



Former EU parliament president Pat Cox, narrating the Duke Ellington 'Sacred Concert' Show at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, as part of the Guinness Jazz Festival.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Vocalist Sylvia Howard of the Laurent Mignard Orchestra, supported by the Vocal Spirit Choir and Voices of Cork Choir at St Fin Barre's.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Pat makes a holy show of himself

By VINCENT KELLY

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FORMER president of the EU Parliament Pat Cox got all jazzed up for a once-in-a-lifetime performance yesterday. He narrated and also had a singing role in one of the most famous jazz works of the modern era, the late Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concert*, staged at St Fin Barre's Cathedral as the Church of Ireland's cultural contribution to Cork's European Capital of Culture programme. The two-hour long event, whose sponsors included the *Evening Echo* and the *Irish Examiner*, featured sax, clarinet, trumpets, trombones, piano, double bass and drums. The 30-strong Voices of Cork choir, directed by Padraig Wallace also made an outstanding contribution to the success of the show, directed by one of France's best-known band leaders, composer, arranger and trumpet player, Laurent Mignard and featuring his band, the Dukish Orchestra, named in honour of Duke Ellington. The band was joined by American vocalist

Sylvia Howard. Her artistry won the biggest ovation of the afternoon.

One minute it was the sound of a full swing band which filled the sacred venue, the next it was that of instrumental soloists, solo piano, the choir or solo vocalist.

Mr Mignard paid special tribute to Bernard Casey, formerly head of the wind and percussion department at Cork School of Music and the rest of the Cork Jazz Festival Committee for their special contribution to organising the event. Cllr Jerry Buttimer, deputising for the Lord Mayor, praised former Harbour Commissioner member Bill Hosford for coming up with the idea and the rest of the Church of Ireland community for backing him on a project which, he said, was undoubtedly one of the highlights of 2005.

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Let ²⁵
the ¹⁰
spirit ²⁵
move
you

A cathedral is an apt venue for Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts, writes Paul Dromey

FEATURING the world-famous Laurent Mignard Dukish Orchestra from Paris, with full choir and soloists, the magnificent music of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts will be recreated at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, on the afternoon of Sunday October 30, as part of this year's Cork Jazz Festival programme for Cork Capital of Culture 2005.

Apart from his reputation as a bon vivant, Ellington was a deeply religious man.

"Now I can say openly what I have been saying to myself on my knees," Duke once said, describing the first Sacred Concert as the most important work of his life, when he accepted the invitation to present his music for the first time at an event celebrating the consecration of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco in 1965.

His three Sacred Concerts (written in 1965, 1968 and 1973), allowed Ellington to crossover into liturgical music, blending swing, blues, gospel, oratorio, "grande musique" and African music.

In 2002, at a festival in Paris, Ellington's great project was recreated by Laurent Mignard in Saint Sulpice, a church in which Duke performed in 1969.

As the concert was taking place Bill Johnson, the director of Cork Guinness Jazz festival, speaking at Cork Opera House, disclosed that Duke Ellington's famous 'sacred concerts' are to be performed at the cathedral on Sunday, October 30.

The three works combining elements of jazz, classical and choral music, spirituals, gospel, blues and dance, will be performed by the Laurent Mignard Dukish orchestra, one of Europe's top big band orchestras.

"We are looking forward to what should be a truly magnificent occasion," Bill said.



Aolfe Carlin, Cork 2005; Mary Browne, secretary Jazz committee; Imelda Dervin, Cork 2005 and Vincent Kelly, Business Editor Evening Echo at the launch of the Duke Ellington recital.

Picture: Gerard Reilly

