

Thrilling 'Messiah' at Nantwich

I HAVE been an ardent supporter of 'Messiah' concerts for over 30 years, having lived in a number of areas in the British Isles.

For the past four years I have attended those sung by our local Choral Society in the Parish Church. I have never been to a 'Messiah' like this year's. Realising that tickets were in short supply I suspected a good audience, so I arrived at the Church at 6.30 (for a 7-o'clock start!).

The centre of the Church was already full and the sides were filling up rapidly. By the time the Choir and Orchestra entered at 6.55, for a prompt start, extra seating from the Parish Hall was not only put at the back, but was already full.

The expectancy in the air was electric. I guess many present, like myself, had attended on previous occasions. I also suspect that many had noticed that our local Choir had not only

'grown' in numbers, quality and stature over recent years (under the baton of Stephen Buckman) but had given improved performances throughout 1988.

Much was expected. Much we got!

What a fantastic evening, from the opening bars of the 'Overture' until that last 'Amen' chord, after an exhilarating 'Worthy is the Lamb,' we were thrilled at the experience of being present on such a 'live' occasion.

The confidence, cohesion and character of our local Choral Society were a thrill to share. I just couldn't wait for the 'Hallelujah' Chorus, to stand up and add my 'two penn'th' to the glorious sound.

I left the Church and walked with my family

to the car park (what a job it had been to get a space at 6.30!!) and almost failed to notice the drizzle and the cold of the post-10 o'clock Nantwich night air.

For years an ardent admirer of 'another' Choral Society I couldn't restrain my admiration any longer. As we drove away I burst out with 'Follow that, Huddersfield!' In my innermost thoughts I felt 'You'll sound a real load of Yorkshire puddings after 'our' Choral Society.'

I just can't wait to go with the family, including the grandchildren, to the Carol Concert on the 17th.

We'll have to get there soon for a good seat! We've already got our tickets.

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