

The Bartered Bride



The Manayunk Opera and Liniment Company's new production of "The Bartered Bride" takes a few liberties with Bedřich Smetana's masterpiece. For example, the setting is moved from mid 19th century Prague to Bloomer, Kansas, a hundred years later. That switch ostensibly makes it more credible for the bride, Mařenka, to be bartered for a 1953 Pontiac Chieftain instead of a sizable dowry for her parents. In this scene, Mařenka sings the aria "You call this "mint condition?! You're nuts!" as Kecal the marriage broker looks on. Wait! That's not Kecal! It's Pringler, the props manager, who just learned that he bought 185 cars too many for the barter scene and the cost difference is to be deducted from his salary!