

Music at St Andrew's Concert Review

Bring and Sing **Saturday 11 October 2008**

Ian Smith - Conductor

Paul Edwards - Organist



The concept of “Bring and Sing” must have become one of the most worthwhile in choral life today. It is demanding, sociable, confidence-boosting and in the recent St Andrew’s setting, enabled the chorus to join the audience for a short recital in between the two main works.

The Mystical Songs of Vaughan Williams opened the concert – the baritone soloist anticipating the chorus in the beautifully structured ‘Easter’. Marcus Farnsworth’s noble voice was full of colour and sensitivity, to which the chorus responded, particularly in their dynamic range, later, during the third song in their intoning of the plainsong, ‘O sacrum convivium’ and ‘Let All the World’ – an inspiring performance.

Anna Huntley’s exquisite account of arias by Bach and Handel were well received as was the Vivaldi ‘Nulla in mundo pax’, sung by Caroline MacPhie who concluded the recital with an exciting ‘Hark the Echoing Air’ of Purcell.

Vivaldi’s Gloria formed the second half of the programme, the chorus singing with confidence and enthusiasm; a more familiar work perhaps, but prepared with as much care as the Vaughan Williams, especially in terms of the dynamics and intonation. Again the soloists delighted us, especially in the well-loved duet ‘Laudamus Te’. In fact, if I could chose one word to describe the entire experience, it would be “joyful”!

Ann Rose

The Concert Working Group would like to add special thanks to Ian Smith, without whose enthusiasm, dedication and talent this Bring and Sing could not have taken place.

