

REPORT ON ARUN CHORAL SOCIETY'S PERFORMANCE OF
VERDI'S REQUIEM – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD 2007

Verdi's Requiem is a favourite with both choirs and their audiences and Arun Choral Society with members of Tonbridge Philharmonic Choir maintained this reputation with their performance, in Arundel Cathedral, conducted by John Henville.

The choirs displayed their careful training, coping efficiently with the wide variety of dynamics and vocal techniques required in this dramatic work- ranging from the blood curdling Dies irae (enhanced by the explosions from the local firework display!) to the dancing Libera me and the melodious Agnus Dei.

The four soloists were well matched and sang with mutual sympathy in their ensemble sections and displayed their talents in their solos. The sonorous tones of Steven Gallop (bass) were especially effective in the Confutatis maledictus and the liquid operatic voice of the tenor Adam Tunnicliffe was a delight in the Qui Mariam. Emily Bauer-Jones (contralto) and Lesley- Jane Rogers (soprano) both captivated the audience- Emily for her sensitive interpretation and Lesley for her wide vocal range and expressive singing and it was a pleasure to hear their meticulous attention to the subtle details that Verdi indicated in the score.

The Sinfonia of Arun, led by Robin Morrish, fulfilled their role efficiently (though sadly there were moments of instability in their synchronisation with the singers); however this did not upset a memorable performance.

M Haines 4.11.07