

Sunday 3rd February 2013

Coro Stellante
From Dusk Till Dawn
in Downham Methodist Chapel

Even before they started to sing, the ladies set the tone when processing on to the stage under their new dress code in a purposeful manner. The recently-formed choir is directed by Michael Kibblewhite who requires that all members be auditioned. He lives in Italy but commutes to Norfolk to take intense rehearsals. The ladies have obviously responded to his tutelage having produced an evening of quality singing. They are, at all times fully committed and produce an even sound across the parts. Entries are on time and confident. There was good use of dynamics and there were hardly any problems with pitch or intonation.

The repertoire was from across the centuries, some a cappella, some using the sympathetic accompaniment of the ever-reliable John Byron. Choreography was performed in the later stages of the programme.

One of the highlights was the singing of Morten Lauridsen's luminous Sure on the Shining Night with its difficult intervals being performed with consummate ease. Interestingly, the composer celebrated his 70th birthday on the night of the concert.

I also enjoyed the close harmony in D.E.Gawthorpe's Sing Me to Heaven and the dramatic suspensions heard in Paul Basler's Shenandoah.

The concert came to a rousing finale with a spirited performance of Ken Burton's Call Him Up.

Ron Scarisbrick