

**COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY
SEASONS WITH SWING
Director Katie Cutmore
Musical Director Geoff Osborne
Choreographers Amanda Powell & Katie Cutmore
Performed at the Mercury Theatre**

11th June 2017

The final performance of "Seasons with Swing" at the Mercury Theatre and supporting the theatre with "Mercury Rising", an exciting project for many planned improvements to modernise and transform the theatre.

The concert was in four sections, and surprisingly did not follow the calendar in the usual spring, summer, autumn, winter cycle, but started with autumn and winter, leaving spring and summer to the second part of the evening.

The selection was good and the harmonies all blended very well with some unaccompanied singing thrown in the mix as well.

The selection in the first part which were outstanding were "Four Seasons in One Day" a full chorus number, "Baby it's Cold Outside" with Steve Woodward and Shannon Hannah, "Winter Sun" beautifully sung, and the blend was so good with Louise and Viv Cassidy, and the popular "Let it Snow" another full chorus number which closed the first part.

Perhaps the selection of songs were a little similar in some of the sections in tempo and feel, but more humour came with Graham Bowden with "In Summer" which was performed so well, and the classic "Summertime" from Barbara Ryan always a popular choice.

I liked "Summer Wind" with Nathan Crame, and "Sunny Afternoon" arranged by Katie & Geoff was great with another full chorus.

Nice costumes, slick choreography, and well done to the Gents who were very outnumbered by the Ladies, but did well albeit a few more Gents would have balanced up with some of the chorus numbers.

A high spot opening part two was the inclusion of the cast of "Little Shop of Horrors" which CO2 are performing in their upcoming production in October. Soloists and chorus alike were outstanding in voice and this is a show to look forward to indeed.

A supporting band under the direction of Geoff Osborne sounded on good form, and well done to Katie for all the work which I know goes into putting on this type of show.

It was good to see the company continue this idea most years and was appreciated by loyal audiences I am sure.