

# Doncaster Choral Society

## Concert Review

Concert – **Creation**

Date – **13.11.10**

*Comments in italics were made by committee members not responsible for the report in question*

### Conductor:

Preparation: Balance between the voices was generally very successful and tonal projection reflected much careful work on David Houlder's part. In general, the Choir copies seemed to have been well-marked in respect of the schedule issued, though some verbal amendments required insistence to achieve unanimity! (*combination of SL & DH has worked well*)

Concert Day Rehearsal: An effectual rehearsal with the members of the Choir dealing very well with the distance from the Conductor and the matter of balance/blend with the Orchestra. The members of the Choir were splendidly responsive – and good-humoured – throughout. The Choir appeared confident from the outset of the rehearsal and committed to the challenges of the component movements in which they participated. (*very good for being short & focussed*) I was very impressed by the choir's lack of reaction to not rehearsing *Despairing, cursing rage!*

Performance: Especially good was the antiphony between the group of soloists and the full chorus in items such as *The heavens are telling, The Lord is great and Praise [aka Sing] the Lord, ye voices all*. The contrasting moods of the chorus were well managed, especially in the opening sections of the work; *Despairing, cursing rage* was splendidly assured despite not having been rehearsed in the afternoon. All in all, the members of the Choir acquitted themselves very well indeed and the body language of the personnel was impressive. Sits and stands still need much attention to achieve relaxed precision.

Soloists: Each of the solo principals was very impressive in delivery and assured in fine detail. I had worked with none of them before and would/will be extremely happy to work with any/and-or all of them again!

Orchestra: Excellent. Very committed playing throughout, I felt, with outstanding woodwind. Apart from one "googly" corner I bowled to them (entirely my fault), ensemble was tight and disciplined. Impressive support from the organ continuo at all times.

IMPORTANT GENERAL OBSERVATION: There was insufficient light (and light of the wrong kind) for the Orchestra and conductor to see the parts and score properly. The lighting at Priory Methodist is very poor for musical performance. I strongly recommend lit stands be used for the Orchestra and Conductor.

### Librarian:

Music: No problem. 60 copies were supplied by Wakefield.

Distribution: Satisfactory. Most were returned promptly & the remaining were eventually returned

Folders: 3 folders were sold and two were borrowed

### Publicity:

Design: No problems – usual design with image of Haydn on strong yellow

Priory Publicity: Board put up 5 weeks in advance

Distribution: Usual outlets

The Media: No coverage in local press. Promoted on Trax FM

The Programme: Usual late arrival of CVs meant programme went to press late but all was well. No time to replace the indisposed Tom Asher's CV for James Gower

### Ticket Sales:

The System: The discount system is still in place for full price tickets. Only a few members bought tickets in advance and most of those were concessions. Two reserved tickets were sold bringing in a total of £4 extra

Numbers Sold: 173 includes 70 at the door.

Outlets: Tourist Information sold 7 tickets

### Finance:

Admission Receipts: Budget: 1500.00 Actual 1376.40 smaller audience

Costs: Budget: 4310.00 Actual: 4564.16 £225 extra for James Gower



