



The Last Five Years of a marriage in song

## Description

# Musical play works well in one night concert version

By **Byron Toben**

**The Last Five Years – In Concert** is the latest outstanding musical brought here by **Noelle Hannibal** and her **In The Wings Productions** for a one nighter recently.



Ms. Hannibal, a local lady with extensive singing and acting (

*Star Trek*) experience in the USA, had earlier treated us to a one night concert version of *Chess*, a two night enhanced concert version of *The Who's Tommy* and a three night full scale dazzler of *Hair*.

This modest piece (only two characters), written by **Jason Robert Brown**, originated in the Chicago area and has been replicated in New York, Paris and Belfast before being adapted for film.

The plot deals with a romance between a budding Jewish writer, Jamie (**Anton May**) and a struggling Shiksa actress from Ohio, Cathy (Ms. Hannibal).

This pairing reminded me of Woody Allen and Diane Keaton in his great film, *Annie Hall*.

What is unique in this piece is that Cathy sings about the last five years of their marriage going back in time while Jamie sings about first romancing, then going forward in time. Each delivers six solos and the twain meet in three duets.

The songs include, by her, *Still Hurting*, *A Summer in Ohio* and *I Can Do Better Than That* and, by him, *Shiksa* ; *To Know*.

Sign-up to our newsletter  
and get email notification  
of our most recent articles

[Sign up](#)

Both have powerful voices. Her soprano blends well with his



tenor baritone as they combine in *A Miracle Would Happen* / *When You Come Home To Me* and the finale of

well with his tenor-baritone...

They were aided by a topnotch musical quartet with the rare

combination of piano (**Ian Baird**), violin (**Scott Chancey**) and two cellos (**Andrea Stewart** and **Thomas Beard**).

Director/choreographer **Nadia Verrucci** had to be creative with a cast that sat at opposite ends of the stage, only rising to stand and sing. I got a kick out of the stage bit, halfway through, where they circled each other in a non touching romantic movement before reversing their seats.

An enjoyable evening, but I kept thinking that the song from [Leonard Bernstein's 1956 classic \*Wonderful Town\*, \*Why-O-Why-O-Why-O Did I Ever Leave Ohio\*](#) applied to Cathy here as well as sister Eileen there.

**The Last Five Years ended at La Sala Rosa on April 28.**

Watch for **In The Wings** remounting of **Hair** at the Mainline Theatre for a longer run **August 30 to September 9, 2017.**

*Images: Nadia Verrucci*



---

Read also [Million Dollar Quartet](#)

---

*Byron Toben is the immediate past-president of the Montreal Press Club*

BRAND NEW  
**EXPEDITION TRIPS**  
Original. Groundbreaking. Slightly crazy.

HURRY  
SELLING FAST

> View Trips

INTREPID

### Category

1. Art | Culture
2. Review
3. Theatre

### Tags

1. Anton May
2. Byron Toben
3. concert
4. Jason Robert Brown
5. love
6. marriage
7. musical
8. Nadia Verrucci
9. Noelle Hannibal
10. separation
11. The Last Five Years

### Date Created

May 2017