



MESSIAH

by

G. F. Handel

Nantwich and District Choral Society
(Conductor : Stephen Buckman)

Manchester Opera Orchestra
(Leader : Kay Thomas)

Janet Munroe, *soprano*.
Simon Gay, *counter-tenor*.
Robin Parks, *tenor*.
Simon Crookall, *bass*.

Joy Roberts, *harpsichord*.

Conducted By Stephen Buckman

SOCIETY REACHED A HIGH STANDARD

ATTENTION to choral detail and high standard of solo and choral singing distinguished Nantwich and District Choral Society's performance of Handel's "Messiah".

A capacity audience packed St. Mary's Church, Nantwich, to listen to the complete work — and they obviously enjoyed the less familiar items along with the already popular arias and choruses.

Despite the problem of fitting a 60-voice ensemble and a 20-piece orchestra into cramped space, the society's new conductor, Stephen Buckman, achieved a good balance throughout. Some of the bigger choruses did lack organ continuo, however, and the fact that the male section of the choir were sited under the tower created a lack of weight at the bass end of the sound spectrum.

All the soloists, were of high quality. Simon Gay, counter tenor, and Simon Crookall, bass, were outstanding giving thoughtful and convincing interpretations of their recitatives and arias.

The choir sang confidently and with a fine clarity especially in the fast moving choruses where so often the vocal line becomes blurred and indistinct. Instrumental support came from the Manchester Opera Orchestra and harpsichordist was Joy Roberts.

26 March 1983