

Doncaster Choral Society

Concert Review

Concert – Fauré/Duruflé

Date – 20.03.10

Conductor:

Preparation: Appreciation given by CW to Simon Lindley & David Houlder for their immense contribution in what were difficult circumstances

Concert Day Rehearsal: Decision taken to have the two choirboys sing the *Pie Jesu* together as Adam's voice uncertain. CW worked well to bring orchestra & choir together. Leader of the orchestra, Ken Mitchell, was most encouraging about how well all were working together especially in such difficult circumstances and was confident that all would go well in the concert.

Performance: Duruflé was very convincing apart from that one event & a couple of less tidy moments. Fauré was probably as good as it would have been any time, especially the tuning in the opening & in *O Domine* which is always the test. Tempo keeping in the *Sanctus* & *In Paradisum* was good overall.

Soloists: Performed well. Two boys sang well together

Orchestra: Sympathetic, professional & fully supportive. Organist did not appear to be following the beat, maybe under-rehearsed. CW felt the organist was partly responsible for the glitch.

Choir: Choir's response in dynamics & tempo to CW's every gesture was excellent. Choir deserves the credit for the supreme effort it made without which we wouldn't have got the result. A wonderfully rewarding evening – a memory CW will add to the many he has of conducting DCS.

Librarian:

Music: Fauré: No problem; supplied by Wakefield.
Duruflé: Wakefield could not supply full vocal score, most of their stock of it being already out on loan; but Sheffield Library supplied us with stock borrowed from Worcester and Liverpool, some of the latter old and rather shabby.

Distribution: No problems. 85 members variously bought, borrowed, or used their own.

Folders: Two bought; four borrowed from our loan stock, all eventually returned.

Publicity:

Design: Final printing hadn't been done so able to amend guest conductor, Carey Williams

Priory Publicity: Usual well-designed board produced with amendment for guest conductor

Distribution: Usual outlets but rather more left than usual. M Emmerson's survey will highlight gaps and other issues

The Media: Good article in Doncaster Free Press (Gala!), Voluntary Arts Network website. Society promoted on Radio 3

The Programme: Very last minute because of issues with programme notes but otherwise OK. Some choir members would like notes ahead of the concert – suggest website & set for notice board

Ticket Sales:

The System: No reserved seats were sold

Numbers Sold: Total: 193 Door: 69 – a record
Outlets: Tourist Information: 18

Finance:

Admission Receipts:	£1474.00	Budget:	£1500.00
Costs:	£3952.00	Budget:	£3900.00
Loss:	(£2478.00)	Budget:	(£2400.00)

Registrar:

Number of Members: 81 singing members
Rehearsal Attendance: average 64.11 (not including the mtg on 9/2/10)
Concert Attendance: 63 (60 at the Saturday afternoon rehearsal)
Absence Notification: reasonable
Seating Issues: seated organ side – issue with a couple of members who struggle with the seats/amount of space
Concert Dress: no issues

Concert Co-ordinator

Setting up: M.Froggett (No staging so little to do.)
Concert Position: Behind the organ console. Worked well, choir able to see conductor easily. All audience had good view of soloists. Small audience was expected, but in fact they almost filled the far side
Tickets on the Door: E.Dodsworth
Programme Sellers: R.Daley
Ushers: R.Nevett, R.Neill
The Green Room: K.Marriott in the Minister's Vestry.
Orchestra: No problems reported.
Clearing Away: No problems. Good help from choir gentlemen for orchestra/keyboard.
General comment: Thanks to K.Marriott for deputising in the concert week and final rehearsal.

Refreshments: All went satisfactorily. Lots of offers of help

St John Ambulance:

Attendance: 3 who gave the usual high quality support
Treatment Incidents: None
Remuneration: £35 with letter of appreciation

Specific Issues: David Houlder & Simon Lindley took many of the rehearsals between them at very short notice and Carey Williams took the final two as well as conducting the concert for which the Society is especially indebted & grateful. It was good to have praise & encouragement from all three – we needed it!

Summary:

Audience Response: A larger than anticipated audience was very appreciative of the performance with much positive feedback, warm & complimentary of both the choir & CW
General Comments: The choir responded well to the exceptional and difficult circumstances and showed much determination to make the concert a success, a good performance

– though not perfect!