

Congratulations to Maestro Kerry Stratton and the Grand Salon Orchestra

Toronto, Ontario, CANADA Just got back from a marvelous, albeit short, trip to our northern friends in Toronto for a wonderful *Tribute To Victor Herbert*, Saturday, February 7, 2009, at the [Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts](#), Markham, Ontario. Romance and effervescence filled the bill as this fine salon sized orchestra celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Herbert's birth. Stephen Harland, Iris Rodrigues and Maestro Stratton Two exciting voices, lyric tenor Stephen Harland and soprano Iris Rodrigues, joined Maestro Stratton for "Eileen," "Neapolitan Love Song," "Romany Life," "Italian Street Song," "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life," and my personal favorite "Thine Alone." That names but a handful of the offerings. The Grand Salon Orchestra offered up the rarely performed "Royal Sec (1885)" and nostalgic medleys from operettas such as *The Red Mill*, *Babes In Toyland* and *The Fortune Teller*.



All in all, it was as fine a re-introduction to the Herbert body of work as anyone in attendance could request. Those of you who know me, know I'm can be particularly hard to please. You can trust this is one fine orchestra which will get better and better as Maestro Stratton and his musicians delve further and further into Herbert. Watch the Current Productions space for the next performance location of this fine concert (they're actively seeking bookings). Perhaps it'll be near you OR just maybe it's time to visit Canada for a little R&R and Herbert. You can visit The Grand Salon Orchestra at www.grandsalonorchestra.com and Maestro Stratton at www.kerrystratton.com