

CABARETSCENES

FRANC D'AMBROSIO

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Steve Murray



The wildly popular and always effervescent Franc D'Ambrosio is allowing the audience to determine his set list for this run of shows and all I can say is his San Francisco fans have some excellent taste!

The material is naturally culled from his two previous shows based on Hollywood or Broadway music, material he is more than capable of pulling off. With his gifts for acting and dialects, and his superior technical vocal ability, D'Ambrosio can find the magic in songs like "Danny Boy" and "Some Enchanted Evening."

His Broadway numbers are heavily emoted which accompanies his operatic tendencies. "Bring Him Home" from Les Miserables is technically perfect and it's difficult to find any imperfection in D'Ambrosio's delivery. His fans adore his stories of his Italian family which accompany numbers like "Be Italian", "That's Amore" and "Speak Softly, Love" (theme from "The Godfather"). There was even a cowboy Western medley that D'Ambrosio somehow made palatable.

Accompanied by longtime collaborator and gifted pianist Michael Grossman, D'Ambrosio kept the evening light and breezy. Even when powering through Mario Lanza's "Be My Love" or "What Kind of Fool Am I?", D'Ambrosio avoids any overlaid heaviness and dazzles with his vocal prowess.

Of course the show had to include his signature number, "Music of the Night" from Phantom of the Opera. Magnificent doesn't quite do this song justice. It's a major moment in Broadway history and D'Ambrosio will be associated with it forever. Like Yul Brynner or Carol Channing, it's a high honor and one well deserved.

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