

Die Entführung aus dem Serail CD review – full of bounce and clatter

Le Cercle de l'Harmonie/Rhorer(Alpha)

Kate Molleson

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This production of Mozart's dubiously orientalist Singspiel (part song, part speech, generally comic, racial politics firmly of its time) was created for the 2015 Aix-en-Provence festival then recorded at a concert in Paris a few months later. It's definitely a live performance – the audience makes its enthusiasm felt and the sound isn't entirely polished, which I quite like. The cast is pretty appealing (David Portillo as Pedrillo, Norman Reinhardt as Belmonte, Rachele Gilmore as Blonde, Jane Archibald as a radiant Konstanze) and attacks ensembles with vigour and arias with the kind of breezy elegance that makes easy work of fiendish stuff. But with two other major versions of *Entführung* out last year from René Jacobs and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, what the young conductor Jérémie Rhorer really offers is a whole lot of orchestral charisma: an overture full of bounce and clatter, pacey tempos that fizz but also breathe, textures that are bright and fibrous, a delivery that is happily slapdash without getting messy.

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