



26 July 2011

'Dashing through the snow, in a one horse open sleigh' – well, if we were in the Eastern Cape, Drakensberg or even certain places in the Karoo we certainly could!

Despite the cold, which make many inclined to stay at home where it's warm instead of venturing out to attend concerts and the like, we managed to have a well filled hall for the Rossini concert - - and those who did brave the cold were treated to a wonderful afternoon of music. In the first half the orchestra started out with the overture to the Italian Girl in Algiers – full of charm and sparkle. This was followed by Elizabeth Frandsen, together with the SCJ men, singing - and I should also say acting - the mezzo cavatina 'Cruda sorti' from the same opera, and the first half ended with Magdaleen Minnaar singing 'Una voce poco fa' from the Barber of Seville, a wonderful coloratura showpiece.

For the Stabat Mater the Symphony Choir was joined by the Potchefstroom University Conservatoire Choir, a group of talented youngsters studying music with 'voice' as their instrument.

What a thrill the Stabat Mater was to sing! Both choirs had put in a lot of work to perfect this wonderful piece and if the rapturous applause and standing ovation are anything to go by, the hard work paid off. Richard was very pleased with the performance, and I take the liberty to quote part of his letter to the choir members after the concert: *First and foremost, thank you for a brilliant concert yesterday. I was very proud of you and the levels of concentration were the best I can remember. The unaccompanied singing was spot on and the final chorus was a resounding and exciting end to a great concert. In fact, this was one of the most exciting concerts I can remember conducting and I want to thank you all for your part in it.* It's nice when the 'boss' is happy!

It is thanks to your continued support, that we can put on concerts of this quality – and also concerts of works which are not so often done – works which are an exciting challenge for the choir to tackle – works which are not the 'everyday crowd pleasers'; this means a lot to us as a choir so *Thank You!* From our side we promise to always give you our very best!

Our next choir produced concert is, like the Rossini, a piece we haven't sung for a while.

Poulenc: Gloria - Sunday 9th October @15:00 at the Linder Auditorium

Again the choir will be joined by the wonderful soprano Magdaleen Minnaar. The Gloria is quite a short piece (short but tricky!) so at the same concert you'll also be treated to

Poulenc's concerto for two pianos

The renowned Francois du Toit and Franklin Larey will be the pianists which mean we're in for a real treat! The Johannesburg Festival Orchestra will be accompanying and as always Richard will be on the podium.

Booking for this concert is through Debbie (082 853 9709 or scj@worldonline.co.za) as usual.

Don't miss it; it's going to be great!

I thank you once again for your continued support of the Choir. It is greatly appreciated!

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg,

Kate Pope

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