethoven's *Fidelio Overture* to Brent Stewart, but I'm not sure this worked. Was Stewart conducting a performance he had prepared or was he merely waving the baton at Taddei's ideas? I don't think this is the way to mentor a young conductor.

Fancy Free was Bernstein's 1944 ballet, that finally became the show *On the Town* and it is full of Bernstein's most typical touches. Although the music is an almost literal background to the shenanigans of sailors on leave, and really needs the dancers, it was entertaining and brilliantly played.

Between the two halves we had a brief concert by the Arohanui Strings, the young players of the ambitious Sistema project directed by Alison Elledge, and, with the assistance of some players from Orchestra Wellington and the NZSO, we heard a heart-warming glimpse of a very important initiative.



Downpour: A kinetic water sculpture by Howell's *Broken River*.

Jane Clifton

TELEVIEW



RED WIDOW, TV On Monday drama, cha an American soccer who turns into a ruthless – but only to protect her fa because she enjoys it or an

Truthfully, it's much be way Lynda La Plante and Cole do it in their British fe gangster stories, because a crime is treated as an equal

opportunity sport. Th relish turning the ma cliches on their head pushing them furthe

But in this story, lady don, Marta, is a start – and not a very despite being played Mitchell.

Marta's father is a boss, and she stood b