

The Prague School Choir *in Concert* *Dover Town Hall, Thursday 16 May*

Prague's Academy of Music is renowned throughout Europe as amongst the best and currently a number of its students is attending and experiencing life at the Guildhall School of Music. This year is also the Year of the Prague Heritage Fund, sponsored by HRH Prince Charles for the repair and renovation of its famous mediæval buildings and marked by an all-star International Music Concert held in Prague.

Dover was therefore privileged to be able to welcome the Prague School Choir and on this evening to listen to twenty-two sparkling pieces presented with charm and vitality.

The Choir consisted of thirty-seven girls and four boys who gave us an evening to remember, combining Bernstein with Purcell and Verdi and including a selection of Czech Folk Music and national songs sung in their mother tongues. The Choir's evident happiness in their performance stirred the audience which to the disappointment of the Choir and to my dismay numbered only twenty-five. I can only hope that they were better supported at an earlier concert held in St. Mary's Church on 24 May for the children had travelled far and had worked hard to a high standard and frankly deserved better of us.

JOHN POTTER

How to Write and Illustrate a Picture Book

with MARTIN URSELL – Dover Junior Library, Wednesday 25 May

MARTIN URSELL, a well-known, gifted and very articulate artist showed a selection of originals of his work and some of the published books in which they appear. As well as illustrating the texts of other authors he sometimes writes, producing the complete picture book.

Impressive sketch-books show the studies of animals, made in zoos and elsewhere, which are the finely-observed basis of his art. He also gave very useful advice on allowing extra space for foreign translations, making up a dummy book, finding an agent and the best times of the year to approach her, contacting publishers and so on.

Some of us tried our hands at sketching ideas for a picture book. Martin must also be a helpful, lively and encouraging teacher at Chelsea and at Croydon College of Art.

PHILOMENA KENNEDY (002)