

Arun Choral Society
Saturday March 21st 2009

The credit crunch was all but forgotten by an enthusiastic capacity audience in Arundel Cathedral assembled for the Arun Choral Society's first concert of 2009 on March 21st.

The ambitious programme opened with Bach's *Magnificat in D* perhaps one of the most taxing works of the baroque choral repertoire. The singers made a brave effort to cope with the demands of this work in the over-resonant acoustic, but they seemed much happier in the ensuing works - Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Beethoven's *Mass in C*. In the Vivaldi one admired the attack of the opening 'Gloria' and a particularly sturdy bass entry in 'Cum Sancto Spiritu'. In the Beethoven – a much underrated work- there was firm rhythmic singing in the 'Quoniam' and well graded dynamics in the delightful closing pages of the 'Agnus Dei'.

A feature of the concert was the excellent performance of the well-matched quintet of soloists- Susannah Appleyard and Jane Sherriff (Sopranos), Janet Shell (Mezzo-Soprano), Adam Tunnicliffe (Tenor) and Peter Willcock (Bass). There were splendid contributions from the woodwind of the Arun Sinfonia which gave good support throughout while John Henville, ably assisted by Sarah Plumley at the organ, directed with his usual aplomb.

Tim Bastow