

Spring Serenade Reprise

- Once more with feeling!

Due to the renovation of the Public Hall in Beccles our production for Spring 2003, a reprise of the very popular review 'Spring Serenade', was taken "on the road" to four venues in Norfolk and Suffolk. We were at St Mary's Church, Halesworth, on Friday 21st March and at Trinity Methodist Church, Lowestoft, on Saturday 22nd, then at St Michael's Church, Beccles, on Friday 28th and Wangford Community Centre on Saturday 29th: quite a spread of locations! All the very different venues provided appreciative audiences, who enjoyed excellent entertainment while helping to raise funds for local and national charities (as is our tradition with every spring show): we have heard that almost £300 was raised at Lowestoft and about £400 at St Michael's.

Rehearsals were not the straightforward affair many were anticipating, as the MD and SD had to deal with the fact that the cast and orchestra would be different for each of the four nights! They were able to retain the basic programme virtually unchanged, however, with able substitutes being drafted in to cover for performers unable to make a particular show. It was hoped that early rehearsals would be simple revision, but it's amazing how much had been forgotten in the intervening 12 months! It was also noticeable that the bits people found difficult last time they also found difficult this time - some things never change. However, once memories had been refreshed, a great sound was forthcoming: ensuring that everyone moved into the correct place at the right time was a more severe test, however!

Thanks must go to our Stage Director, John Cushing, and to Musical Director Stella Brownsea and her band of musicians for ensuring the show went with a swing despite the re-arrangements occasioned by the various venues. Credit is also due to the members of the cast for rising to the challenge of presenting a fresh and vibrant show each night. Whether we shall be repeating the touring format in the near future remains to be seen, but there's no doubt it was a great success this year.