

Christmas concert 2023

Reflections.

From my family inc.granddaughter who 'sneaked' in during the afternoon to listen to abit of our rehearsal...

"Music and singing was mesmerising . It was lovely to watch...felt like it was our personal.performance ...what a talented choir..."

(They plan to organise baby sitter for next year s concert...)

Brenda Little

I felt there was a real buzz when the afternoon rehearsal went so well and this carried over (and more!) to the evening. The soloist, organist and orchestra were amazing and from where I was standing the choir sounded pretty good too!

I found the whole experience totally uplifting.

Helen Oliver

Overwhelmingly positive

Nicholas Weaks

Hugh here! Being near the box-office desk and therefore near the exit, several people made comments - usually very brief and extremely appreciative, e.g. of the fantastic soloist (but not only...). One lady particularly mentioned the (printed) programme, with the very interesting and helpful notes (I'd had such thoughts myself too).

The stewards etc did a great job as people came in - but there did tend to be a build-up of people inside near the entrance (relief from the cold!) - it might have been helpful if people had been encouraged to move on towards their seats promptly - and if all the stewards had large clear identification badges! For me the team were great to work with - it makes for a very rewarding evening.

And the music itself was lovely - I really enjoyed and appreciated it.

With best wishes, and many thanks,

Hugh

It was a wonderful concert wasn't it? Below is feedback from one of my friends who came to the concert. She sent it on her way home from the concert. She has come to many of our concerts but was stunned by this one.

Best wishes,

Jaki

>Oh Jaki! Only one word: SUBLIME!

> Thank you so much for your and everyone's hard practising to achieve such a standard. I feel I'm going home on a cloud borne by all the choirs of heaven. We thoroughly enjoyed it. ALL of it, but Hallelujah will stay with me for a very long time. Exquisite.

Jaki

My audience were very impressed by the quality of singing and the balance of the programme. They were particularly moved by Jul Jul. A couple of improvements would have boosted their pleasure: they felt the interval was far too long and the obligatory wine unnecessary and discriminatory, they also sensed confusion on whether the concert had finished. If there is an "encore" then it is important not to finish with a congregational carol that leaves everyone standing and ready to walk out!

Graham

My guests loved everything about the concert - our best yet some said - choir on top form, sublime soloist and great atmosphere. O Radiant Dawn and O Holy Night were favourites. Ann Bartlett was thrilled to be there, one of her first outings, she rang the next day to say how good it was to see everyone, how she loved the concert and joining in the carols - amazed that she could still sing and would have liked more audience participation!

Ruth

My family thought the concert was great even though they couldn't see much! They were late asking me to get tickets because of dithering. They

are impressed with the standard of the choir now. They feel we get better every time.

I'll be sorry to miss Mark's comments though. Hope he was pleased with us on the whole. By the way we all thought the soloist was wonderful. Just the right voice for the music she was performing.

I was shattered when I got home but felt very elated.

See you on 12th!

Carolyn E

I felt so lucky to be part of this lovely concert programme. My 6 guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening; they felt Jul, Jul was a delightful choice to end our performance, all loved Emma and complimented the excellence of the orchestra.

Mark, as ever, commits himself to get the very best from us as a choir. Again, I feel so lucky to rehearse and perform with a true professional.

Lastly, as a "rookie" member of the committee, and the first concert to be involved in, I have seen that every aspect of our concerts is carefully weighed to make them as well run and successful as possible, so well done guys & gals!

Jan

Part 1 -oops sorry First half: Messiah, another half). A 'no-holds-barred' performance, I'd say, with some strong and disciplined sectional singing especially from the men - though the ladies were very impressive too - with a good solid core of sound that gave great confidence (but altos, what happened to your opening phrase ?! - the rest, however, on a par with everybody else). Predictably excellent orchestra, and of course a lovely soprano soloist - who can come again as often as she likes, as I said to Mark afterwards

But all that said, for some listeners at least it might have felt hard-driven at times, maybe even catching some singers out at cadence points - and, if I may say so, here and there in need of a little more breathing space.

