

# The King's Singers

On Wednesday evening the Community Theatre was filled with superb acapella singing as Community Concerts presented the King's Singers in concert. They are a 6 voice male group who are currently on a world tour, with a stop in Kelowna.

To call them stunning would be an understatement.

Their eclectic program opened with 4 North American folk songs, each one unique, presenting a variety of styles. She's Like the Swallow and I Bought Me a Cat showcased their ability to change from smooth to humorously raucous.

Their set of English Madrigals was sung to perfection, capturing all the beauty and nuances of the genre. I have rarely heard them sung so well.

The first half concluded with a set called Nonsense, based on limericks, and one called Masterpiece, built around composer's names. Both sets were hilarious.

As individual singers and as a group their sound is amazing. In addition, their stage presence was a fine addition to the singing, bringing the music to life. They also seamlessly changed their tone of voice to suit each song.

The entire evening was enchanting, but the second half featuring music from "The Great American Songbook", arrangements of popular standards specifically written for the Singers was especially so. Here they displayed yet another style of singing, that of smooth bluesy jazz. Their close harmony, blend and balance were stunning. They sounded like a completely different group, capturing the pop sound with great charm. It was wonderful to hear these "oldie goldies" sung with such aplomb and finesse.

The King's Singers are a world renowned group who continue to go from strength to strength, commissioning many new works and arrangements. They continually share their artistry and prodigious technique through workshops, master classes and published material. Community Concerts are to be royally commended for bringing them to our city.

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.