
Review: Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Lighthouse, Poole

Thursday 5th November 2009

By Mike Marsh

Joyous, glorious and a tremendous triumph for Kirill Karabits, whose avowed ambition to conduct Haydn's *Die Schopfung* left us in no doubt of his own enjoyment.

This represents Haydn at the peak of his powers; gorgeously tuneful, happily reverential and when the libretto permits, brilliantly witty - although here, sung in German (the original settings were bilingual) certain references to the animal kingdom were, if not curtailed, of less obvious humour.

I don't think Karabits could have engaged better soloists; soprano Lisa Milne in duet with baritone Roderick Williams in their latter roles as Eve and Adam were simply made in heaven as vocalists. Their earlier incarnation as Gabriel and Raphael respectively were no less stunning.

Tenor Andrew Kennedy in the role of Uriel displayed the facility for expressive articulation that empowered the narrative to superb effect.

The Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, coached by their recently appointed Chorus Master Gavin Carr, blossomed under Karabits' sparkingly paced direction achieving maximum power in such choruses as the elated *Awake the harp* and the supremely celebratory finale.

The BSO's support was exemplary; wonderful woodwinds in the *terzetto* and a magical sunrise on the fourth day. With divided strings and an effective continuo Karabits created a magnificent performance.