

November 13 2018 - 2:10PM

Lithgow's Hoskins Uniting Church hosts Armistice Day choral concert.

Ian Griggs



FULL HOUSE: Community members gather for the concert. Pictures: SUPPLIED.

Armistice Day and a glorious Spring afternoon for a concert at Hoskins Uniting Church.

A full house (rather rare for any church these days) was treated to an extraordinary program led by the Blackheath based Phoenix Choir and soloists. A highlight was a specially commissioned work 'All this is ended' by the Musical Director Rowen Fox.

This composition, to the words of a poem by Rupert Brooke was most moving, and a stirring memorial to the day. Reminiscent of a Vaughan-Williams choral work, it used the organ, choir, soloists and two string players to take us through Brooke's poem and bring out the futility of war.

Organist Heather Moen-Boyd started the afternoon with some Elgar, after which the assembled audience (otherwise known as a 'congregation' in church terms!) sang two well known hymns. A stirring address by Commodore Cecil Geraghty, Elegie (Massenet) and Dunc Dimittis (Stainer) completed the first half.



Voices lifted in song at Hoskins Church.

After a short interval, there followed a simply magical performance of Faure's Requiem.

The ensemble of the large choir, organ, piano and strings, with soloists Sarah Arnold and Jeremy Dube gave us an amazing and totally professional and world class performance of this well known work.

Ethereal music filled the church, and Sarah Arnold's Pie Jesu was simply stunning. Without going into further detail, the choir and organ gave us in this arrangement a special treat rarely heard in Lithgow or indeed anywhere.

Commodore Cecil Geraghty addresses the crowd.

The superb acoustics of the church, even when full, surprisingly, delivered the wonderful sound to every corner.

We look forward to another visit by this wonderful choir again soon.

