

## **Bournemouth Bach Choir, Wimborne Minster**

### **JS Bach – Christmas Oratorio**

Review in Bournemouth Echo: 1:30pm Tuesday 27th November 2012

Five out of six and that, I hasten to add, is not a reflection of the quality of the performance here, merely the expediency of dropping part four from Bach's lengthy Christmas Oratorio.

This is Bach in his most joyous mood and the choir never failed to bring sparkle to every part under Tim Hooper's energetic and vibrant direction.

Four of the five parts commenced with a vivacious chorus, tuneful and rhythmically buoyant; and where required, the choir were comfortably supportive with fine interplay for the soloists.

The deep, rich tones of bass Jonathan Prentice were especially rewarding, and if the long and taxing role of Evangelist and tenor for Ivan Sharpe seemed just a shade below his usual high form in the first half, the second was well-up to expectation. The clarity and well-rounded strength of Abbi Temple, soprano and mezzo-soprano Charlotte King were a delight.

Under Jack Maguire's accomplished leadership the baroque orchestra excelled in every department; outstanding were the oboe d'amore duo of Nick Williams and Rachel Bell, along with the splendours of a baroque trumpet from David Price all providing superb accompaniments to solos.

Bach may only have been a reluctant third choice for Kantor of St. Thomas's, Leipzig, yet he is now regarded as the premier composer and the Bournemouth Bach Choir gave a first class performance, bringing to the Nativity scene estimable warmth.

Mike Marsh