

CARITAS CHAMBER CHOIR

Musical Director Benedict Preece

Chair of the Committee Catherine St. Ville



Paul Crampton came to our concert on 21st February in St Peter's Anglican Church, Canterbury, and had this to say about it:

I had the considerable pleasure of attending last Sunday's recital (21st February) of the Caritas Chamber Choir, at St. Peter's Church, Canterbury.

This was my fourth time seeing Benedict Preece's excellent choir (having already enjoyed them twice in Canterbury, and once at St. Eanswythe's Church in Folkestone).

In addition, I have seen them all, on a number of occasions, making a moving and very valuable contribution to Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral.

This latest concert was divided in two by a short interval. The first half consisted of a programme of choral works from across the ages, ranging from the *O Nata Lux*, by Thomas Tallis (who had his own Canterbury connections) to a world premiere performance of, *O Rising Dawn*, by friend of the choir, Ollie Lambert.

For me, the stand out pieces of the first half were the Lambert, *O Radiant Dawn* by James MacMillan and, *Jauchzet Dem Herm*, by Heinrich Schutz.

In the Schutz, we got to hear the wonderfully mellifluous voice of soprano, Catherine Futcher who literally took my breath away.

The second half was very different, consisting of the Sonata in D Major for flute and forte piano, by CPE Bach, and *Jesu Meine Freude* by 'Big Daddy', JS Bach.

The sonata was performed by Ben himself, and bass singer and flautist Paul White.

The entire concert was wonderful but, for me, the sheer variety and beauty of the first half was marginally preferable.

Each piece in the entire programme was introduced by Ben, with gentle humour, and I also found this very informative indeed. For example, many of us have heard JC Bach referred to as 'the English Bach' but I didn't realise it went so far as to him being called 'John Bach'!

Another amusing moment was when the nearby cathedral's bell-tolling call to Evensong attempted to drown out much of *Jesu Meine Freude*. Needless to say, the choir carried on regardless.

Ben Preece is clearly a young man on a mission, and his delightful Caritas Chamber Choir has a very bright future.

Paul Crampton

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