



"Reel Music" a delight for all ages

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Back stage amongst the riggings, at the Civic Arts Plaza Scherr Forum last Saturday night, the Big Springs Elementary School Chorus from Simi Valley waited excitedly for their performance time. There were Dorotheys, Lions, Scarecrows, Good and Wicked Witches and one Tin Man and together they charmed and delighted the audience with a medley of songs from The Wizard of Oz and The Wiz.

Directed by Ruth Elin Drossel and accompanied by Rachael Peck, they were one of thirteen local elementary schools receiving grants from the Village Voices Chorale this year, and one of two school choruses invited to sing during the Chorale's Spring Concert, "Reel Music, A Night at the Movies". Friday evening's audience was entertained by White Oak Elementary School Choir, also from Simi Valley, and directed by Gail Matulaitis.

The young entertainers received a treat also, for on stage during those evening concerts were two scholarship awardees, Jayme Alilaw and Chad Ruyle, both students in California State University at Northridge's graduate vocal program. The soloists thrilled the audience with their selections, their performance, and perhaps even imbued the younger singers something to aspire to. Ms. Alilaw and Mr. Ruyle were two of eight vocal students that received scholarships this year, all of them attending local colleges and universities.

The Chorale's selections evoked a flow of memories and emotions, as well as toe tapping and laughter. From the movie "Bad News Bear" to "The Jazz Singer", from "Forrest Gump" to "Beaches", the songsters themselves and their audience had a full evenings enjoyment.

Ending the concert with a reprise of "All That Jazz", the Village Voices were joined on stage by both the soloists and the chorus. The stage was filled with all manner of ages, all manner of voices, all manner of talents, having one great love, that of music and the singing of it.



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