

REVIEW

Another triumph for Wokingham Choral Society

WOKINGHAM Choral Society maintained its customary musical excellence at a concert in the Great Hall of Reading University on Saturday, November, 12.

The programme consisted mainly of works by Mozart but also included two Classic FM favourites by Haydn, his *Insanae et Vanae Curae* and *Te Deum* for the Empress Marie Therese.

This gave the audience the opportunity to compare Mozart, who flashed like a meteor across the musical firmament occupied by Haydn both before and after Mozart's tragically short life span.

The concert began with a spirited performance of Mozart's Overture to the *Magic Flute* by the polished Hampstead Chamber Orchestra, under the Society's musical director, Patrick Allies.

Besides the works by Haydn the first part of the concert also included Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*, a wonderful gem exquisitely sung by the choir.

The second half of the concert consisted of Mozart's incomplete Mass in C Minor (*The Great Mass*), with the Society's accompanist, Benedict Lewis-Smith, on continuo.

The orchestra and choir handled the contrasts between the dramatic and reflective passages in the score with consummate ease.

As the Society's following has come to expect the four young soloists were also superb, the soprano, Nia Coleman, and the mezzo-soprano, Amy Lyddon, in particular seizing the opportunity to display outstanding purity of tone and vocal dexterity in their solos and duets.

At the end the entire evening was deservedly acknowledged by the audience with rapturous applause.

■ **The Society's Christmas Carol Concert will be held on Saturday, December 17, in St Paul's Church, Wokingham, at 6.30 pm.**