

Kokoro, Wimborne Minster

8:03am Monday 7th March 2011

By Mike Marsh (Daily Echo) »

Kokoro were truly in 'company' with a host of musicians for a performance of Britten's cantata St. Nicolas under conductor Mark Forkgen.

Squeezed into an hour, the birth of St. Nicolas with the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, his life from the excellent tenor soloist James Geer (replacing indisposed Andrew O'Brien), and selection as a Bishop. (Co-incidentally the Rector of Wimborne, Canon John Holbrook has just been announced as next Bishop of Brixworth!(Peterborough)).

During its course there is potential for a shipwreck (a Britten speciality!) and the resurrection of three pickled boys (Dominic Cornfield, William Collier and Felix Turnbull). Alongside them were the Bournemouth Symphony Youth Chorus, Choristers of Wimborne Minster, Dorset Youth Orchestra, Christopher Dowie and Walter Brewster, piano duet and organist David Gostic. And there was audience participation!

If elbow room was at a premium the Minster was also fully vented with exceptionally fine music.

Earlier the DYO performed Britten's Courtly Dances (Gloriana) and their wind section played a suite from Weill's Threepenny Opera. David Fanshaw was often described as eccentric though there is nothing of that in his beautiful Epitaphs-In Memoriam, sung here in his memory by the BSC who also followed this with Paul Carr's poignant Now Comes Beauty.

Kokoro's crystalline account of Philip Glass's String Quartet No.2 (Company) held its own intriguing symmetry.

Mike Marsh