



Have yourself a merry Cromwell Christmas

CROMWELL'S Christmas concert, *Winter Delights* was a most enjoyable occasion. Music director Sarah Cope, set an informal and friendly atmosphere – so important to these events. She clearly inspired her choir who sang with great enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Starting in festive mood, the choir gave a sparkling account of the celebratory *Angel's Carol* by John Rutter. A rendition of *Some Enchanted Evening* from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*, was so expressive, full of lovely colour.

Throughout the concert, I was impressed with the choir's clear diction, precision and use of dynamics. Accompanist Daphne George was excellent, sensitive to every change of mood and tempo.

In songs from the Beach Boys, guitarists Chris Reeves and Nick Leonard supported the choir to great effect. The poignant song *In My Room* was eloquently expressed and the exuberant account of

Theatre

The Cromwell Singers: Winter Delights, at St Mary's Church, Shaw, on Saturday, November 23

Fun, Fun, Fun was indeed great fun.

The programme continued with music from the opera *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss II. Daphne George and Oliver Williams played a piano arrangement of the overture which, brimming over with delightful melodies, was very impressive. Engaging with the audience, Alexandra Picton treated us to a splendid performance of Prince Orlofsky's aria *Chacun à son goût*, expressive and dramatic. She has a lovely contralto voice.

Rebecca Golding and Sarah Fradgely gave a most enjoyable account of *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and they sang the solos in a delightful

O Holy Night.

A medley of songs from *Oliver!* by Lionel Bart was very popular with the audience. The two exuberant renditions of *Consider Yourself* were exhilarating.

The choir's expressive account of the Beatles' song *Yesterday* successfully conveyed the feelings of melancholy, longing and nostalgia. Their rendition of *Windmills of Your Mind* was captivating – a lady behind me whispered 'Marvellous'.

Involving a gentleman of the choir as the Duke, Alexandra Picton treated us to *The Duchess' Song* from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. Her dramatic performance was hilarious. Everyone was laughing – we were having fun.

The choir ended with their special song, *As Long As I Have Music*, bringing to a close a wonderful afternoon of *Winter Delights*.

HELEN BOMGARDNER

A retiring collection raised funds for Christian Aid.