

Music

Songs of Love & Lust

Llewellyn Choir, Llewellyn Hall,
3 October.

Reviewed by Ditta Zizi

In keeping with the spring fever that grips Canberra during Floriade, the Llewellyn Choir presented a program dedicated to that most fatal of spring ailments, love. In a departure from the Choir's usual fare, the audience was treated to a selection of choral music conducted by Richard McIntyre as well as solo vocal music.

This light-hearted concert opened with Brahms' *Lieblieder Waltzes*. The *Waltzes* were presented by the full choir accompanied by Gabor Rozsa and Colleen Ray-Gerrard. This is a departure from the usual presentation of four voices, and while the singing was light and crisp, much of the texture and subtlety of the work was overshadowed by the increased number of voices.

For the Choir, the remainder of the evening was predominantly English in flavour. Colleen Ray-Gerrard provided delightful accompaniment to EJ Moerans *It was a Lover and his Lass*. This was followed by *Here's a paradox* from the operetta *Tom Jones* by Edward German. The presentation

of three madrigals by Farmer, Moeran and Holst provided the high point of the evening. This group of songs, well-suited to the vocal abilities of the group, were delightfully executed with just the right amount of vocal colour and nuance. The choir also enthusiastically presented a selection of catches or rounds by Garrett Colley Wellesley.

The concert included three vocalists who delivered a varied selection of songs in keeping with the concert's theme of love and lust. Soprano Sharon Olde presented a most engaging selection of songs by Granville Bantock and Richard Hageman. Her delightful singing was well supported by the sensitive accompaniment of the young pianist, Anthony Hunter-Smith. Soprano, Judith Crispin-Creswell presented a selection of Falla's Spanish songs to Ray-Gerard's exciting accompaniment. Bass, Thomas Layton assisted by Ray-Gerard's witty accompaniment, created a wonderful vocal picture of a little romance but mostly a lot of lust with his selection of Hatton's *Simon the Cellarer*, and *The Floral Dance* and the ever popular Britten version of the ballad *The Foggy, Foggy Dew*. ■