

## Bournemouth Bach Choir, Christchurch Priory

Bournemouth Echo

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- [By Mike Marsh »](#)

Would Bach's vade-mecum of choral music, his Mass in B minor, be among your desert island discs? I'm sure it would feature in mine!

Better still, of course, is a live performance; particularly when sung as it was here with such infectious inspiration under the baton of Tim Hooper.

Strange to think then, that JSB would never have heard his work performed as an entity with a contemporaneous baroque orchestra just as magnificent as the chorus, providing some superb solos in support of a quartet of soloists.

The Agnus Dei, delivered with deeply felt supplication by mezzo-soprano Katie Bray who also found a brighter mood in the finely balanced duet, *Christe eleison*, with the supple-voiced soprano Abbi Temple.

A couple of wonderful arias from Bass Jonathan Prentice and though the closing stages finally brought the only solo from tenor Nathan Vale, it was worth the wait, especially as his duet with soprano had shown a strong personality.

It is the choir who had the lion's share of the singing, and whether in the gravitas of the *Crucifixus*, the sparkling *Osanna in excelsis* or the glorious *Dona nobis pacem* there was a visible pride in performance, an unwavering sense of purpose and an aural quality that moved the spirit with heart-warming gratitude.