

Feedback and comments about the choir

9 June 2018 Cadogan Hall

Ellington *Sacred Music*, Perrin *Brazilian Songs of Nature*

It was a fabulous concert on so many levels [...] and was most beautifully interpreted by you all. I'm a long term Ellington fan and you did his music full justice - brilliantly done!

Colin McCarthy

7 April 2018 Guildford Cathedral

Elgar *Music Makers*, Dvorak *Te Deum*

It was a fantastic concert and a wonderful experience. The choir was immaculate, the orchestra full of enthusiasm as well as expertise, and all three soloists were amazing. The sound, balance and articulation were really clear, with some beautifully nuanced moments. Oh and that bloke waving his arms about at the front looked quite good too!

Kate McGuire

18 November 2017 Southwark Cathedral

Handel *Israel in Egypt*

I am running out of superlatives for your choir. Be assured the volume and intensity of the Oratorio came down to us magnificently. The audience's shrieks and hurrahs at the end of the performance confirmed that all had had a splendid and hugely enjoyable evening.

Rod Jenkins

25 March 2017 Cadogan Hall

Monteverdi *Vespers*

What an embracing and life-affirming choral sound you extracted from the WCS. Please thank them all for the very many beautifully-shaped phrases, exquisite pianissimos, raging fortissimos and also for making us feel so welcome.

Kah-Ming Ng, Director, Charivari Agréable

5 November 2016 Southwark Cathedral

French Gothic

Congratulations on a wonderful concert - great to hear a whole programme of superb French choral music *without* the Faure! I loved the way you sequenced the first half keeping the programme going - really exciting & effective and I thought WCS sang magnificently.

Jonathan Haskell, Astounding Sounds

15 September 2016 St Martin in the Fields

IKONS – Part of the Brandenburg Autumn Choral Festival 2016

It was absolutely superb like shimmering angels. Huge congratulations to you all.

Maggie Ellis

11 June 2016 St John's Church, Waterloo

IKONS

I was deeply moved by Rachmaninov's *Vespers* sung by the choir: perfect, strong yet sensitive a tingling of the senses.

Noni Holland

20 March 2016 Cadogan Hall
Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle

Rossinian good humour abounds and, in a spirited rendition by Wimbledon Choral Society, that good humour spilled across the platform of Cadogan Hall and into the audience.

Where some amateur choruses can give the impression of dutiful performers, how heartening it was to see singers of all ages who clearly adore singing.

Mark Pullinger, www.bachtrack.com To read the full review go to www.tinyurl.com/wcspmsbtr

28 November 2015 Southwark Cathedral
Bach Christmas Oratorio

... a superb, vibrant and invigorating experience, thoroughly enjoyable from start to finish. Complimented by the fine surroundings of the venue in Southwark Cathedral and also accompanied by the excellent and acclaimed [Florilegium Ensemble](#) who also gave a magnificent performance. Thank you to all for the fantastic experience.

Colin Mills

My congratulations to the Wimbledon Choral Society on their performance. We always really enjoy working with you ... and a special delight to play to a completely sold-out Southwark Cathedral.

Ashley Solomon, Director, Florilegium

The standard of Saturday's concert would have matched any of the symphonic choruses that perform with the professional orchestras in London.

Audience member

You guys were utterly brilliant!

Edward Grint, bass soloist

6 June 2015
A New Dawn

The blend of 'cello and voice in [John Tavener's] *Svyati* was something really unique and special. A particular highlight for me was *A quoi bon dire* [James McCarthy] - it came across so expressively and with such clarity of diction and tone.

Shanika Anzsar

30 March 2015 Royal Festival Hall
Brahms Ein deutsches Requiem

We so enjoyed hearing Wimbledon Choral Society's superb singing of the Brahms *German Requiem*. I'm not exaggerating when I say that the singing could not have been better. One thing amongst many that stood out was how distinctly the words could be heard from such a large choir.

Alan Fraser

Completely blown away – such an enjoyable evening. Please let me know of future events – quite fancy becoming a groupie!

