

## Arts



# Superb effort

**Lucia di Lammermoor**  
Norwood Concert Hall  
Saturday and Sunday

THIS remarkable presentation of *Lucia di Lammermoor* was semi-staged with immense panache and respect for Donizetti's score by local company Bel Canto Opera. Producer William Snell and artistic director Juha Vanharkatano created a gloomy world, with projected visions of fire and blood.

The red ensemble for the mad scene might have been a little obvious but this opera's not known for its dramatic subtlety. Boy gets girl, boy loses girl, girl loses mind.

Teresa La Rocca, pictured, gave a generous performance of the ill-used Lucia, with effortlessly projected melodies and a sure coloratura technique allied to a winning stage pres

ence, projecting the vulnerability of the character. Andrew Jones as the wicked brother was charismatic and assured, balanced by an even more heroic performance from Jamie Allen, who flew from Tasmania at short notice, as true love Edgardo.

The three principals were supported ably by award winning bass Pelham Andrews, tenor Ben Rasheed and mezzo Cherie Boogaart.

When they stood together for the great sextet the sound was thrilling. The small chorus sang gamely, and there was an eccentric mediation provided by Catherine Campbell.

David Sharp provided a sensitive and dramatically apt accompaniment with an orchestra of 13 soloists. Bel Canto must be applauded for its audacity and commitment to providing first class opera experiences in so accessible a fashion.

**EwartShaw**