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by Barbara Hebden

'REEVES' MUSICAL HITS A HIGH NOTE'

Musical history in the making? Brisbane was chosen by noted Sydney composer, lyricist, and arranger David Reeves to host the first public hearing of the music from his new musical *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

Presented in the inhospitable acoustics of the Suncorp Piazza, Southbank, Thursday night's preview was a tough trial run.

It was enough, however, to predict that with similar fine performers, and an imaginative and sensitive director on hand to oversee a colourful production in a good theatre, Reeves could have a winner on his hands.

The unfulfilled love of Cyrano de Bergerac, the famous 17th century French soldier, duelist and author, for the fair Roxane, was the inspiration for Reeves' work.

Today, musicals have grown beyond the "I feel a song coming on" days to be a more sophisticated genre of music theatre, where the music feels the story.

And that is the strength of Reeves' music. It is melodious, it has a strong rhythmic pulse, but above all, it reflects the mood of the words. I particularly warmed to Roxanne's song *About You*.

Perhaps the music is scored a little too densely at times, and that observation could have been influenced by the amplification and the settings of the main parts are demandingly high.

That was not a problem with such soloists as Penny Hay, the polished Adelaide soprano and a star in the making; and 19 year-old Mark Nivet, who deputised for Normie Rowe, whose voice is heard in the soundtrack album recorded here last month.
