

Phoenix Singers AGM

Wednesday, 27th September 2017 at 7pm

Musical Director's Report

The past 12 months have been an exciting time for the Phoenix Singers, and first, may I thank you - the choir - for your energy, commitment and hard work. It truly paid off in three excellent concerts.

The Monteverdi 'Vespers' was a huge undertaking for us all, and, based on the reaction of those present, was a great success and a fitting way to mark the choir's anniversary. Monteverdi's sound world is beautiful but tricky to recreate. The level of focus and loyalty during the rehearsal period was the main reason we achieved such a good result. Working with the ECSE and Monteverdi String Band was a pleasure, and the soloists supported us brilliantly - even when traipsing around the building and singing in half-light!

Our second concert of the season, Great Cathedral Anthems, was a surprise highlight. The choral discipline and high standard across the programme, with Alex Binn's wonderful accompanying, showed the choir off in the very best light. I was particularly pleased with the two Walton items, and my thanks to the soloists and semi-chorus from the choir.

And then on to Gerontius. The synthesis of a great work with the scale of the performance and a resonant room gave the performance a very special glow. The rehearsal period was short, and perhaps a little stressful, and you had to adapt quickly to a new conductor and the Holbrook Choral Society, but from where I was sitting, the concert had real power and poignancy. Well done!

My thanks, as always to the committee, who work so tirelessly and efficiently, and to my brilliant musical colleague, Geoff. We're a great team.

I know you'll have a lovely term working on Messiah with Geoff, and I look forward to hearing you in December!

Best wishes,

Drew

Andrew Cantrill-Fenwick