

THURROCK CHORAL SOCIETY REVIEW: AUTUMN CONCERT 2012

[THURROCK GAZETTE, 6th DECEMBER]

SOCIETY PAYS A HAYDN TRIBUTE

Thurrock Choral Society's second major concert of 2012, given recently at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, was a special occasion.

The capacity audience was treated to two of the more popular works in the choral repertoire: Haydn's Nelson Mass of 1798 and the Fauré Requiem, in its second (1893) version.

It was regrettable that the budget had not stretched to the trumpets and drums, for whom Haydn wrote so brilliantly.

However, organist Raymond Lewis added in trumpet parts wherever possible, while giving a stylish and nicely registered account of Haydn's organ part, and the Chiltern String Quartet, led by Elana Eisen, supplied first rate accompaniment.

The fearsome semiquaver runs of the opening *Kyrie* held no terrors for Madeleine Ladell, the accomplished soprano soloist whose contributions throughout were memorable.

Ruth Elleson was the fine mezzo-soprano and Oliver Brignall a particularly strong and impressive solo tenor. Graham Cooper, the society's regular baritone soloist gave his usual, effective performance.

Thurrock's chorus rose to the challenge with considerable success.

The *Cum Sancto Spiritu* fugue was pacy and dynamic and the wonderful opening of the *Sanctus* awesome, with great silences well introduced by conductor Crispin Lewis.

No allowances had to be made for the Fauré Requiem, which was one of the most moving accounts of this work I have ever heard.

All of the movements were well done, but I was particularly taken with the *Sanctus* and the *In Paradisum*, with which the Requiem ends.

It was a wise decision to have the four soloists from the Haydn singing with the chorus. The accompaniment also worked well with strings, organ and horn parts being added.

Richard Wade