

## BWT REVIEW

The Sound of Music  
Witham Amateur Operatic Society (WAOS)  
Witham Public Hall

### *Compelling staging of beloved story*

WITH its familiar songs and well-known plot, The Sound of Music is, perhaps, the best-loved of all musicals. WAOS treated the audience to a first-rate performance; sometimes sugary sweet, sometimes action-packed, but always compelling.

Two performances lifted the show out of the ordinary. As the Mother Abbess, Janet Moore had a commanding presence that was matched by her strong and resonant singing. As Maria, Corrina Wilson did not just act out the role, she was Maria. Her voice was expressive and full of vitality, and when she sang with the Abbess, as in My Favourite Things, the effect was stunning.

My favourite scene was the one involving Rolf (Edward Tunningley) and Liesl von Trapp (Faith Rogers). There was a delightful innocence portrayed by their song and dance that was a joy to behold. Charlie Smith (Friedrich), Olivia Herbert (Louisa), Fraser McLauclan (Kurt), Clara Alden-Smith (Brietta), Poppy Fisher (Marta) and Ella Bradley (Gretl) played the other von Trapp children to perfection.

Other fine performances came from Niels Bradley (Captain von Trapp), Julie Codling (Elsa Schraeder), and Tom Whelan (Max Detweiler).

All the elements of this show added to its success. The religious backdrop, the family drama, the political intrigue, the general staging and the orchestral playing were all competently handled in this production, and special mention should be made of Eric Smart (director), and Susannah Edom (musical director) who gave us all a great night out.

DAVID WOOD