IGHT ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW

Dulcet tones of yesteryear

Bexhill-on-Sea

You Are My Heart's Delight

The De La Warr Pavilion is part of a famously scenic oasis which perfectly complemented the mood of attractive Fiona Harrison's lively concert.

Her repertoire is mainly collected from the twenties, thirties and forties, when lingering love songs, handsome strangers and English roses were fashionable in a less connected world and our only satellite was the romantic moon. There were famous melodies from The Dancing Years, The Chocolate Soldier and White Horse Inn. The range and control required for The Laughing Song from Die Fledermaus were impressive.

With clear diction, her rendering of My Hero, Love Is Where You Find It and her first audition piece — I Want to Be a Prima Donna — were highlights. Harrison works with intelligence, good timing and humour. Such a clever coloratura soprano could find her way into established production shows.

Able to sing in five languages, she offered Puccini's O'mio babbino caro in Italian and Vilia in German, such items displaying considerable acting ability.

Her tutor for 12 years, Pamela Pritchard, played immaculate piano accompaniment throughout the concert. A singer, teacher and musical director, she.. was especially helpful to the chorus of Opera South East and its conductor Ken Roberts. The 22 voices of the chorus seemed mysteriously thin until it became apparent that all three tenors were missing. Suddenly taken ill, all were unavailable. E Paul Spence produced the show and Norcross opera-loving Derek compered.

Barbara Champion



Romantic rendezvous – Fiona Harrison in You Are My Heart's Delight at the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea

THE STAGE, MAY 21, 1998

