



WINCHESTER  
COLLEGE SOCIETY

## Q Reviews

### Amicabilis Concordia Evensong



On Thursday 10th October, the Quiristers and the rest of Winchester College choir made their biennial journey to celebrate Evensong at Eton College Chapel to honour Amicabilis Concordia (a recent agreement - 1st July 1444 - between Winchester College, Eton College, New College Oxford and King's College Cambridge).

In these magnificent and imposing surroundings, it is difficult to believe that Henry VI intended to build there a chapel twice as big or indeed that the fan vaulting was only constructed in the 1950s.

The service began with the echoing angelic choirs singing John Tavener's *Hymn to the Mother of God* – most appropriately for a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

In keeping with the combined service in May in King's College Chapel Cambridge, it continued with Leighton and Herbert Howells. The soaring joyous spirit of Howells' *St Paul's Service Magnificat* and the stately majesty and exultation of his *Nunc Dimittis* fitted seamlessly in a church albeit bit smaller than St Paul's.

The quiet intensity of *Like as the Hart* followed the Responses.

In conclusion the Founder's prayer was sung with gentle harmonious beauty to the setting by Henry Ley.

In words from the final hymn: *Craftman's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine.*

A magnificent service flowing from an astonishing cooperation of two great choirs.

Tim Wright (Q Parent)



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Winchester Cathedral Concert – An Insider View

On Thursday 14 November four forces of local music combined to bring a programme of wonderful choral works to Winchester Cathedral. The Winchester Music Club's Choir and Orchestra were joined by Winchester College's Chapel Choir and Glee Club in performances of *Chichester Psalms* (Bernstein), *Lo, The Full, Final Sacrifice* (Finzi) and *Requiem* (Durufé).



The Pilgrims' contribution through the Quiristers (and many ex-Quiristers) in the Winchester College Chapel Choir is well known, but it was not until my youngest son joined the Qs this year that I discovered, and was initiated into, Glee Club. It is an un auditioned choir for the boys of Winchester College, their parents (including Q parents), and teachers. Nearly one hundred performers strong, it is a powerful and enthusiastic force, complementing the Music Club and the Chapel Choir.

I must confess that I had not sung in a choir for over thirty-five years and the programme, especially Bernstein, was intimidating for voices far more experienced than mine. But the Glee Club is a friendly and welcoming environment for beginners and experienced alike. Coached admirably and enthusiastically by Messrs Ionascu, Tarney, Thomas and Cunningham, there was little to fear.

I was perhaps not in the best position, professionally or geographically, to judge the performances, but from my elevated seat, Bernstein was rewarding, Durufé was uplifting and Finzi (performed by the Chapel Choir alone) was simply tremendous. A special mention for Kyven Tan and William Higgs, whose solo Quirister performances were so beautiful.

Would I do it again? Yes. The opportunities to sing alongside such vocal and orchestral talents, to perform in Winchester Cathedral, and to share a performance with a Quirister son, were individually inspiring and collectively unforgettable. Hopefully this has whetted your appetites as well as mine; in the spring we will perform Tarney's *Magnificat* and next autumn we will showpiece Verdi's *Requiem*. There is much to look forward to, for participants and audiences alike!

Philip Guest (Q Parent)



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### Quirister Instrumental Concert

On Sunday 17 November, after a mass by Schubert in the Chapel, the Quiristers and their parents walked past Meads through War Cloister to Winchester College Music School. The morning was glowing with autumn sun, the leaves from the lime trees slightly slippery underfoot.

The Quiristers all learn two instruments as well as their choral singing and the termly instrumental concerts are a chance to celebrate that other part of their musical education.

It was a concert of superlative quality. It would be unfair not to mention all who performed:

Laurie Sawbridge's tangoing *Saltus Hungaricus* and spiralling *Giga* - Thomas Edmondson's scintillating *Allegro* – Henry Brodrick's heroic *Ice Cream Van and Brass Band* – William Guest's jolly Lonely Pipes and nostalgic Daisy Daisy - Timotheé Hairy's forceful Dusty Blue - Alex Allen's jazzy *Big Match* – Kyven Tan's most elegant *Rondeau* and reflective *Etude* in A minor – Anton's mathematical *Andante in A* – Christopher Higgs' bohemian *Arabesque* and strapping *Shepherds Hey* – Thomas Gordon's exciting and jovial *March* – Oliver Maclay's energetic *Andante in G* – William Higgs' lyrical *Waltz* - Josh Pocock's terpsichorean *Bare Necessities* - Thomas Rakowicz's extraordinarily vocal oboe snowman *Walking in the Air* - and above all Oliver Street's astonishingly magisterial *Solfegietto*.

Everyone was excellent.

Tim Wright (Q Parent)

### Advent Service

Sunday 8 December saw Chapel Choir, including the Q's, bring in the start of Advent with a beautiful service celebrating the coming of Christ. Those lucky enough to be in attendance were treated to some exquisite singing, starting with atmospheric tones as the lights were dimmed and the choir reminded us that during advent, we were all *Waiting for the Light*. This was followed by *Adam Lay Ybounden* (music Philip Ledger) a beautiful piece with subtle harmonies, gentle and entrancing tones, softly and yet confidently sung. Other additions to the repertoire included, *This is the Record of John* (music Orlando Gibbons), *Ave Maria* (music Gabriel Jackson) and the lilting *Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day* (arr. David Willcocks).

Following the service, the Qs enjoyed drinks and refreshments on behalf of the College, but quickly stepped into 'waiter' shoes as they expertly handed round canapés, bedecked with Christmas hats – the Qs not the canapés. Sadly, Keivan was unable to participate due to ill health; we all wish him a very speedy recovery.

A wonderful start to a busy festive period for the Qs, if this was anything to go by, it promises to be a very magical one.

Larissa Street (Q Parent)