



AGM - 27th September 2022 Report from Musical Director - Andrew O'Brien

I am deeply saddened not to be with you this term and miss you all dearly. You are in great hands and I know the upcoming concerts will be superb. I would like to thank Huw, Caroline and the committee for all their dedicated work in supporting the life and development of the choir. Without these wonderful people the choir would not be in such a positive place. I would also like to thank Michael for his continued support - he is a great asset to the choir.

Looking back, our 2019-20 season was seriously disrupted by the pandemic and it meant we were unable to rehearse or perform at all in 2020-21. I was consequently delighted to return to in-person rehearsals in September 2021. Those rehearsals culminated in our first concert for 2 years. It was tough at first and we had to rebuild confidence and stamina. The term however ended with the most joyous and successful concert. We came a long way in such a short time and the end result was brilliant.

The performance of Mozart's Requiem was truly stunning. It was amazing to immerse ourselves in this glorious work and be accompanied by a fabulous orchestra. The requiem is difficult and challenging. It is well known but like the Messiah it requires great vocal strength and stamina. We worked to articulate all the fugues to a high standard and contrast this with some sublime legato/pianissimo singing. The orchestra was impressed with the quality of the singing.

The season ended with something completely different!! The Todd is a tough work, but a challenge the choir needed. I think it is incredibly important that we continue to step out of our comfort zones as well as mingle with the familiar. Everyone should be incredibly proud of the concert, it really was an incredible achievement and an experience we will all remember. I must also make mention of the incredible band and soloist - impressive to say the least.

The Creation is certainly something to look forward to, an incredible score with joyous music. I cannot wait to start working on this masterpiece.

Andrew

