

BBC RADIO 3 CHOIR OF THE YEAR

ADJUDICATORS COMMENTS

Adjudicators: *Jeremy Patterson, Malcolm Goldring*

Date: *Sunday 14th March 2004*

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

Choir: *Haddo Youth Choir*

Category: YC

JP: You look fabulous – a tremendous visual impact from the start.

MG: A stunning concert dress!

In Commendation of Music – Hedges

JP: A tricky opening number. 3 part balance fine. These long phrases are difficult to sustain but your ensemble was good and a lovely 'harmony' conclusion. Maybe this was a trifle fast?

MG: A rich tone from all parts, especially S1. It took some time to settle in this piece and the balance wasn't always effective. Good attention to dynamics. Diction not always clear – exaggerate the consonants more (e.g. 'and change his soul'). Try to breathe according to punctuation and a sense of the words, staggering if necessary. However, you caught the mood and spirit very well.

Ave Verum Corpus – Poulenc

JP: Congratulations with your intonation with this difficult piece. Good balance generally. Try next time to relax more and sustain a real pp when indicated -more prayerful....

MG: Here the balance was better. Intonation was a little suspect around fig. 1. Diction was generally good, although some 'oo' vowels were a little unfocused. Try not to bump final syllables – '...natum'. Dynamics need a little more contrast – make the pp really very quiet!

Bobby Shaftoe – Coombes

JP: Well controlled ensemble with all the changes of tempo and rubato. Some loss of blend in Sop 1. Occasionally. Effective singing e.g. in the Andante con Espress. Well done and thanks.

MG: This had spirit! Diction needs to be spat out all the time in the faster passages. The S1 showed signs of stress and lack of blend in places – although the end was very good and effective! You projected the mood and character very well. Again, note the dynamics – and go for the full range, from ff with hairpins to the pp (with hairpins). I did enjoy this!

WINNER - CHOIR OF THE DAY