

Beckenham Chorale Spring Concert 2024

Feedback

1. Hi Sally

I really enjoyed being part of the concert. It was wonderful to have the orchestra and soloists. My friends who came to watch said the same.

The music was new to me. Very much enjoyed learning it. I think we are extremely fortunate to have Mark and Aeron to make that possible.

The evening was very well organised. The programme and notes were excellent (as was the December programme). Sincere thanks to you and the committee for making it happen.

Sonya

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2. Hi Sally

I was told that the sopranos came across very well despite our depleted numbers and got all the high notes. Another comment was that the balance between soloists, chorus and orchestra was just right. Also from where I was standing, the men produced some lovely strong sounds.

Ann Edet

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3. Hi Sally, As has been discussed on the Whatsapp, it feels as if the choir really nailed it on Saturday! My audience of one, said that he felt the choir gave very good account of itself, especially in the Haydn, and the performance felt like that of a semi-professional choir (high praise indeed from him!). We were a bit worried about the tenor soloist, and thought he might be having an off day. Our favourite soloist was the Alto, thought she had the most fabulous warm and mellifluous voice. St Paul's Sinfonia were fantastic as always and gave the choir excellent support

Look forward to seeing everyone again on Tuesday and starting the new repertoire. Best wishes,

Laura

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4. Hello Sally,I couldn't make it last night, as you know - but my hip was sorted out on Thursday and I came home yesterday. Three of my friends were at the concert and they all said how much they enjoyed it; I'm just sorry I missed it!
It will probably be next term before I see you all again, so I hope you all have a happy Easter break.

Rosemary

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5. Hi Sally

Feedback from my husband. Well sung and very good but 1 Mass too many. Needed something less sacred and less Latin! Compliments to the orchestra and soloists too . He felt it was the best he'd heard from them.

See you Tuesday

Alison

6. Hi Sally and thanks to you and the committee for all the work that goes into these concerts. Here is a summary of what my audience members said:

“ We were a bit worried that 2 masses on same evening might be hard to take but they really worked well together in the programme and the evening was a very nice length. The choir sounded great as did the female soloists. Glasses of wine as part of the ticket price seemed a bit unfair on those who didn't want them. A great evening.”

Graham

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7. Hello Sally, my guests all enjoyed the performance. My friends from Lewisham Choral Society were particularly impressed with our standard. They singled out the basses for a special mention !

Catherine

8. Congratulations to you all for an excellent performance, the choir was on great form and sang consistently well throughout the evening. The orchestra sounded warm and full and the balance was good. A special mention for the sopranos who though reduced in number Moe than held their own and nailed the many high notes, well done!
Many glowing comments from punters on their way out including ' wonderful' splendid, very special, loved every minute, a thoroughly enjoyable evening, loved hearing the orchestra and choir together, and a very nice glass of wine. There is a huge amount of goodwill towards the choir, people know they will hear quality performances, interesting and varied programmes, an orchestra, attractive programme book with high quality information, a glass of decent wine and a warm welcome. We give them the full experience.

Felicity.

9. Ken and I thought it was an excellent evening. The choir was in good voice and a special mention to the sopranos who excelled after losing so many to various bugs. Your top notes were top notch! It was difficult not to sing along
Liz Maliphant

10. Dear Sally -

Only time for a quickish response this time, and I'm sorry if it appears unduly negative (not intended that way, of course, but I can only give my own reaction to what I heard on the night). I hate to say it, but I really did not feel this was one of the Chorale's finest hours. The choir itself sounded positive and confident enough - if a bit over-enthusiastic when it came to final notes and chords - but I did just wonder how badly the whole ensemble had been unsettled by problems elsewhere. A great pity Emma was not able to sing (replacement in a difficult situation, of course, but nowhere near her in terms of suitability) and apart from the lovely mezzo, an unusually weak solo quartet overall. Unhappily, orchestra too sounded uncomfortable at times - especially in terms of ensemble and dynamics. It was wonderful to hear the Chorale singing these works, of course, but I just felt the whole thing could have done with a touch more discipline all round to elevate it to the usual high standard.

Hope I will be allowed back !

John

11. Dear Sally

What a treat it was for me to be in the audience on Saturday after so many years singing in virtually all the Chorale's concerts. I often wondered what we really sounded like from the front!! I wasn't disappointed and for me particular highlights were our performance of the Haydn 'Nelson' Mass and the wonderful Mezzo-Soprano soloist, Katherine Nicholson. Please let's 'ask her back' !

Well done to all the choir, orchestra and of course, Mark. Not forgetting the front of house team who were so welcoming to the audience and efficient (excellent choice of wine in the interval, by the way). It was really nice to be able to talk to so many friends and share a relaxed drink.

Looking forward to the next concert in June.

Love to you all

Jenny

12. hi Sally

If its not too late toad---a regular audience member said he thought the concert was Excellent and possibly the best one he had attended.

Cathy Atkinson

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13. ...at the end of the day ,a pretty good audience I thought for our joyous convert ...and well done you, for overseeing the whole enterprise ...hope you can now relax a bit, and have a lazy day today !

here's comments from a couple of 'my' folks who attended:

really enjoyed it ... you performed it brilliantly [from someone who sings with Croydon Philharmonic]

well done ... an excellent concert - the best one you've done I think ... very in tune, good timing and sung with joy [from someone who sings with Goldsmiths' Choral Union, and regularly attends our concerts]

Brenda

14 Hi Sally,

My 4 guests enjoyed the concert very much. Loved the combination of choir, orchestra and guest singers. I bumped into Gillian Scales who made a couple of comments: she, and her guests, much preferred the Haydn to the Schubert, the Haydn being the much stronger piece. She also made a comment about the closeness of the choir to the orchestra and had noticed that a tiny number of singers looked uncomfortable, holding their folders slightly to the side - I experienced this, having two violins seated literally inches in front of me; they were tactful but I'm not sure they were entirely comfortable either!

Jan

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15. Dear Sally,

I so enjoyed singing the Schubert and the Haydn masses on Saturday. Despite all the usual seasonal afflictions that prevented some of us attending all the rehearsals and sadly for one or two, even the concert, I think we did the two works justice!

The two masses were of course very different in harmony and dynamics and I have enjoyed learning the music and practising them in equal measure. I think that the contrast between the two kept us thoroughly engaged with the music during rehearsals and I particularly like the way that Mark taught us how to show greater contrast between them as the concert grew nearer, something I think the choir is improving with each concert. The brooding mood of the Nelson mass was further enhanced by the accompaniment provided by St

Paul's Sinfonia. Working with them during the Saturday afternoon rehearsal helped clarify the dynamics required to perform this well.

So many people in the audience commented on the how much they had enjoyed the whole programme. Those in my party interestingly had different favourites, with not all of them favouring the Haydn. My niece, who has never been to a concert of classical music before and has not had any exposure to this kind of music, was utterly bowled over. I think I could say we have a convert! She thought that the sound the choir made was magnificent and was in awe of how much one person could achieve when the soprano soloist sang for the first time. My niece's unborn baby also enjoyed the concert and was very lively during the Schubert and even more so during the Haydn! My niece was astonished at how much the baby was reacting to the music surrounding him.

After the Christmas concert I think that many of us thought that we could not equal our performance in the spring. We will wait to hear Mark's feedback, but my guests and others I spoke to in the audience clearly thought that we had.

With best wishes,

Jaki