

Nantwich Choral Society

NANTWICH SINFONIA

HAYDN NELSON MASS

AND
LITTLE ORGAN MASS

in

The Parish Church of St. Mary at Nantwich

Saturday 11th April 1987
at 7.30 p.m.

THIS CONCERT IS SPONSORED BY
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK - Mr. J. M. DARLINGTON
CHAPEL ANTIQUES

On song for Nelson's Victory!

A MASS written by Haydn in honour of Nelson's great victory over the French at Alexandria in 1798 — and performed for him in Vienna two years later — will be the main work at Nantwich Choral Society's spring concert.

The Nelson Mass in D Minor will be performed at Nantwich Parish Church on Saturday April 11.

The Choral society conducted by Stephen Buckman will be accompanied by Nantwich Sinfonia (leader, Harold Beech)

with William Munks at the organ. Soloists will be Catrin Ley (soprano), Nicola Lanzetter (contralto), James Watson (tenor) and Benjamin Odom (bass).

Haydn's the Little Organ Mass, will also be included in the programme and there will also be the first public performance of two short, contrasting settings by Stephen Buckman of Psalms 121 and 150.

● For its summer concert on June 21 at Nantwich Civic Hall, the choral society is planning a performance of The Mikado.

10 THE CHRONICLE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1987 (Gp. 7)

Concert success for choral society

CONGRATULATIONS are due to Nantwich Choral Society on both their choice of works and their performance for their spring concert at St. Mary's Church, Nantwich.

The Mass in D Minor, known as the Nelson, by J. Haydn, was the focal point of the evening, with honours going to the sopranos for their tone and flexibility.

At the beginning of the 'Kirie' the soprano soloist

Catrin Ley set the scene with beautiful, soaring, ringing sound which inspired the choir members, especially the sopranos, to take up the challenge.

Lovely

They maintained this momentum right through the work and produced some of the best singing we have heard from the choir.

There were lovely moments in the 'Sanctus' and 'In Excelsis'.

The choir, the Nantwich Sinfonia, the skilled conducting of Stephen Buckman, and the talented

soloists, Catrin Ley, Nicola Lanzetter, James Watson and Benjamin Odom, combined in a performance of impressive vitality.

Another Haydn work, the 'Missa Brevis' (Little Organ Mass) opened the concert. Local organist William Munks highlighted the fine, florid obligato passages and the choir sang well.

Of special interest were new settings of two Psalms by Mr. Buckman, heard for the first time at Nantwich and thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience. — E.

Town fortunate to have such a choir

FOR SOME time it has been a pleasure to attend the Nantwich Choral Society concerts.

We had a very special treat from Mr. Stephen Buckman, their conductor, who has composed new settings for Psalms 121 and 150.

The two settings are nicely matched because, while Psalm 121 is generally quiet and intense with some beautiful choral effects, Psalm 150 is exuberant and joyful. The thrilling orchestration of these two had me bolt upright in my seat with excitement.

Someone has been doing something about the orchestra. Not only did they play well together,

and in time, but they showed sensitivity to the needs of the choir, soloists and organ.

The soloists did not disappoint me either. While each has an individual style, they showed that they could listen to each other and produce a team effort that was greater than the sum of the parts.

What a pity it is that the voice of the mass is sometimes lost amongst the pillars of Nantwich 'cathedral.' Nevertheless, I hope to hear Catrin Ley, Nicola Lanzeter, James Waton and Benjamin Odom again at these concerts.

The choir responded to the demands of Haydn's Little Organ and Nelson Masses with the flexible rhythms, breathtaking dynamic changes and clear

diction that we have come to expect.

During the interval I was cheeky enough to suggest that the choir repeat those two Psalms again. To my surprise and delight my request was granted by an encore at the end of the concert. Judging by the applause the audience agreed with me.

Members of the choir told me that Mr. Buckman shook with emotion when he heard his composition with the organ and trumpet for the first time. Well may he have done that. Nantwich is fortunate with such a choir, and such a conductor who comes up from London every week.

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