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Jack Evans

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This jazz ensemble featuring vocalist Sara Jerrom drew full attention from the audience for the opening show in this year's annual Stirlingfest Saturday afternoon. JACK EVANS jpg, BI, apsmc

The annual Stirlingfest in St. John's Anglican Church, Stirling, got off to a jazzy start Saturday afternoon with a thoroughly talented John Sherwood Quartet performing.

Sherwood is rated as one of the top jazz pianists in Canada, having performed with outstanding musicians such as Moe Koffman, Guido Basso, Peter Appleyard and more. With a friendly smile to a generous audience, he explained that the program theme would be "a new look at the Great American Song Book." Much of the new look came from a precociously talented musician, JUNO-nominated Sarah Jerrom, vocalist, pianist, composer and arranger, who did most if not all of the afternoon's arrangements.

Before the concert started the Rev. Robert Wright, executive director for the festival, gave a brief background about its launch some 10 years ago and the support it has enjoyed from the community. He also reminded of the reception to follow in the adjoining hall to meet the players and enjoy food and beverages provided by local producers.

The festival concluded on Sunday afternoon with a classical performance by the widely known Madoc String Quartet with special host, Eric Friesen, internationally acclaimed writer, broadcaster and music consultant.

The church offers intimate atmosphere with amazing acoustics, plus excellent entertainment at reasonable prices, \$25 per seat, including the reception to meet the performers.

Members of the Madoc String Quartet are Sebastian Sallans, violin, Leslie Townsend, Sarah de Niverville and JunKyu Park. They have delighted audiences throughout the Quinte Region in recent years.



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