

And it was . . .

Music for Everyone Civic Theatre

FIREWORKS, lasers and a brilliant band – Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's celebration of popular music included show tunes, standards and all stations between. It was a slick, professional production which allowed individuals their three minutes of fame as well as keeping a good company feel.

Director Barry Hester and MD Peter Snell collaborated to excellent effect in two hours packed with more than 30 numbers. Some were forgettable, some best forgotten, but all were performed with enthusiasm and style.

Not all actors are natural performers, of course, and it was interesting to see how they coped without a character. There was some mimicry, and one or two travesties, but generally we enjoyed both the number and the artist.

I can mention only a few. Night Fever, with Neil Laker, Debra Sparshott's So In Love, River of Dreams with Ben Ward on top form and lively chorus work, Graham Baguley's moving Mama a Rainbow and Angela Broad's superb performance of Sondheim's Losing My Mind.

Diana Baker made the most of I Will Survive, and the chorus brought the evening to its climax with Happy Day and Follow Him.

It was good to see a showcase for so much talent – if the agents were in the house I'll be expecting to see these entertainers in the cabaret on the next cruise liner out of Harwich.

MICHAEL GRAY