

It's Operetta Time!

- Operetta through the ages

Our Spring 2002 production 'Spring Serenade', presented from 18th to 20th April in the Public Hall Beccles, had it all: colour, music, good singing and panache. The ovations of the appreciative audiences made it clear they felt the Group's performances touched both head and heart. This was real entertainment!

Devised and directed by John Cushing, in our popular and well-established revue format this show brought to a wider audience themes from the most famous operettas while telling the story of this most romantic of musical forms. We invited everyone to sit back and enjoy some of the most sophisticated and romantic operetta songs ever written: songs of love, loss and longing that will capture your heart. That they did so in numbers is a tribute to the excellence of the production and the talents of our performers.

Stella Brownsea excelled as Musical Director, with a well-balanced ensemble featuring piano virtuoso Stuart Lamb, the woodwinds of Tara Woolgar & Claire Turner all nicely held together with the fine double bass playing of Alison McEwen and the subtle percussion of Brian Pilgrim.

The show was enlivened by the vitality of our resident dance troupe from the Phyllis Adams School of Dance and compered by the dulcet tones of our narrator, Jerry Garcia. Stage Manager Peter Martin ensured a smooth production backstage, and Front of House managers Roger and Molly Bennett did likewise in the hall. A real team effort made this a most enjoyable show for everyone involved.

The charity beneficiaries from the show were chosen from suggestions made by members of the Group. We were supporting Three Rivers Talking Newspaper, East Anglian Children's Hospices and the Sir John Leman School "Kenya Exchange" project. In addition, Beccles Sea Scouts organised a raffle for their funds during the performance run.