

Editorial: 01768 862313

A wonderful evening of entertainment from Eden Singers

SUNSHINE poured through the windows of Penrith Methodist Church, heralding Eden Singers' spring concert.

The 40-plus choir of mixed voices, directed by Roy Beeby and accompanied on piano by Joan Urquhart, commenced with the great show classic *There's No Business Like Showbusiness*, followed by Norman Luboff's less familiar arrangement of *When The Saints Go Marching In*, with a slow, subdued beginning, building to its climax.

Conductor Roy's amusing reminders of hipster trousers and joss sticks led into *Streets of London* and *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, an emotive rendering of 1960s music.

Eden Singers are fortunate indeed to have a strong male section — something often lacking in amateur choirs where sopranos tend to dominate — and the vocal balance

was especially good in *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

The choir's guests for the evening were the Bowness-on-Solway School choir, with headteacher and conductor Chris Rafferty.

The children were visually and musically a delight, singing two popular pieces from *Mary Poppins*. Two choir members then gently accompanied on guitar as Molly Armstrong, appropriately dressed in Holly Golightly fashion, sang *Moon River* — a talented young woman indeed with good pitch and melody, someone to watch out for in the future.

The final piece before the interval was Paul Barker's five-movement *Requiem*, a challenge for an adult choir, but an especially brave choice for such young singers. No worries, however, as both choirs soared and dipped through the Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei and

In Paradisum — what a fine ending to the first half.

Suitably refreshed after their triumphant performance, the Bowness School choir departed, leaving the Eden Singers to confidently open the second half with a smooth, warm rendition of *The Way You Look Tonight* and *In the Still of the Night*. In *Lullaby of Broadway* Joan Urquhart proved that as well as being a talented musician, she is also an excellent arranger.

A wistful, evocative *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* followed.

Conductor Roy Beeby was a lively, jovial Alfred Doolittle in *I'm Getting Married in the Morning* and the Singers' joyful, smiling performance of *Singing in the Rain* concluded this wonderful evening of entertainment.

Well done, Eden Singers — Penrith is indeed fortunate to have you.

I. C.