

By Marvin Dickau
Event review

Last Friday night at the Community Theatre the Goh Ballet delighted the usual capacity crowd. Unfortunately, circumstance made me a little late, but I was quickly caught up in the sheer artistry and grace of the dancers.

The Goh Ballet Youth Company has called Vancouver home for the last 30 years, but was established in 1979 by Principal Dancers of The National Ballet of China, Choo Chiat Goh and Lin Yee Goh. Since then the Youth Company has trained and presented several generations of talented dancers

The colorful dances were set against a plain white backdrop which enhanced the beauty of the costumes.

The corps de ballet were often on stage, providing a background for solo dancers or pas de deux or trois. Their graceful lines, en pointes and strong lifts were enchanting. The only downside was a frequent lack of synchronous movements which was evident in most of the dances. These were not huge lapses, but I expected more from a professional company.

For me the high point of the first half was the poignant dancing to the evocative Dvorak song "Songs My Mother Taught Me". The Dancers, Tyler Carver and Rita Terasawa captured the essence of the writing, portraying it with innocent charm.

The traditional Chinese Fan Dance started the second half in a whirl of pastel colors. Once again the choreography was perfection. The weaving and waving the fans was enchanting.

The closer, Willow River was an exuberant, colorful and exciting display. Using the entire corps de ballet, including solo dancers, the troupe left no doubt about their ability and we responded with prolonged, enthusiastic applause.

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Marvin Dickau is an Organist, Pianist and Conductor who has an A.Mus. from the University of Alberta. He has conducted choirs and small orchestras, given solo piano and organ recitals and accompanied many singers and instrumentalists in Kelowna and Calgary. He is currently Minister of Music at First United Church and Executive Director of the Kelowna Kiwanis Music Festival.

