

The new vocal ensemble Vox, comprising eight local singers, performed an excellent programme of a capella sacred and secular songs commemorating St. George's Day, at the Cathedral Church of Christ the King last Sunday afternoon. The repertoire drew on nearly 400 years of composition and the performance featured great harmonies and precise ensemble work.

Some of the more outstanding songs came from the established great composers e.g. Thomas Morley, John Dowland, and Henry Purcell. Morley's "April is in my mistress' face" was the highlight of the earlier pieces, while Dowland's "Now, O now I needs must part" was delivered with great pathos.

The concert also contained a number of traditional negro spirituals, sung with great enthusiasm as well as restraint where required. The arrangements gave individual singers opportunities to sing solos.

Overall the quality of the singing was high, with accurate intonation and balanced parts, although it took a little while for the voices to blend at the start.

The singing was interspersed with poetry, read with strength and clarity by Peter Freund. This provided contrast within the programme as well as illuminating the story behind some of the music. The effect was complementary to the well prepared musical programme.

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