



Two fabulous concerts in Istanbul

Dr Emre Araci writes: his two Donizetti Pasha Concerts (in honour of Giuseppe Donizetti of course) were a very remarkable success (see Diary page Newsletter 97) attended by nearly 3000 people, a large Italian community and members of the ex-Ottoman royal family, truly an emotional weekend. The programme included Mahmudiye and Mecidiye marches by Giuseppe as well as Gaetano's Military march for Abdulmecid and two choral numbers - one by Giuseppe, a hymn in Turkish which was bought at auction in Paris last year from the collection of an Ottoman princess. I arranged it for choir and orchestra. The other was Angelo Mariani's Hymne National sung in 1849 by Italian singers in Turkey. I had the pleasure of recording this last year in Prague with the Prague Symphony and Czech Philharmomic Chorus. I hope someone in Bergamo would wish to host such a concert before the 150th anniversary year comes to an end.

(opposite) A triumphant Dimitra Theodossiou (Elisabetta) at Ancona in January 2006

Photo: Sandro D'Ascanio Courtesy; Teatro Delle Muse, Ancona