

Look at the World: Seaway Valley Singers thrill spring concert audience

IROQUOIS — They played to an appreciative and packed house Friday, May 3, 2019: the Seaway Valley Singers welcomed spring with the joyous musical celebration, *Look At the World*. The concert was held at Iroquois United Church. Wendy Gibb acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Director Robert Jones led the mixed voice choir through three Acts, in the course of the evening concert, each Act reflecting a unique and fascinating style of music. The Singers were accompanied throughout by pianist Margaret Whisselle.

Joining the adult choir, for the first time in over 10 years, were the children of Timothy Christian School, conducted by Alyssa DeKleine, with piano accompaniment by Katrina Geertsema, and senior students on guitars and violin.

The children sang three songs to start the evening concert, then joined the Singers for a very touching, dramatic rendition of John Rutter's *Look At the World*. The Singers then took the audience on a three Act musical journey.

Act I focussed on the music of the Great War, with such classics as *It's A Long Way*.

Cohan's *Over There*. Sopranos Rhonda Schneckenberger and Aria Whisselle sang a beautiful duet, *It's Au Revoir and Not Good-bye*. Especially moving was the Singers' performance of *In Flanders Fields*.

Act II took the audience to the fields and forests of the British Isles, celebrating some of the best beloved folk songs of three centuries. The nostalgia of *Ye Banks and Braes* led to the classic sea shanty, *What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor?*

Act III of the concert proved to be a delightful suprise for the audience, but one filled with exuberant music. The Singers delivered a rollicking version of the late Freddie Mercury's classic piece, *Bohemian Rhapsody* then wound up the evening with a rocking version of *California Dreamin'*.

The Seaway Valley Singers more than earned the standing ovation that greeted them at the end of a memorable concert.

Also presented at the concert, by choir member Isabelle Delage, were two \$250 bursaries, part of the Seaway Valley Singers' ongoing support for musical education and excellence. This year's recipients were Maggie Joldersma and Kristina Howard.



Members of the Seaway Valley Singers and special guests, following an outstanding performance on Friday, May 3, 2019. Front row, l-r, Rhonda Schneckenberger, Brian Vandenberg, Margaret Whisselle, accompanist, Aria Whisselle. Back row, Heidi Blokland, principal of Timothy Christian School, Alyssa DeKleine, TCS, Robert Jones, director of the SVS, Maggie Joldersma, bursary winner, Katrina Geertsema, TCS and Kristina Howard, a bursary winner.