



Soweto Gospel Choir

Festival Theatre

★★★★★

Vibrant, radiant, majestic

This is inspired and inspiring music, boldly performed, and truly reflects the glory of the Lord in whom they trust.

Vibrant costumes and radiant smiles come free of charge with this terrific ensemble and it's their delight even in their songs of pain and struggle, that makes their concerts so memorable.

Those who know the music – and they were legion – cheered time after time as a familiar piece began. Even *Amazing Grace* (in a tour de force arrangement) was not spared.

Dramatic contrasts abound, with a noisy revel leading to a gentle lullaby then on to a majestic hymn, but never

grating. It's in the second half, with corsets loosened and guards disarmed, that things really take flight.

Yet more colourful garb added an extra sense of occasion to the tremendous *Tshepa Thapelo* which literally had 'em dancing in the aisles. There was a performance of *Khumbaya* like you've never heard it before and the ravishingly beautiful, terribly moving *Swing Down Sweet Chariot*.

Two thousand people clapping along to an up-tempo version of *The Holy City* and the ushers bopping along at the doors, just about sums it up.

Peter Burdon