



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 Pdraig 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.