

Wednesday 10th November, Lighthouse, Poole

Walton - Belshazzar's Feast

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus/Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra/David Hill

Mike Marsh - Daily Echo

Fabulous! Walton's choral masterpiece, Belshazzar's Feast, proved the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus were not resting upon their laurels. With the stage packed to the tune of 100 players, including two brass bands, piano and organ plus a chorus of 120 this performance, with scrumptious baritone James Rutherford, brought Walton's brilliant word setting and orchestral colouring to the peak of perfection. We were all blown away. Bravo!

James MacMillan - Daily Telegraph blog.

I attended an interesting concert last night in Poole, given by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Hill. The concept of their "living tradition" series is taken up in three concerts in which they pay tribute to the early years under their founder, Sir Dan Godfrey, when the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra enjoyed a reputation for its adventurous programming of then new music from Europe, for its support of British music, and for inviting composers to conduct their own music.

Last night's concert began with Tintagel by Arnold Bax, followed by Elgar's Violin Concerto (premiered exactly a century ago last night) played by the stunning Dutch virtuoso, Simone Lamsma, and topped off by Walton's still outrageous Belshazzar's Feast. The Symphony Chorus were clearly in impressively rude health. It made me reflect on why I have become so fascinated by British music of the last century, and also why it can be difficult explaining the importance and beauties of this tradition to people in other countries.....