

Maia Singers - Purely for Pleasure



What a pleasant way to spend a summer evening. The Maia Singers from Stockport provided the music with readings from professionals Delia Corrie and Charles Foster. This was a melodic and whimsical programme with a light touch.

The 37 strong choir conducted by John Pomphrey gave us a insight into their varied repertoire beginning with Pastime with Good Company written by Henry V111 in one of

his more joyful moods to a selection from George Gershwin's magnificent Porgy and Bess.

In between there were folk songs, a splendid jazz mass by Bob Chilcott, a Tequila Samba and The Teddy Bears Picnic.

The choir are polished and well rehearsed. They obviously enjoy singing together. I would have liked a little more emotion and attack in Porgy and Bess but this is a minor observation in what was a very entertaining evening.

I particularly enjoyed the sensitive piano accompaniment from Ian Tate and the fantastic acoustics of the Buxton Methodist Church provided a perfect setting for the choir.

Delia Corrie and Charles Foster are a great double act. Delia trained at RADA and has worked extensively in the theatre and on television. Highlights of her readings for me were Time by Joyce Grenfell and a description of My Sitting Room at Chatsworth by the Duchess of Devonshire. Delia has great presence and a terrific range of voices which allowed her to glide effortlessly from comedy to more poignant observations on life.

Anyone used to seeing Charles Foster as one of the faces of continuity announcing at Granada Television - where he worked for twenty years - will have been pleasantly surprised to see he is also an accomplished actor too. His reading of Alan Bennett's Journey to Howarth sounded uncannily like the great man himself.

All in all this was a relaxing and entertaining evening of music and readings. It was well presented and the setting was ideal. It was a pity for the performers that the audience wasn't bigger but those who made it through the summer drizzle certainly made them feel welcome.

Colin Sykes

<http://www.buxtonfringe.org.uk/reviews2008mus.html>