

Group's music delights

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Music Critic

The musical life of our community is often enriched by delightful events that because they are relatively unheralded, or are performed by amateurs, all too often go unnoticed and unremarked. Such might have been the case on Sunday afternoon.

When the Collegium Musicum appeared recently in All Faiths, the performance by the vocal quintet of Lisa Brunner, Paula Elliot, Rodney Bates, Richard Brunner and David Cox had provided one of the high points of that recital.

Calling themselves now the KSU Madrigal Consort this same quintet presented a delightful concert of secular, sacred and Christmas music in Seven Dolors Church on Sunday afternoon. In pleasant contrast to the more tentative presentation with the Collegium Musicum, the opening group of secular madrigals revealed a lively and confident group of singers whose animated presentation of the music was as much of a delight as was their mostly secure singing.

Thomas Thomkins' *To The Shady Woods* was an example of this joyful music making, and it nicely contrasted with the lovely and smooth singing of *Silver Swan* that followed. Of particular note in this group of works was the performance of the gently shimmering harmonies of *Sweet Love, I Will No More* by Thomas Weelkes.

During the group of sacred motets, the two glorious works by Heirich Schutz were ample evidence of that composer's all too often neglected greatness. Despite the difficulties of the music and distracting competition from mechanical equipment that generated a background noise right in the singing range of the music, the Consort communicated a great deal

The spontaneous applause after the moving performance of that timelessly beautiful carol was not only well deserved but meant a great deal more than the knee-jerk standing ovations given in more prestigious surroundings in this area.

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