

## CAODS - Be Our Guest

Performed at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford November 7th 2010.

Director- Cheryl Jennings, Musical Director – Patrick Tucker

What a finale to a great 90th Anniversary year for CAODS! The recent annual concerts have been hugely enjoyable and this was no exception. A combination of modern classics by soloists, duets and ensembles, together with some strong company numbers showcased more than the usual principals we have seen in recent years. Members who were more prominent in former years shared the stage with those who took the honours more recently as well as with nascent talent that doesn't have the opportunity to shine in shows where competition for principal roles is high. What is intriguing is that here was a wonderful concert that needed no Rogers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter or Sondheim to succeed. I am a big fan of all the aforementioned composers and so it speaks volumes that musical theatre can provide wonderful entertainment with music from just the last third of the 90 years that CAODS has been in existence. I hope and believe that musical theatre will keep alive an eclectic mix of songs across the spectrum of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries but fully understand why today's West End and touring shows feature strongly in the mix. The opportunity to sing winners from shows that have yet to be released to amateurs is too good to be missed and CAODS took full advantage. Songs from Legally Blonde, We Will Rock You, Sister Act, Wicked and Love Never Dies gave this Chelmsford audience a taste of what can otherwise be heard only in London but at a fraction of the price. Given the strength and depth of young talent on display in the Civic Theatre I have very high hopes for the 100th Jubilee and feel no need to visit London any time soon.

Reviewer- Stewart Adkins, NODA East

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