

## **Bournemouth Bach Choir, Wimborne Minster**

[By Mike Marsh](#)

Bournemouth Bach Choir, Wimborne Minster, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013

A QUIRKY mass from a master of the operatic genre, Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle understates both its length and gravity, though it is by no means without sincerity.

Originally scored for chorus and soloists with accompaniment from piano duet and harmonium – as performed here with considerable verve – this unique work has immense appeal.

Under Tim Hooper's vibrant direction, the Bournemouth Bach Choir responded magnificently to the bright airy rhythms of Cum Sancto, and at a cracking pace!

Towards the work's end there is a real depth of probity encapsulated in soprano Louise Alder's sensitive and soaring O Salutaris Hostia and mezzo-soprano Hannah Pedley's finely-toned engagement with the chorus in the pleading Agnus Dei.

The one bass solo, superbly conveyed by James Davis, was Quoniam tu solus sanctus and tenor Tom Lowe's solo, Domine Deus, demonstrated power but seemed unfortunately strained, though elsewhere in concert he retained good form.

Chris Dowie and Jean Holt provided the impressive, if somewhat wittily eccentric, piano accompaniment with Richard Hall giving the harmonium a spotlight in the Sanctus wherein the lovely lyricism of the chorus carried great delicacy. The Amen from Et vitam must surely rank among the finest and definitely brought further excellent singing from the chorus