

Chairman's report Lincoln Choral Society November 2024

Since my last report a year ago we have had two main concerts, Christmas and summer concerts, and a Come and Sing.

In November 2023 we performed Stanford's *Via Victrix*, a work which has only rarely been performed but which deserves to be better known. Sadly the audience was depleted; numbers have not recovered since the pandemic and only 215 people attended (of whom 38 had complimentary tickets). There were however many favourable comments from those who did attend.

In December, we performed a mix of well known choruses from *Messiah* and Christmas carols at St Faith's, with our scholars taking solo roles. It's been lovely to hear their voices develop. The mince pies afterwards were most welcome! A few days later we supported the Lincolnshire NHS Carol Service in the Cathedral, which was a lovely occasion. The choir sang a "solo" carol conducted by Tom, our bass scholar.

In April we sang Handel's second best known oratorio, *Saul*. The main solo parts were sung by professional singers but some of our student members sang the smaller solo parts and sounded wonderful!

The Come & Sing is fast establishing itself as a regular event and was again very well attended by almost 100 people. Not only is the Come and Sing, which this year was Fauré's *Requiem*, a good source of income for the choir, it also attracts new members – welcome to those who joined after the Come & Sing! Many thanks to Mark and Ed for leading us and to all those involved behind the scenes. A few weeks later we revisited the *Requiem* at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, along with Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Pavane*. This was a very successful concert with a good audience and we plan to visit the church again in the future. Once again it gave our scholars Tom and Ceridwen chance to shine.

For the November concert 2024, still ahead of us at the time of writing this report, we are delighted to have been invited to join the Cathedral choir to sing the Mozart arrangement of *Messiah*, which many of us have not sung before. To be able to sing this iconic work in such an awe-inspiring setting is an absolute privilege.

I'd like to thank all those who serve on the committee, and all those others who put in a huge amount of work behind the scenes to keep the Society running. A massive thank you to the White Hart Hotel for their very generous sponsorship and to all our other Friends and Sponsors. Finally, I must thank Mark and Ed, two very high calibre musicians whose energy and enthusiasm keep us going! We do so appreciate you.