



## SAINSBURY'S CHOIR OF THE YEAR 2002

### ADJUDICATORS COMMENTS

**Adjudicators:** *Ralph Allwood, Richard Sisson*

**Date:** *Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002*

**Audition Centre:** *The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh*

**Choir:** *Haddo Children's Choir*

**Category:** *CC*

#### **WINDS - Larysa Kuzmenko**

**RA:** A most effective performance, you managed the extremes of range well and made good contrasts.

**RS:** What a truly splendid performance – with such a good choir I think you can go further with the dynamics – there are lots of hairpins and accents marked in the score which you could make more of. Sometimes notes didn't quite finish together.

#### **LONELY SCARECROW - Jerry Dennis**

**RA:** This is a difficult piece which you tackled ably. Occasionally there were chording problems but they were minor and you ended in tune.

**RS:** Intonation suffered a little here – but a good choice and another fine committed performance.

#### **BLOSSOM TIME - Roger Quilter**

**RA:** This was a good choice, and you put over real enjoyment.

**RS:** This piece demands a bit more ebb and flow – for example I know this choir could make the end of this piece much more affecting and poignant.

#### **RIDE BY NIGHTS - Benjamin Britten**

**RA:** You make no compromises in your choice of music! This was again difficult and well done. You tackled it with relish and put across the drama most effectively.

**RS:** Bravo, bravo – this was delightful and shows you off to your very best – an exciting finish to your well balanced programme.

*Thank you for some fine singing and good dramatic storytelling – congratulations!*

**WINNER – CHOIR OF THE DAY.**



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**Category:** YC

#### AVE MARIA - Kodaly

**RA:** A gentle well shaped performance. Sometimes in the quiet singing your tone disappeared in all but a couple of voices. Lovely though.

**RS:** I couldn't really hear a difference between P and PP in your performance – very difficult to do of course at the start of your performance with a few nerves fluttering... The piece blossomed and the last page was beautifully done.

#### BLOW BUGLE - Westbrook

**RA:** A lovely performance, showing attention to detail and communicating the text well, A very effective performance.

**RS:** When you are singing quietly don't neglect your diction – we still need to hear every word. This is deceptively difficult music – even as the 'echoes' die try to find a musical line that really takes you through to the end of the verse – not easy at all!

#### MUSIC WHEN SOFT VOICES DIE - Charles Wood

**RA:** Lovely singing, beautiful atmosphere evoked. I would have preferred a more legato interpretation – but that is a personal opinion.

**RS:** A marvellous piece of musical story telling – you performed this with real heart. Bravo.

#### DANCING SONG - Kodaly

**RA:** An articulate and energetic performance which sparkled, rhythmically and in terms of dynamic contrast.

**RS:** You saved your best to last – a great finish to your programme – no wonder the audience responded so well. Congratulations.

#### The adjudicators.

**Ralph Allwood** is Precentor and Director of Music at Eton College. He is a founder of the National Youth Music Theatre, directs workshops and courses and is the director of the Rudolfus Choir and the Windsor and Eton Choral Society. He has been the conductor of the National Youth Choir of Wales and is a choral advisor for Novello and Co. He has adjudicated at Choir of the Year in '92, '94, '96 and 2000.

**Richard Sisson** is a well known pianist and composer. He is the pianist with the duo Kit and the Widow and has composed much music for choirs some of which has appeared in this competition. He adjudicated the semi final of Choir of the Year in 2000.