

Arun Choral Society
Saturday 18th October 2008

The Arun Choral Society's enterprising programming, featuring two popular works - Fauré's *Requiem* and Delius' *Walk to the Paradise Garden* - alongside Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* in his anniversary year, attracted a large and appreciative audience to the opening concert of their 2008/9 season in Arundel Cathedral. The choir was perhaps at its best in the Vaughan Williams where, despite the inevitable balance problems encountered in resonant buildings, there was fine rhythmic singing in 'Beat, Beat, Drums', while the 'Dirge for two Veterans' featuring excellent playing and singing by choir and orchestra was especially moving. This was an exciting performance of an extremely challenging work though the rendition of the Faure which preceded it was somewhat languorous. The choir was well served throughout by the two soloists- Yvonne Patrick (Soprano) and James McOran Campbell (Baritone), both good in the Faure and particularly effective in 'Reconciliation' in the Vaughan Williams. The Sinfonia of Arun gave good support throughout and after an understandably tentative start revelled in the luscious harmonies of Delius' tour de force which opened the concert. Delius' 'garden' was in fact a pub which perhaps accounts for the work's sultry atmosphere! Arundel is extremely fortunate in its resident choir which continues to flourish under John Henville's able direction.

Tim Bastow