Akkoortje 30

The day after

The day after the performance, a column can, of course, only be about one thing: the success of our Stadhuiskoor at the Kapelletje. Together with three other choirs, we had a lovely afternoon. Each choir had its own unique repertoire. We stood out; not just because of our hats, but mainly because we sang a cappella. The audience was mainly made up of choir members, but fortunately there were also some ‘real’ visitors who came to listen to us.

Just before we had to go on stage, some of us may have wondered: what’s actually so great about giving a concert? Why did I sign up to take part? I’m sure everyone was able to answer that question afterwards. It’s a real thrill to perform the songs we’ve practised, looking our best. Afterwards, the adrenaline is coursing through your body. It also creates a sense of togetherness: on stage, you feel ‘we’ll get this done together’! Singing in front of an audience is also very different from us torturing each other’s ears during rehearsals. We always say, myself included: ‘we don’t really need to perform.’ Yet on an afternoon like that, you realise that the interaction with the audience is what makes singing so special. The silence that falls when we sing a gentle lullaby, or the audience singing along to our finale. Goosebumps and an adrenaline rush!

Although it’s definitely all about the singing, it’s also great fun to present ourselves as the Town Hall Choir. The sound and lighting technician helped us with this, although at one point half the choir members couldn’t read the music or the lyrics because of the purple lighting – but that’s beside the point. Our hats added to the spectacle: the photos on the website are proof of that. The red hats, in particular, went down a treat! What a sense of release when the hats were thrown into the air at the end. Of course, afterwards we wanted to hear from Janneke and our audience that it was ‘brilliant’, but basically it’s like this: if you’re satisfied yourself and enjoyed it, then it was a success!

So, on to the next performance – our Christmas show in Capelle aan den IJssel – and who knows, there might be something else in the pipeline. We’re almost at the point where we want to sign up for Rotjekoor 2027 – as they themselves say, the coolest choir festival in Rijnmond and the surrounding area – with the emphasis on ‘almost’. In our euphoria, we’ve also been chatting amongst ourselves about a choir trip. Just dreaming together for a moment. Singing in the Gedächtniskirche in Berlin or during the Ravello Festival in Campania along the Amalfi Coast, Italy. How magical that would be. It doesn’t get any more romantic than that. With our feet firmly back on the ground, we could also look closer to home. What about a flash mob? That idea came up in our conversations too. You do a flash mob in a public space or a café. As choir members, you mingle with the crowd and, at a pre-arranged signal, the

members stand up one by one (or two by two, three by three, etc.) and start singing. Impressive examples of this include: https://youtu.be/ARwZ3scXQ7U?si=fOYR6tRAbEbsHGOl and https://youtu.be/L3-5WgSp8ps?si=xBJxm6n9woSz0HGB

As you can see, when we're together, there's no shortage of inspiration. Which idea will it be? To be continued.