

Music transports audience to war-time Europe

Posted By MARILYN REESOR, The Barrie Examiner

September 28, 2009

An entranced and captivated crowd was transported to the impassioned streets of war-time Europe on Sunday afternoon at Central United Church in Barrie.

Led through a series of charming, cabaret-style musical vignettes by the ensemble known as L'Accordéoniste, the audience was touched by the despair of a Germany betrayed by Hitler and both the comedy and desolation of love sought and love lost in Italy and France.

Soulful and heart-wrenching or quirky and heart-warming, the music was at all times poignant.

Nationalistic flavours were instantly recognizable and were brought forth in arrangements of the group's own making, each performer drawing on vast improvisational skills and immense knowledge of era and style.

L'Accordéoniste consists of Kimberly Barber, mezzo-soprano; Mary-Lou Vetere, accordion; Julie Baumgartel, violin; Peter Tiefenbach, piano; and Carol Bauman, percussion; all of whom met while teaching music at Wilfrid Laurier University.

This was a world-class performance. Bravo.