



CANTERBURY FESTIVAL

YOUNG CRITICS 2015

Review of East Kent Rock Choir

Shirley Hall, 7.30pm 18 October 2015

Written by Timon Staehler

The evening kicked off to a glorious start with the East Kent Rock Choir with a diverse programme that got the audience going. Directed by Jonathan Grosberg and with about 100 performers on stage, their enthusiasm and performance of rock ballad hits infected a full Shirley Hall. In its tenth year, the amateur contemporary choir impressed with their rousing interpretation of rock, most of it soft rock. It was also rock to sing along to, and many of the audience did. The solos, in particular, were fantastic.

A fairly long interval prepared us for the enchanting hour of music and dancing to come with the Rockabellas. The show took a cracking turn to the fast, upbeat music of the 1920s where the Rockabellas certainly showed their sense of style. Not only did they put a good swing into it, they also choreographed it so that by the end the audience was clapping and dancing in their seats. Starting with familiar swing and boogie-woogie numbers, such as "Puttin' on the Ritz" and progressing to favourites, such as "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend", the Rockabellas added also their own songs which included much humour. Early in the season of this year's Canterbury Festival, this concert featuring the Rock Choir and the Rockabellas certainly has raised expectations and has also been excellent fun.

For further information about the Rock Choir, see www.rockchoir.com, and for the Rockabellas, www.therockabellas.com.