

PURE JOY

If it occasionally happens that a performance takes one by surprise, Llangwm's most recent concert at St Jerome's church on Friday 6 March by **Carys Ann Evans** and **Joy Cornock** was startling in its power.

Billed as "a concert to St David" this was a carefully constructed programme of Welsh and English music ranging from harp solos and duets to songs traditional and modern with harp or piano accompaniment.

Carys previously performed at St Jerome's as pianist to the Haverfordwest Male Voice Choir last autumn, and again when she was harpist at a wedding. Reverend Jane, not one to miss an opportunity, invited her to perform at one of the regular concerts organised there by the enterprising and community-minded Pam Hunt. As a result, harps and keyboard were transported from Fishguard early in the day by willing family members, Carys was warmly welcomed with her first pieces - then simply announced "I brought my cousin along..."

Joy Cornock is no ordinary cousin. As soon as she began to sing the audience sensed that this was no ordinary night's entertainment they had let themselves in for. A student at Cardiff's Welsh School of Music, Joy showed the full range of her fine soprano voice in folk song, operatic aria, hymn and the clever and humorous diva piece "I'm Tone Deaf" - by way of affirmation that Miss Cornock certainly was not.

The musicianship and talent of the two young ladies shone throughout. Carys's gentle compereship, sensitive harp-playing and accomplished piano skills were received with awe. Joy's rendering of Faure's "Pie Jesu" and Puccini's "O Mio Bambino Caro" set the occasion on an altogether loftier footing, and her mesmerising performance of "I Walked into the Garden" moving amongst the audience as she sang touched souls, and many a listener's tears flowed freely.

"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" gave the audience a chance to participate, followed by a rich and varied selection of songs and harp arrangements until the final encore "Cymru Bach" and its standing ovation brought with it the realisation that everyone present had been blessed in a special way.

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