Play Reviews

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the nightingale and is revealed to be the emperor's long-lost daughter, while Lady Ming is revealed as her abductor.

The playwright has developed an Oriental flavor with the use of a bare stage, set pieces, fabric, rod and hand puppets, and a narrator who is a grand magician with "nothing up [his] sleeve." Humor is added by the wicked characters of the Lord Chamberlain and Lady Ming. The music has just the right mix of modern and Oriental styles; however, I would like to see the show end with an upbeat number rather than a slow one.

This show, excellent for traveling, can be fun and challenging for junior high students through adults. A good children's play transcends the boundaries between adults and children, and *The Emperor's Nightingale* is certainly one of these. —Dianne Breinholt