

Women's Choir Delivers with 'Songs of Love and Travel'



TALENT: TAKK members performing with enthusiasm and energy.

CONCERT REVIEW

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FOTO: Ellen Dobrowolski

Facts:

- > When: October 12th, 2014
- > Conductor: Bjarne Isaksen
- > Featuring: Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska
- > Next show: December 6th, 2014

Choir brings tremendous energy to their dynamic fall concert.

On Sunday, October 12th, the Tromsø Akademiske Kvinnekor (TAKK), presented their annual fall concert. The choir, which is comprised of female students, teachers, and other women associated with the University, presented this year's concert in a small gallery in Tromsø Kunstforening. This year's theme, 'Songs of Love and Travel,' sought to take the audience on one last journey before the frost set in, with songs from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Taiwan, China, and Scotland.

Joik adds to dynamic show

As the audience came to their seats, they were greeted by a stage decorated with pieces of luggage. Soon, a soloist would emerge, singing a moving, lingering tune which would slowly grow more

complex and challenging as the voices of around two dozen other women joined her. This opening number was haunting, and illustrated the complex nature of the topics at hand; love and travel are not always easy to endure. The next piece, however, quickly turned the mood around – a joyous song that inspired the exciting feelings of heading out on a summer adventure. The choir, now in its fourth year since being founded in 2010, would prove to be a force to be reckoned with; they deliver an excellent rendition of Taiwanese folk tune 'Diu diu deng' – a short, energetic song in which the choir imitates the rhythmic sounds of a train – while they also hold their own next to acclaimed Sami joiker Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska. Gaup Beaska, a seasoned and accomplished joiker from Guovdageaidnu in Finnmark, added a unique and exceptional element to this performance. Sami joik was well-incorporated into much of

night and while joik is a unique and difficult skill to master, the choir handled this musical style admirably.

A whirlwind trip around the globe

The choir, directed by conductor supreme Bjarne Isaksen, kept the energy up throughout the evening, effectively using movement, props, and formation to complement their songs. 'Kaval Sviri,' a Bulgarian folk song frequently featured on the television show Xena: Warrior Princess, was an exceptional highlight of the evening. The song itself is a fierce one, and the women's choir did not shy away from that ferocity, but rather performed it with extraordinary passion and prowess. Another highlight was a solo performance, in which one of the choir members soulfully took on the role of a Gaelic Scottish woman, sharing tales of her dead lover and the travels they would

undertake together with the audience. Norwegian songs 'Ola Glomstulen' and 'Alle mann hadde fota,' both skillfully arranged by the choir's own conductor, brought us back home, and ended the show on a strong note. The choir would go on to do an encore featuring a joik duet between Gaup Beaska and one of the members of the choir, and would conclude the show with 'Kaval Sviri' for a second time. The audience and choir alike seemed to be craving a repeat of this song, as its strength and harmonies are simply phenomenal, especially in the surprisingly excellent acoustics of the gallery. Overall, Tromsø Akademiske Kvinnekor with Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska and conductor Bjarne Isaksen delivered a dynamic and enjoyable evening. Be sure not to miss their next concert on December 6th with their brother choir, Det norske mannskor av 1995 (The Norwegian Men's Choir of 1995).