

CLASSICAL NOTE

Choristers have much to offer

CHESHIRE choristers have much to offer this weekend and in Holy Week.

by Eric
Snape

Tomorrow, at St Mary's parish church, Nantwich (7 p.m.), comes "The Creation," one of the two magnificent oratorios that brought Haydn's career to a sublime close.

It is to be performed by Nantwich Choral Society under the direction of Stephen Buckman, accompanied by the Manchester-based Musikfreunde with woodwind and brass augmentation from the Nantwich Sinfonia.

The soloists are soprano Katrin Ley, from London, tenor James Watson, and bass Philip Ravenscroft, well known to Potteries audiences. Joy Roberts provides the continuo.

Ambitious

This one promises much. Nantwich Choral Society sang at the Elgar festival in Worcester last October, and are due to visit Macon in France this autumn. They have also performed at a Christmas concert in Vienna.

Comprising some 60 voices at present, the society's members are clearly as ambitious as they are confident. Their summer concert, in St Mary's church on June 24, includes the Duruflé Requiem, Vaughan Williams' "Five Mystical Songs" and Parry's "I Was Glad."

Choral Society's stage Creation

HAYDN'S 'Creation' was the choice of Nantwich Choral Society for its Spring Concert. The performance, in Nantwich Parish Church, was much appreciated by a large audience, writes our correspondent.

As we learnt in the excellent programme notes, this work was composed, after Haydn had been influenced by hearing Handel's Oratorios during a visit to London. It certainly calls for great resources both in its choral writing and orchestration, but it also provides much variation in its demands for solo singers and their accompaniment.

In all respects we

were treated to a thrilling account. From the highly descriptive orchestral representation of chaos to the noble choruses 'The Heavens are telling' and 'Sing the Lord ye voices all,' in which the choir more than rose to the occasion.

The tenor solos were sensitively tackled by James Watson. Philip Ravenscroft delighted us with his rendering of the description of the making of worms and other living things. While Catrin Ley's soaring runs in 'With

the venturing clad' and 'On mighty pens' were heard to thrilling effect in St. Mary's nave.

A most memorable evening from which the Society's conductor Stephen Buckman must have derived considerable satisfaction.

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Spring
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Quality music at Nantwich

I ATTENDED the presentation of Haydn's 'The Creation' in Nantwich Parish Church. The capacity audience had ventured out on a cold, wet evening but within a few minutes of the start of the concert the weather and the world outside were forgotten.

What a splendid evening of quality music! Nantwich Choral Society under their conductor Stephen Buckman acquitted themselves well in this well-loved oratorio. The orchestra supported throughout.

Any words of mine would fail to express an appreciation of the outstanding soloists who shone throughout the work with their most polished performances.

We would go far to find such a high standard centred on such a small community as Nantwich. Yet one of the wonders of it all is that Saturday evening's performance was not a 'one-off!' This choir these days always rises to the occasion, bringing such quality and consistency to its 'music-making.'

NANTWICH C.S. ADDICT,
Name and address supplied.