

## **Concert Manager's Report 2022**

### **1st Concert—Messiah excerpts**

September rehearsals started by having to follow Covid Regulations/Advice. Fortunately when Minster services restarted Provost Stuart Bain moved the Nave pews and stored them in the South Transept then replaced them with chairs from the Café area. This made the spacing easier and more flexible and in order to get 2m spacing the choir took up the whole of the Nave, with sneeze screens for the protection of the conductor and accompanist. Microphones were used so that the conductor and accompanist could be heard throughout the Nave.

Choir numbers for first rehearsal:- Soprano 21, Alto 12, Tenor 9, Bass 8

When it came to the Messiah concert the small orchestra took up space in front of the dais protected by the sneeze screens with the conductor and soloists on the Dais. The concert was put on-line via the camera and microphones used by the church for on-line services; thanks to Amir from the Minster, who was familiar running the system. Unfortunately distortion on the microphone which was picking up the choir, meant that the recording of the choir was poor quality and the recording was removed from YouTube.

Thanks to the 49 members who sang in the concert. There was little furniture moving as without an audience only the Dais items and a few chairs had to be put back in place for the Sunday morning worship.

### **2nd Concert—Petite Messe Solennelle— Rossini**

Continuing problems with Covid and lockdowns meant that the March Concert had to be postponed until June.

In the New Year it was decided that the chairs could be put on the Dais each week in the position where the choir would perform at a concert. This meant moving 50 chairs each Wednesday and returning them to the Nave at the end of rehearsal. Split rehearsals took place in the café area with a keyboard. Microphones were problematic because there were no speakers on the dais.

Four rows of the concert staging were erected on the Friday evening of the concert, before the rehearsal, with a limit of 10 chairs on each tier. Thanks to all who helped to put it up.

A plan of the church was put together to gauge how many audience could be accommodated using chairs and short pews.

Extra lighting was borrowed and helped to illuminate the choir on the night as lighting in the Dais area of the church is particularly poor. Two red floods illuminated the arch of the East window behind the choir. Choir numbers at Concert :-Soprano 20, Alto 8, Tenor 8, Bass 9

Choir seating for concert was very similar to rehearsal. Getting on and off stage at the beginning was tidy but after the interval there were some members not in the correct order.

The church was cleared and arranged for morning worship by 10.15pm.

The piano was moved to the North Transept and taken away on Monday morning.

Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

Thanks to David & Eileen for their hard work and patience especially over a challenging season.

Also a huge thanks to everyone who helped to prepare the venue for Wednesday rehearsals, especially the volunteers at the Minster, and those who clear away each week.

Thanks to all who helped with preparing and clearing away on Concert days, especially those who helped put up and dismantle the staging.

*We need to consider purchasing our own extra lighting and also find/hire some suitable staging which is easier to erect on the Dais area.*

*Also I am not sure how long the church is able to continue without putting the pews back in the Nave.*

I am looking forward to a more settled 2022-2023 season.

David Cox