

Concert mixes bagpipes with Christmas

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There were long line-ups at Penticton Cleland Theatre last Friday night. Tickets were sold out for the Okanagan Symphony's A Piping Hot Christmas concert.

The musicians on stage looked cheerful, dressing up their usual black and white outfits with red and silver accessories as well as decorating the music stands.

Welcoming words from conductor Rosemary Thompson ended with the cue, "piping hot" prompting the drummers of the Kelowna Pipe Band to enter the stage from behind the curtain. At the same time the pipes could be heard approaching from the distance making their way through the lobby into the concert hall to join the drummers on stage.

Have you ever heard excerpts from Handel's Messiah on bagpipes?

Later Thompson stepped down from her podium and sang He Shall Feed His Flock from Messiah together with Okanagan soprano Tracy Fehr. From the same oratorio, Fehr performed the aria Rejoice Greatly, executing the graceful coloratura passages beautifully. Looking stunning in her grey and purple silk robe Fehr also gave an entertaining rendition of Finley's Eine Kleine Wiener Folly, a pastiche of famous classics overlaid with Christmas carols.

Attending this Okanagan Symphony concert was a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.