Alan Price

What a fabulous concert last night. Not only was the singing terrific - choir and soloists - but the diction and clarity were superb - we could hear every word. Having the choir sitting and singing quietly with Elizabeth Watts in Part V was very effective and moving.

Wendy Saville

I thought the concert was a real triumph and that the choir sang beautifully and with very convincing German diction. It is such a huge and significant work and not an easy linguistic venture. I was so impressed by the focus and hard work in rehearsals, very happy indeed to have been able to help you all with this.

Catrin Johnsson, mezzo soprano but working with WCS as German language coach

20 December 2014 Southwark Cathedral

Christmas Fanfare : Jongen *Mass*, Matthias *Ave Rex* and carols for choir, organ, audience & Resounding Brass

It was everything a Christmas concert should be. Beautiful cathedral, terrific programme and, of course, a superlative choir and brass ensemble.

Mary Pyke

May 2014 Chiesa di San Paolo entro le mura [St Paul's Within the Walls], Rome

Choir Tour to Rome including Vivaldi *Gloria*, Vasks *Pater Noster*, Rheinberger *Cantus Missae*

Difficilmente sono riuscito a sentire un coro amatoriale così bravo e attento alle dinamiche, alla fusione della voce e alla intonazione. Molti cori "blasonati" non riescono a raggiungere il loro livello di qualità e quanto ti dico è frutto di una mia certezza musicale e diretta testimonianza.

[Approx trans] *I have rarely heard an amateur choir so good and attentive to the dynamics, to the blending of the voices and to the tuning. Many renowned choirs cannot reach their level of quality and I'm saying that based on my musical certainty and direct witness.*

Stefano Sovrani, Maestro, Nova Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, Rome

A quick note of appreciation for a fine concert this evening. All pieces worked for me – the *Gloria* using the church dynamic to best effect – but the Tallis was sublime.

Andrew Saunders

It has been an incredibly rewarding experience, singing in a choir that has such warmth and enthusiasm in making music together. It's more than making good music; it's about learning to make and enjoy music together; like food for the soul.

Weihao Fu, Bursary Recipient 2013-14

8 March 2014 Guildford Cathedral

Walton *Belshazzar's Feast*, Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*, Elgar *Enigma Variations*

I thought the performance of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* was thrilling in every way and demonstrated the highest standards of execution, requiring no allowance for the 'amateur' status of choir and orchestra. The harmonies and rhythms of Walton's unique dramatic cantata came over with great precision and power in a fantastically integrated tonal picture. The challenging vocal writing seemed to hold no terrors for the chorus with fearless attack on high notes and the famous shout of '*Slain!*' projected with memorable force into the cathedral.

Tom Brown

With such a demanding work we thought your [choir] was on great form. From fairly near the back the diction throughout was very clear with excellent well focused singing.

Barry Sterndale-Bennett

What a bonus [as a steward] to then sit and enjoy the concert. I cannot tell you just how much I enjoyed it.

Pat Reed

16 March 2013 Guildford Cathedral

Mozart *Requiem*, Pärt *Beatitudes*, Vasks *Pater Noster*

Awesome and hugely enjoyable. Very moving and beautiful sound from the choir. The first half of the concert equally enjoyable as the wonderful Mozart *Requiem* [in the second half].

Phil Bennett

17 November 2012 Southwark Cathedral
Britten *St Nicolas, McDowall Ave Maris Stella*

[McDowall] They sang with a passion and sensitivity that made me want to close my eyes and just soak up the beautiful harmonies.

[Britten] The WCS, under Neil's amazing direction, went from movement to movement with ease, leaving the audience wanting more, much more You took it, shook it and laid it out in front of a packed house, who lapped it up greedily and like me, loved every moment.

Laurence Grace

24 March 2012 Guildford Cathedral
Bach *St Matthew Passion*

It was a real privilege to work with you towards a performance of such integrity and musicality, the like of which I have not experienced before ... I am not surprised you have had such fantastic feedback - [it] was the best I have ever heard of that work and I have twice done it with Farnham Youth Choir ... Neither had the depth and sincerity of Saturday's performance.

