

Andover Advertiser

Review

11:28am Thursday 2nd May 2013 in [Reviews](#)

Andover Choral Society Concert ROSSINI's Petite Messe Solennelle has been described as neither little nor solemn. Written by a composer who was more at home with opera, the music reflects this talent.

Originally written in 1863 for a small choir and accompanied by a harmonium and two pianos, the Andover Choral Society was indeed lucky to have a contemporary harmonium, made in 1867, played by David Coram and excellent piano accompanist Julie Aherne, required at the keyboard for 80 minutes.

The acoustics at St Mary's Church, in Andover, reflected the balanced sound which the choir produced, and the pianissimos and fortes in the Kyrie came through extremely well. The choir also made a fine sound in the Gloria.

Domine Deus, sung by a light tenor, James Savage- Hanford, required a lot from the accompanist and Julie Aherne was up to the task.

Allegra Giagu sparkled not only in her beautiful singing but in her presence, an enjoyment in itself. She sang Crucifixus with great feeling.

The altos were particularly sure in Cum Sanco Spiritu, however some difficulty was reflected in the final fugue.

The finale, Agnus Dei, allowed the mezzo-soprano, Nina Alupii-Morton, to show off the depth and breadth of her ability. This beautiful piece, written for Rossini's favourite voice, was countered by the controlled singing by the choir and brought to an end a concert of a high standard conducted by Peter Ford.

♦ Ruth Dunlop