

Doncaster Choral Society

Concert Review

Concert – Elgar/Parry

Date – 12.06.10

Conductor:

Preparation:

The effectual note learning undertaken by David Houlder on the Elgar repaid handsome dividends.

Concert Day Rehearsal: ???

Performance:

The choir responded well all evening. There were, inevitably perhaps, some real technical challenges in terms of tessitura & voice production in the Elgar that proved ultimately marginally elusive, but the layout of the Parry held few such challenges. Here, as in many places in the Elgar, ensemble was incisive and moods well-caught. The tenors impressed throughout (without reinforcement too) as did the Altos, who were exceptionally good at keeping with the fluctuations of the pulse demanded by Elgar with such frequency. Overall, the effect was of confident assurance in the main and on occasions there were moments of real flair & conviction, emphasised and enhanced by Maggie McD & Jonathan Scott. Choral discipline was impressive throughout, and the complete lack of any distractive movement during the vocal & organ solos was noted by a number of 'first timer' attendees & reported back to me. In the medium term there is an urgent need to recruit more young sopranos & at least four confident & competent basses.

Soloists: Absolutely outstanding

Organ: Virtuoso

Librarian:

Music: No problem. Supplied by Wakefield.

Distribution: There were no purchases. 62 members borrowed one or both; about 6 used their own. 8 sets were supplied for visitors without charge, music hire being presumably included, as usual, in their joining fee.

Folders: The visitors and two members borrowed folders from our loan stock

Publicity:

Design: Usual design on bright yellow

Priory Publicity: Good clear board put up 5 weeks before the concert

Distribution: Too much left over probably because of reduction in those singing

The Media: Excellent piece by Debbie Price in the Free Press

The Programme: In spite of last minute solo items programme was printed in time.
Appreciative of Simon for writing full programme notes on all items.

Ticket Sales:

The System: 2 reserved seats sold

Numbers Sold:	On the door:	38
	Previous sales (Choir):	38
	Season tickets:	23
	Patrons:	9
	Friends	7
	VIPs	5
	Complimentaries	2
	Corporate Patrons	2
	Total:	129

Outlets: Tourist Information 5

Finance:

Admission Receipts:	£ 984.36	Budget :	£ 1360.00
Costs:	£1506.10	Budget:	£ 1600.00
Loss:	(£ 521.74)	Budget:	(£ 240.00)

Registrar:

Number of Members:	81 singing members
Rehearsal Attendance:	Average 54.2
Concert Attendance:	59 members plus 5 St Peters Singers as 'stiffening'
Absence Notification:	Reasonable
Seating Issues:	Seated organ side. One tenor ended up sitting alone as the expected SPS tenor did not attend, offer to move her in the interval declined.
Concert Dress:	No issues

Concert Co-ordinator

Setting up:	M Froggett (no staging)
Concert Position:	Behind organ console.
Tickets on the Door:	E Dodsworth
Programme Sellers:	R Daley & A Brown
Ushers:	Mr Penfold & R Nevett
The Green Room:	K Marriott

Refreshments:

Setting up:	Done in advance of the rehearsal which helped. As did R Pridham offering to bring what was needed on the afternoon
Serving:	No problems
Clearing Away:	Very appreciative of clearing away done by someone at Priory

St John Ambulance:

Attendance:	3 in attendance
Treatment Incidents:	None
Remuneration:	£35 with the usual letter of appreciation

Summary:

Audience Response: Comments were extremely admiring and appreciative – our best yet! Many positive comments on the contributions of the soloists both musically & in their communication with the audience.

General Comments from the Choir: Choir rose to the occasion – as per Sue's comments at the Reception. Feedback at the reception confirms a new sense of stability and even 'security' after the shock and distress felt when AE's resignation was announced. Many members feel fortunate to have experienced rehearsing & performing with David &, in particular, Simon and what they have to offer.

Preparation: Meticulous and enjoyable. Members are enjoying the amount we learn as well as the encouragement that both David and Simon are giving us.

Concert Day Rehearsal: Went well, morale was high. Good to have a focussed, shorter rehearsal. Simon's leadership was greatly appreciated.

Performance: Inspiring and exciting. The odd hiccough when it was all very loud in Music Makers. Probably the best quality concert ever – a feeling echoed in the audience. It is a pity that there were not more there to hear it. It was noted how very modest Simon was in not taking anything for himself. As a choir – there is so much to thank him for. It was good that his help and support was acknowledged in kind, at the afternoon rehearsal.

Soloists: Superb! Maggie McD – as always – was excellent and clearly very supportive of the Society

Organ: Outstanding – what a treat! Hope it will be possible to have Jonathan again

