

EDITORIAL

Symphony off to great start

"See it, hear it, love it" is the slogan emblazoned across the 2008-09 program for the Okanagan Symphony, which kicked off its season with performances in Kelowna, Penticton and Vernon this weekend.

"Love it" was surely the response of those who took the time to see and hear the opening programme, entitled *In A French Cafe*. A standing ovation at the end of the opening night in Kelowna offers some evidence that the symphony is on the right track this year.

The symphony has had its share of hardships in recent years, mostly financial in nature. But a nearly full house in Kelowna, combined with an

engaging theatricality, tells us the symphony is in good hands.

Our expert concert reviewer Charles Velte was generally impressed with the overall concert, having just a few quibbles with parts of the show. To the casual listener and observer, though, it was great fun and whets the appetite for the remaining six concerts in this year's series.

Music director and conductor Rosemary Thomson understands the importance of connecting with a wider range of music lovers than the hard-core symphony aficionados. The Kelowna Night Owl Orchestra, mostly composed of local students, joined the

professionals on stage and brought out a younger-than-usual crowd. They injected some youthful excitement that had the crowd pulling for them.

The symphony's sponsors appear to be more numerous than ever, thanks to Thomson and the Okanagan Symphony Society's new energy and willingness to push the limits of tradition. Having the financial side of things tuned up is essential to harmonious artistic collaborations for the year ahead.

Music lovers who haven't been to the symphony in a while should get out to one (or all) of the next concerts. You will see and hear something exciting.

— *Managing editor Tom Wilson*