

The Khoi – Khoi Goes Classical

The sounds and smells of Spring sizzled at the Khoi- Khoi on the last Saturday of May at St. Ansgars Lutheran Church in Notre dame de Grace. The intimate crowd came out to support Zerf productions' project Water for Kikuhe, in Kilimanjaro, produced by Wilhelmina Fredericks, founder of Zerf Productions



Performers

Back Row: Wilhelmina Fredericks , Thomas Leslie, Huques Hawker, Eric Legault

Front Row: Linda Tae, Joanne Pantry , Philip Cumyn, Beverly McArthur

Under the musical direction of the charismatic tenor Thomas Leslie, it was an evening of exhilarating vocal music from Carmen's *Habanera* by Bizet and *O Sole Mio* and *Plaisir d'Amour* to some more unusual operatic works like *Baba's Aria* (the Medium). The singers were skillfully accompanied on the piano by Hugh Cawker. Non-vocal music included a fugue by Buxtehude on the organ (played by Thomas Leslie) and a flute/piano duo. Tenor Thomas Leslie (tenor), Beverly McArthur and Johanne Patry (mezzo sopranos) and Eric Legault (baritone), as well as Linda Tae and Philip Cumyn) to enjoy and even some audience participation in nobody knows the Trouble I've Seen and the African/American anthem *Lift Every Voice and Sing Voice and Sing* at much delight of the audience.

The occasion was coined Khoi-Khoi, the indigenous people in South Africa, who love to dance and sing around the fire, to keep the evil spirits away. Very little is known about their religious beliefs, but they worship the praying mantis.

An abundance of non-perishable food was also collected for the NDG Food Bank, which is always in need of supplies. The hosts of the evening were Pastor Samuel King-Kabu (President of Zerf) and St. Ansgar's Church.

Jette Blair

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