

# Challenging repertoire shows choir's agility

**Rotorua District Choir**  
**Friday night/Saturday**  
**afternoon**  
**St Luke's Church**

There was impressive cohesion and confidence in Rotorua District Choir's two shows at the weekend at St Luke's Church.

Conductor Evelyn Falconer had chosen demanding works, mostly by American composers, which had depth and uncommon harmonies.

Right from the start with Emily Crocker's cheerful *Gloria Festiva* the choir handled these with the richness and flexibility the programme deserved.

Four solos by soprano Emma Cronshaw-Hunt were a delight, the purity of her voice well suited to a Handel aria and two art songs, and her agility right up to the syncopation of a Sondheim song.

Falconer's thorough training of the singers was especially evident in the staccatos of David Gardiniere's *Festival Jubilate*. It showed too as they caught the wide-ranging emotions and harmonies in the four pieces

**“They caught the wide-ranging emotions and harmonies.”**

from a song cycle by American composer Morten Lauridsen.

Alex Wiltshire's piano accompaniment was admirably judged, and a string trio's playing for *Salut d'Amour* was most attractive.

— Hanno Fairburn