

Review by Donald Hollins that appeared in the Gazette on Friday Feb 12th.

Time to hear the chorus

The Dawn Chorus Oriana Singers and Tabard players at United Reformed Church, Dursley

The Oriana Singers were joined by four members of the Tabard Players who read prose and poems with a bird theme. The choir sang pieces with a similar theme and the result was a pleasant if somewhat undemanding evening. I have one small criticism; there were 25 readings but only 16 contributions from the choir. This should surely have been reversed.

David Moss's "The Merry Month of May" came across as a successful evocation of a sylvan scene and "The Three Ravens" was movingly sung. I thought the many staccato passages in "Sweet Suffolk Owl" were handled splendidly by this choir. Soprano Mary Moss soared resplendently in her solo passages in Stanford's "The Blue Bird". She did equally well in "The Cuckoo". I loved the 2 Weelkes madrigals, which were well redereed. The concert ended with "The Red, Red Robin" (effectively arranged by David Moss) and George Mitchell's quirky but enjoyable arrangement of "Old Macdonald's Farm".

All four readers did well and the selection of readings was wide ranging. Among the many pieces, I particularly enjoyed were Pam Greenfield's "I'm a Starlin me Darlin", Gill Lyons' "To the Cuckoo" and Tony Wilson's extract from Shelley's "To the Skylark".