



Colours : A Musical Kaleidoscope
from: St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir

Every once in a while, a recording is made that is of such calibre, it presents a challenge to all who seek to copy it or follow on. This can rightly be claimed of the latest CD from a local choir, which in less than 20 years of existence, has worked in many parts of Britain, and has taken the name of Bury st Edmunds to seven other European countries. As a result of all this, it has gained a reputation for quality of performance, and the range of music you hear.

If you thought you knew about the music of Male Voice Choirs, this CD will shatter your illusions. St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir have proven competence and skills in the traditional range covered by Male Voice Choirs throughout Britain, but have also the courage and ingenuity to embrace and be influenced by music from all directions, and all round the World.

This CD brings together a diverse rainbow of songs in different musical colours and ably demonstrates the professionalism and sheer musicality, that regular audiences know to expect of this local group.

There are 16 tracks shining with the iridescence of jewels, ranging from the Red Empire to the Emerald Isle, and from the Blues to the Gold mines of the Black continent.

The authentic sounds of South Africa pour out in exuberance and an explosion of High Spirits in the 'African Trilogy', sung mostly in the original Xhosa language, where Bury St Edmunds young soloist, David Sadler, weaves his voice in and out of the choir's groundswell of sound, combining work songs with the old mission hymn, Nkosi Sikel'1 Africa, that became South Africa's national anthem.

Robbie Burns' words combine sinuously with those of a traditional English folk song, in Vaughan William's version of 'Turtle Dove'. From Eire, comes the Number One Top song of 2003, 'You Raise Me Up', while a poem of the German poet Heine, 'E'en as a lonely flower' appears with music by Sir Hugh Robertson of Glasgow.

'Sireli' is a poignant plea for Estonian independence performed in Estonian. When the choir sang this for the first time in public, it was bravely at the University of Tallinn, the capital, and the audience leapt to their feet in a standing ovation.

From the Swing Era of the '30s and '40s comes a medley, 'Kings of Swing', with the sinuous 'When they begin the Beguine' via the chirpy 'Ain't Misbehaving', and the silky smooth 'Moonlight serenade' to the driving panache and sparks of the 'Chattanooga Choo-choo'; while from Italy, comes the 'end-of-the-affair' lament, 'Softly, I will leave you'.

The highpoint of the CD is the finale from Grand Opera, where Gt Barton's Clare Presland, a rising star of the music world, soars above the Male Chorale in Mascagni's exhilarating and emotional 'Easter Hymn'

Singing of this standard, comes from inspiration, and perspiration – consistent and persistent hard work on the part of many people, especially the imaginative showmanship and musical direction of Mark Jefferson, and the sensitive, diverse accompaniments of John Ottley at organ and piano.

Whatever your musical tastes there is much here to enjoy, and this will grace the CD collection of anyone, who likes music varied, imaginative, inspired and especially good.

The CD is available from:-
Churchgate Books, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds
Chris Fielder 01284 787757

Or at any SEMVC concertsof the near future

...but be quick, because they are selling fast!

Anthony Moores

...and of course if any man in the area would be interested in joining, Chris (as above) or Nick Gane on 01284 700347 would be delighted to talk about things with you.

