

WIGTON CHORAL SOCIETY
WIGTON METHODIST CHURCH, 23rd JUNE 2018
"BIRDSONG" – FROM THE THROSTLE'S NEST!

A capacity audience at Wigton Methodist was regaled with a veritable feast of music assembled by director, Ian Wright.

Mozart's "Sparrow Mass", so nicknamed because of the chirping sounds of the violins in the Hosanna, and featuring four confident soloists from the choir, was full of life, with effective dynamics and excellent top notes from the sopranos.

In two cello solos by Abigail Davies, one of the three young instrumentalists from RNCM who accompanied much of the singing, beautiful expressive playing was complemented by Amanda Wright's delicate, sympathetic piano accompaniments.

The pure solo voices in Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer" and in Stanford's evocative "Bluebird" were perfectly suited.

The changes of mood and tempo in the Spanish song, "O Cuco", were managed superbly by the choir, again showing the strong relationship between them and their director.

Violinist Elizabeth Lister totally stilled the audience with her wonderful playing of "The Lark Ascending". The choir followed with another Vaughan Williams favourite, "The Turtle Dove", with lovely singing from choir and soloist. The choir's eighth soloist, this time alto, featured in the Gaelic song "Mo Chasan Dubh".

The programme ended with Chilcott's "Like a Singing Bird", and we were all set to leave with a contented smile on our faces, when we enjoyed a bonus – the sad tale of "The Goslings", dramatically told and leaving us with a big grin!

This choir sings better every time I hear them and they are a credit to Wigton!

Janet Clayton

