

Chase Away the Winter Blues V

Originally produced as the brainchild of the Late Bruce Patton, **Chase Away the Winter Blues V** drew a capacity crowd at Lennoxville United Church's Gertrude Scott Hall on Saturday, January 31st, 2015. This last Saturday of a frigid January proved as cold and crisp as most of the rest of the month but that didn't deter family, friends and supporters from filling the hall and settling in for an evening of local entertainment culminating in refreshments and a time of visiting.



Wayne Nutbrown, Janice Graham and Willie Fisk started our toes tapping promptly at 7 pm when guests started arriving and continued until the show's first performers Kevin, Josiah and Jaymin Lapointe were welcomed to the stage by MC-par-excellence, Rebecca Boire. The Lapointe Trio rocked the house with "Responsibility" and "I Don't Want Any Trouble". They were followed by the duo of Darlene Kerr and Pierre Dufresne who sang a beautiful version of "Leather and Lace" after which Pierre treated us to a song he had written to thank the people of Lennoxville for their warmth and concern following his recent accident: "Lennoxville Blues". The vagaries of the female brain vs the male brain were humourously satirized in a skit entitled "Brain Surgery" in which Melissa Mailloux, Rob Weary and Emily Baldwin had us chuckling and nodding in agreement as we watched personalities change after a male brain is implanted into a female – and vice versa!. Zoë Lapointe and Alana Ospina very professionally sang "Come Back Kid" to the delight of all their fans and this act was followed by Amelia Hartwell, Hannah Gilpin and Lauren Cheal who exhibited great talent as they danced to "It's a Hard Luck Life" from the musical "Annie".



At this point there was a short break from the musical numbers as we learned from the UCW's skit entitled "Victoria Sponge Cake that (a) an ostrich egg really does make the most glorious-and largest - "sponge" cake, (b) that Canada Post-man Sam Boire could have a most amazing career if he can ever learn to correctly pronounce Deanna McNab's name! and (c) that his mother, Barbara is truly a skit-writing genius! In addition to Sam, participants in this skit were Deanna McNab, Gloria Stronach and Frankie Noble.



Once again resuming the musical part of the programme the audience was treated to Jean Glavin's a Capella rendition of two beautifully interpreted numbers: "When He Was on the Cross, I was on His Mind" and "Knowing You'll Be There". The wonderfully talented Jonathan Townshend then favoured us with his joyful interpretation of two numbers: "



An hilarious skit entitled “St. Swithin’s in the Swamp Choir Practice” starring Brenna Lassenba, Tami Spires, Olivia Ryan, Emily Baldwin and Mead Baldwin told the tale of what might happen when a tartar of a choir Director (Tami) has to be convinced that it would indeed be alright to sing – in Church - from “More Voices” while accompanied by a ukulele (played by Olivia). Then, in a surprising finale, the Choir broke into a spirited rendition of “You Are My Sunshine” and encouraged the audience to join in – which they happily did!



We were returned once more to the musical theme of the programme as we listened to Josiah Lapointe singing “Roger Rabbit” to his own guitar accompaniment and his stellar performance was followed by the bother-sister team of Rob and Kathleen Weary who thrilled the audience with their (violin and piano) rendition of “The Tennessee Waltz” and then “Red Wing”, played as a violin duet. Spectacular!



We knew the programme must be fast coming to an end when the mother-daughter duo of Barbara and Rebecca Boire took to the stage to reprise their Cockney spoof as “Madge and Lil”, the know-all, see-all Lennoxville cleaning ladies. Seems there was a mix-up with a new curling “pebble” and a very spirited UCW fruitcake that progressed from one fantastical misstep to the next until the hilarious conclusion that saw the Lennoxville Team “of newbies” skipped by Rev. Jim Potter, representing Quebec in the world famous “Battle of the Churches Bonspiel” and in less-than-official attire, winning the trophy!



Just before we all joined in singing one final song: “Magic Penny”, Ann Maher Weary spoke eloquently about the planning and effort that went into the production of this 5th Annual Edition of “Chase Away the Winter Blues” and how, each year, during the months leading up to the event, people volunteer and agree to participate and work together to mount another evening of fun and entertainment. She thanked all who contributed in any way to the evening’s success mentioning in particular the organizing committee members: Nancy Suito, Barbara Boire, Cindy Van Vliet, Linda Fisk, Ken & Jean Porter, Frankie & Jack Noble and Steve & Ann Weary.

Frankie Noble, Publicity
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