

everyone.

can't post it yet.

## CHOIR MUSIC Herald 30th April 2016 - Spring Concert

# Varied program for a spring evening

SUNSHINE shone through the windows of Penrith Methodist Church for a joyous celebration of music from the Eden Singers at the group's spring concert.

The mixed choir of approximately 40 singers are going from strength to strength under the musical direction and sensitive piano accompaniment of John Helyer with Maureen Wilson's assured conducting.

*All in the April Evening* opened the proceedings with the very nicely shaped phrases and clear diction setting the high standard for the evening.

Following this was a selection of three movements from Karl Jenkins's powerful mass *The Armed Man*. There was a well projected female solo, and secure intonation from the sopranos. This was atmospheric singing, and the choir captured the reflective, sombre mood perfectly.

The choir's guests for the evening were the a cappella Close Shave Barbershop Quartet, who are also members of Dalston Male Voice Choir. They provided a lively and entertaining contrast in style.

*Yes Sir, That's My Baby* was jazzy and rhythmic, performed with a real sense of fun. Following on from this was *Carolina Moon* with some expressive shaping of the long phrases. Finally, a classic barbershop number delivered with real energy finished off their set.

Following on from this, the choir sang the well known *Ashokan Farewell*. There was some very good interplay between the parts in this vocal adaptation. Next a quartet of singers sang Dylan's *Make You*

*Feel My Love*. This was sensitively delivered with a warm, blended tone and a suitable tempo.

The final numbers of the first half were the Hebridean Gaelic *Eriskay Love Lilt* and *Rhythm of Life*. The latter was sung with real exuberance and was clearly a favourite of both the choir and audience.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Changes Everything* opened the second half. This was very well phrased with nicely contrasted dynamics. The choir also clearly enjoyed singing the next song, *You Raise Me Up*, which built up to a powerful climax.

Close Shave then sang some crowd-pleasing numbers including *Side by Side*, *Santa Lucia* and *Down by the Riverside*. There was some delightful singing here with some lively tenor shaping and entertaining bass lines.

An adaptation of the well known theme from Dvorak's ninth symphony followed, entitled *Goin' Home*, performed in a warm Negro Spiritual style. This was followed by a spirited and joyful performance of *How Great Thou Art* and one of the highlights of the concert.

The popular selection from *Les Miserables* was the penultimate medley. There were some beautiful solos here and the chorus sang with real passion and determination in the chorus numbers.

Finally Abba's *Thank You for the Music* seemed an apt choice to conclude what had been a lively and enjoyable musical evening.

SARAH MASSEY