

Thunderous applause for opera star Lesley

By Lee Watton

Opera and TV star Lesley Garrett praised Dudley Concert Hall as a "treasure of the UK" before performing a sell-out concert at the venue in front of more than 1,000 fans.

The star was given a thunderous round of applause as she took to the stage after being invited to perform with the Gentleman Songsters Male Voice Choir.

And her appearance at the show brought back fond memories for the popular soprano of when she first performed at the venue in 1996 with the English Symphony Orchestra.

Speaking before the concert she said it was great to be back in the town after so long.

"The hall is a really beautiful building and I personally think it is one of the treasures in the entire UK for performance," she said.

Pleasure

"The people of Dudley are always very welcoming and love music so this is a real pleasure. It has been a very long time since I performed here last and it is good to be back.

"It is the first time I've performed with the Gentleman Songsters, so I am really making my debut with them. They are an exceptional group. The songsters have taken the time to learn some new songs especially to sing with me and that is something I really appreciate."

The show was in support of the Parkinson's Disease Society, Stourbridge's Glasshouse College, the RNLI and Bliss.



THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS

Lesley Garrett receives applause on stage at the Dudley Concert Hall with the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir