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Tyndale Choral Society's Summer concert St Mary's Church, Wotton-under-Edge

THIS was a most enjoyable concert held in a well-filled church on a lovely summer's evening.

For the choir's new conductor this was a special occasion as it was his first concert for the Society - and the premiere of his own choral work. He acquitted

himself well. The weeks of rehearsal produced a well-disciplined choir with a pleasing quality of sound and the appearance of thoroughly enjoying their singing. The audience certainly shared this enjoyment.

The main work was Vivaldi's

radiant *Gloria* which, for the most part, is a joyful proclamation of belief and worship, well varied and with some telling solo contributions from two sopranos (Tina Power and society chairman Anne Shipton) whose *Laudamus Te* duet was beautiful-

ly sung - and a young counter-tenor, Benjamin Williamson, whose voice has already an enviable depth. The contrasting mood of *Et in terra pax* was marked with its long sustained notes well realised by the choir.

The accompaniment to Handel's *Chandos Anthem* number six was appropriately performed by Ian Ball on the organ that was once played on by the

great composer himself! The organist's accompaniment in this and the other two works was most impressive. It was a delight to listen to such lovely music so well sung and accompanied.

The concert had opened with a premiere performance of a short three-section *Jubilate Deo* (Gloucester) op 21 by conductor Ian Harrold. On only a first hearing a critical appraisal is difficult.

Suffice to say that there seemed much to admire and enjoy, not least the organ's full partnership with the choir and the extraordinary variety and changes of mood - discords alongside tonal calmness.

One critical note: what a pity that the men were almost totally hidden away at the back. Few in the audience could see them!

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