2nd Half - a very attractive selection of items, as far as I could tell all very sensitively done. A pity the delightful encore couldn't have been identified.

John Nightingale

"A PRONOUNCED SUCCESS"

An excellent and most successful concert which was enjoyed by everyone I spoke to in the audience. How nice it was to see so many of our friends and have a longer interval to talk to them and drink a lovely glass of wine. The beautifully dressed refreshment tables were appreciated too.

Concert organisation was perfect and all went really smoothly.

The choir was exceptionally well prepared thanks to Mark's rehearsals and instruction and we all sang with considerable confidence throughout. The basses got a special mention giving a strong bass line and a wonderful sound from the rear.

The second half was a lovely choice of programme beautifully sung with perfect tuning in the a cappella pieces.

O Radiant Dawn was a triumph. We are in good company there as I see that the work will be sung in tomorrow's live Choral Evensong on Radio 3. I'll be listening.

Messiah, as always, went down well and the swift performance came over confidently. It was a good choice for our lively and popular Christmas concert.

Weren't we fortunate to have such top-notch professionals, conductor, soprano, organist. A true **"A Team"** !

The orchestra was excellent, as we would have expected, with super oboes, trumpets and drums. Lovely string playing and continuo sections too.

I certainly enjoyed the experience of the whole evening and was pleased that so many of my friends had been able to attend and enjoy it too/

Here's to the next one in March

JC Second Alto.

Sadly I can't come this evening to hear all the great compliments about Saturday evening. Just a few comments here to add to the many.

My cousin said 'a very superior and uplifting performance'.

John said of the choir 'clearly well prepared and confident resulting in an excellent performance'. Could hear every word and every note of the soloist. He loved the sound of the harpsichord.

I had a few guests. They all enjoyed it.

It was a great occasion and I personally think Mark should really be complimented for his attention to detail. We're never perfect but we strive for it and the end result is pretty good. The music helps as it was a lovely programme.

Sorry I won't be there but I will be next week.

Kate

All my 7 guests said how much they enjoyed our concert, and how it had "put them in the mood for Christmas!" They loved the orchestra and Emma's beautifully clear voice.

Carolyn knight

... and on WhatsApp

Helen	It was brilliant - and we missed you. Hope you're soon feeling better x
Maggie	Such a wonderful , uplifting evening!
Henrike	Indeed! It was a joy to sing, but if I had to pick my moment - O Holy Night!
Maggie	Absolutely - I felt very emotional at that point - what a treat to have such a wonderful soloist.
Elaine	O Holy Night was definitely my highlight.
Ian	Mine too. I choked up singing it....but then I always do.
Cathy A	I loved O Holy Night, but also O Radiant Dawn.

Maggie	Glad we all had enough adrenaline for the second half after that amazing Messiah performance !!!
Elaine	We did give it some welly, didn't we 😊😊
Jaki	A friend said: Oh Jaki! Only one word: SUBLIME! Thank you so much for your and everyone's hard practising to achieve such a standard. I feel I'm going home on a cloud borne by all the choirs of heaven. We thoroughly enjoyed it. ALL of it, but Hallelujah will stay with me for a very long time. Exquisite.
CatPR	I think from out of all of the concerts I've done recently that is my favourite. It had such a beautiful, intimate feel to it too. Especially when we all 'huddled' around Mark to sing Jul at the end. Definitely BC at its best last night 🎄❄️
Sonya	I loved the huddle... and everything else!
Lesley	What a special, brilliant, evening! I feel so privileged to have been involved! Thank you to everyone xxxxxxxx
Helen	I second that!
Jo	Me too, what a great night!
Jan	Me too - a very special experience to share the wonderful music with such professionals, sitting just in front of Emma, wow. & thanks Nigel for finding me a glass of red after the concert when the one I had been saving disappeared - tragedy! 🤖