

OXTED STARS OF BRASS CONCERT

Stephen Kane stars at Oxted



St John's Church, Hurst Green,
Oxted
Oxted Band
Musical Director - Darrell Scholes
Stephen Kane - Baritone
MALCOLM QUINN reports



Oxted Band (Music Director Darrell Scholes), based in the lovely town at the foot of the North Downs in Surrey, is mainly a concert band regularly entertaining audiences with well chosen and varied music, often in a fundraising environment for local causes. This year's guest soloist was Stephen Kane, who has been the solo baritone of the world's number one band, Cory, since February 2012, and what an exhilarating night it turned out to be!

After the scintillating opening *Redcliffe March*, Stephen's opening contribution, Paul Lovatt-Cooper's *Donegal Bay*, was played with such

sensitivity and lyricism that the audience was immediately spell-bound in anticipation of what was to come.

The Greatest Showman by the band introduced Stephen's next contributions. Erik Leidzén's *Home on the Range* allowed him to share with us all such dexterity and nimbleness of fingers in complete yet distinctive contrast to Evelyn Glennie's *A Little Prayer* (arr. Robert Childs), played with such a mellowness of sound and immaculate intonation.

The Water of Tyne is popular in many programmes, and so it proved on this occasion, along with Australian composer Sam Creamer's *For The World*. This piece, with no small hint of James Bond styled music, got off to a very tuneful flugel and solo horn combination, a duo which throughout the night produced such an accurate, sensitive and lovely sound.

Goff Richards' *Stage Centre* brought everyone back after the interval, a period which had an enthusiastic buzz of conversation and enjoyment of what had been heard so far. Then, a highlight for many, *Napoli*, and what a performance by Stephen Kane this was! Clarity of the baritone sound is sometimes difficult to get over a band accompaniment, but Stephen did it, and he did it so, so well. Such wide-ranging notational expanses were played with consummate ease and lyricism.

And then, to the audience's delight Stephen was joined by his father Derick Kane, who is enjoying the next part of his extensive career after 42 years as the Principal Euphonium of the International Staff Band of The Salvation Army. Peter Graham's duet *Glorious Ventures* showed them demonstrating passages of interspersed playing, togetherness, tunefulness and extremely accurate articulation, whilst at the same time enjoying each other's contribution, thus engaging the audience to the degree that we didn't want it to end!

The band's playing of George Gershwin's *Someone to Watch Over Me*



Programme

The Redcliffe March (DG Hollis)

Stage Centre (Goff Richards)

Donegal Bay (Paul Lovatt-Cooper)

Baritone Soloist: Stephen Kane

Napoli (Herman Bellstedt arr. Geoffrey Brand)

Baritone Soloist: Stephen Kane

The Greatest Showman (arr. Paul Murtha trs. Christopher Bond)

Glorious Ventures (Peter Graham)

Duetists: Stephen & Derick Kane

Home on the Range (Erik Leidsén)

Baritone Soloist: Stephen Kane

Someone to watch over me (George Gershwin arr. Alan Fernie)

A Little Prayer (Evelyn Glennie arr. Robert Childs)

Baritone Soloist: Stephen Kane

Everywhere (Andrew Maycock arr. Derick Kane)

Duetists: Stephen & Derick Kane

The Water of Tyne (Trad. arr. Philip Harper)

Disney Fantasy (arr. Goff Richards)

For the World (Sam Creamer)

The Day Thou Gavest (CC Scholefield arr. Philip Wilby)

Interval

continued to show the level of improvement this ensemble has achieved in quality and programming in recent years under Darrell Scholes' direction. Stephen and Derick then featured a new piece of music by Andrew Maycock, *Everywhere*, arranged by Derick himself, once again demonstrating that interpretation and togetherness are very much integral to engaging audiences in moments of musical magic.

The band's final solo contribution was Goff Richards' medley *A Disney Fantasy*, which many of the audience enjoyed singing along to. Philip Wilby's arrangement of *The Day Thou Gavest* proved to be a fitting climax to the evening, commencing with Stephen by himself, then joined by the euphoniums in unison before the complete band brought such an enjoyable evening to a resounding conclusion, with everyone leaving the building enjoying the very happy thought "I'm pleased I can say 'I was there'". ■

