



Staff Photo by Sam Greenwood

The King's Singers brought a mixture of madrigals and popular music to Wake Forest Tuesday night.

## Variety and Ability Characterize Show

By GARLAND KIMMER

Arts Editor

The Beatles have finally met their match at the top of the most versatile and talented list of British musicians. The King's Singers offered the chance to view one of the most sought after groups in the world. With a combination of wit and musical skill they gave the audience more than it bargained for in Wait Chapel.

The performance opened when the singers took the stage and began in a spontaneous rendition of "The Padstow May Song," which is a combination of two Cornish folk songs. These songs optimistically welcome the British summer to the Isles and tell of the manner in which the Cornish women foiled an invasion by the French Navy.

The group next moved to Wales and the tale of a blacksmith with "Migildi, Magildi." The next song was a dark and brooding song of the Irish that somehow expressed the melancholy that the Irish have traditionally felt. "She Moved Through The Fair" was a wonderfully soft piece that drew upon a wedding for its story. "There's Nae Luck Through the House" was a Scottish ballad that told of the homecoming of a Scot who has been away with his wife at home alone.

They then returned to the stage and began to take the audience on a "Madrigal History Tour" that included music from five different European countries. The most appropriate to this region was "Come Sirrah Jack, ho" which they claimed may have been the first tobacco commercial produced. It would have been very convincing with its four parts and the emphasis

of the words "'tis very good." The other work from this section that demands special attention is Alessandro Striggio's "Il Gioco di Primiera"

"Cries of London" closed the first half of the performance. This piece by Luciano Berio shows the confusion and cacophony that characterized the streets of London during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The second and fourth stanzas were refrains while the others mimicked the cries of vendors who sold make-up, garlic, and an used clothes salesman.

After intermission they performed three poems put to music by Frank Bridge who is most famous for having taught Benjamin Britten. The first of these was "The Bee" by Tennyson. The others were by poets who are equally out of fashion

The next piece was the humorous "Masterpiece" of Paul Drayton. This look at 400 years of composers brought out the funniest in the names and styles of the composers that have shaped European music over the last four centuries.

The performance's last scheduled piece was "Arrangements in Close Harmony," and included a wonderful version of the Lennon-McCartney classic "I Wanna Hold Your Hand."

After two standing ovations the King's Singers returned and performed two encores. The first was another Lennon-McCartney tune called "Ob La Di, Ob La Da." The second encore was one of Shakespeare's sonnets put to music by George Sherril. This was the first performance of this number, which does justice to the mood Shakespeare must have been in when he wrote it.

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