

# Opera Gems Strewn by Epic Voices

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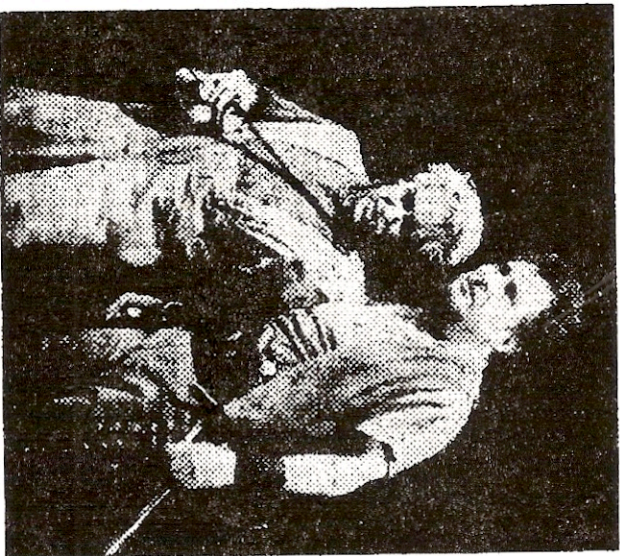
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Memorable moments came one after the other during the first four nights of Lyric Opera's "The Ring of the Nibelung."

Here are a few:

■ Graham Clark's portrayals of Loge, god of fire in "Das Rheingold" and Mime, Siegfried's scheming surrogate father, in "Siegfried."

Both were searing. Strutting and baiting the gods, his Loge was the ultimate manipulator. As Mime, twitching and hurling himself in frenzies against Siegfried, he was both crazy and frighteningly sane.



**Mime (Graham Clark, left) and Siegfried (Siegfried Jerusalem).**

■ The silhouetted figures, glowing as they danced against a black

backdrop, suddenly became a cartoon dragon and jumping frog during Alberich's magical transformations in "Das Rheingold."

■ Marjana Lipovsek as Fricka, Wotan's wife. Her robust mezzo was a worthy match for James Morris' Wotan during their dramatic confrontation in "Die Walkure."

■ Siegfried's fight with the dragon Fafner in "Siegfried." Singing the role of Fafner, Matti Salminen sounded like his voice was coming from the depths of a far-off, icy hell. The skeletal dragon was massive and frightening, its battle with Siegfried convincing.

*Wynne Delacoma*