David Victor-Smith, Musical Director, Farnham Youth Choir

I thought the *St Matthew Passion* was the best performance I have been to ... The choir was excellent throughout and the dramatic moments created were both moving and spiritual - for example the choir's cry of "*Barabbas!*" was blood curdling and the moment of silence after Christ's death was very moving.

Glynis Johnston

An amazing concert ... choir seemed really well rehearsed, completely on top of everything, and with Neil [Ferris] all the way. Some beautifully crafted moments, including the chorale just after Jesus dies which had a lump in my throat ... You all deserve enormous credit for a marvellous performance.

Kate McGuire

We thought the choir was magnificent - the last chorus particularly was so poignant with strong sound from all parts and beautiful diction.

Ian Partridge, President, Wimbledon Choral Society

27 March 2010 Guildford Cathedral
Elgar *The Kingdom*

When the voices sang unaccompanied, and there is a great deal of *a cappella* music in the work, the sound was full and rounded and beautiful to hear.

Bob Briggs

The very best concerts leave me thinking about them for days. *The Kingdom* has been one such. Everything about it was 'live' music at its very best. I congratulate WCS for being ambitious and bringing it off!

Richard Redmile, Chairman of the Trustees, New Queen's Hall Orchestra

28 March 2009 Guildford Cathedral
Mendelssohn *Elijah*

I chatted to the choir who were all very friendly ... The Cathedral was full to bursting including the gallery ... Singing with the WCS was a great and daunting experience but I would love to have the chance to do it all over again.

Henry Jenkins, Head Chorister, Guildford Cathedral Choir

We come to most of the concerts at the Cathedral, especially the choral ones, but this was one of the best in recent months by a long way. The choir was excellent. Very enjoyable indeed Your *Elijah* soloist [James Rutherford] in particular was very good.

Guildford resident

No-one was more thrilled than me at Saturday's performance. I have to agree that the Orchestra was magnificent but I wonder if the players' contribution would have been quite as splendid had the choir not matched them at every point. Every time we give one of these big shows with the WCS, your singers seem to excel all previous efforts. What stamina they showed!

John Boyden, Artistic Director, New Queen's Hall Orchestra

8 June 2008 St Pauls, Southfields

Vivaldi Gloria & Rachmaninov All-Night Vigil (Vespers)

What a moving experience it was to hear the concert last night, particularly the Rachmaninov Vespers ... The singing, I thought, was matchless ... This was concentrated choral sound ... All of it was impeccably done and the most intense moments truly unforgettable.

Valerie Quinn

I wanted to say how much we enjoyed every aspect of the concert. We were made to feel most welcome (judging from the warm comments before and after), and we particularly appreciated the masterly handling of the rehearsal, the tight choral ensemble, the focused sound of the choir, and the smooth logistical running of the whole enterprise.

Kah-Ming Ng, Director, Charivari Agréable

24 November 2007 Fairfield Halls, Croydon

Vaughan Williams A Sea Symphony & Elgar Cello Concerto in E minor

I must say that I applaud WCS for having the guts to put on concerts such as this as many choirs take the safer route and think 'smaller'.

Richard Redmile, Chairman of the Trustees, New Queen's Hall Orchestra

10 November 2007 Royal Albert Hall

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance

Please pass on my sincere thanks and congratulations to all the members of the Wimbledon Choral Society for their work. They were professional and committed and they can be rightfully proud of their contribution to what was a most successful and enjoyable Festival.

David Cole, Director of Music, Royal British Legion

17 March 2007 St John's Church, Waterloo

Faure Requiem and works by Finzi and Howells

I thought the concert would be good, but never realised how good!! both the Faure and the Howells were divine and moved me to tears. this standard does not come without lots of real musicianship It is a bit unusual for me to be quite so impressed, but this is a concert that I shall remember for a very long time to come. There were no egos, just lovely musicians listening to each other.

Jennifer Bate

1 April 2006 Guildford Cathedral

Berlioz Te Deum & Saint-Saens 'Organ' Symphony No.3

I thought your Verdi *Requiem* concert two years ago was magnificent but the Berlioz *Te Deum* was even better – it was outstanding. A huge, stunningly powerful and exciting performance.

Philip MacIntyre