

REVIEWS

Dunvant Male Choir's 20th Christmas concert Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

AS concerts go, this was pretty good value. Not one choir, not two, but three.

The occasion was Dunvant Male Choir's 20th Christmas concert.

And joining them on stage at Swansea's Brangwyn Hall were the Ariosa Singers, a city-based mixed choir made up of young would-be professional singers learning their trade.

Younger still were the Ariosettas, primary school-age children with a talent for singing.

And if that wasn't enough, the audience was invited to make up an even bigger choir by joining the performers in singing carols.

It was a varied programme of seasonal music with some particular highlights, notably the Dunvant choir's first public performance of Pachelbel's Canon in D arranged for voices.

It was very warmly received, as was the Karl Jenkins piece Lullay and the always popular Still, Still, Still.

The guest choir's best performance of the night was Lux Aeterna, a choral setting of Nimrod from Elgar's Enigma Variations, a complex and demanding piece sung without accompaniment and requiring fine control and measure.

Christmas is not Christmas without the sound of little children's voices and the Ariosettas captured the hearts of the audience with their joyfulness.

Particularly well received was O Holy Night, featuring the two senior choirs.

The event was compared by the irrepressibly irreverent Dai Vaughan, who sent the audience on their way with big smiles on their faces.

Terry Crockford