

Dunbar Cholar Spring Concert - Messiah

The Spring concert held at Dunbar Parish Church on Saturday 28th May gave me the rare opportunity to hear live the second and the third parts of Handel's "Messiah". The atmosphere was intimate and transporting. Handel's writing reminded me of both the ephemeral and the eternal, which are paradoxically entwined in the work.

The soloists performed in an authentic and profound manner. Ginny Wilson sang with great clarity and feeling, and the alto soloist Lorna Htet-Khin approached the first solo of the evening "He was despised" with conviction, and phrased the aria beautifully. The tenor soloist Alexander Hume had excellent diction, and sang the text magnificently. I am sure we will hear more about this soloist as his career progresses. The bass, Jamie Sutherland performed his solos with a security that comes with experience. His singing of the full da capo aria "The Trumpet shall sound" with Ana Romero was a highlight of the evening's performance.

Notwithstanding the challenges of Covid while rehearsing, the Dunbar Choral rose to the occasion, and sang with energy, and their ensemble was first class. They should be very proud of what they have achieved. Of course, all this could not have happened without the exceptional conducting of Maestro Alberto Massimo, the new musical director. His interpretation was masterful, and the exquisite sound of the orchestra and chorus transported us.

By the final Amen, I knew that all present had experienced something special. I cannot wait for Dunbar Choral's next performance.

Dr. Teodor G. Borz