

Christmas Vespers

Magnificat

by

Monteverdi

CHRISTMAS VESPERS (Claudio Monteverdi)

Dixit Dominus (psalm 110)
Confitebor Tibi (psalm 111)
Beatus Vir (psalm 112)
Laudate Pueri (psalm 113)
Laudate Dominum (psalm 117)
Christe Redemptor Omnium (hymn)

INTERVAL

Early Baroque instrumental music - to be introduced

MAGNIFICAT (Claudio Monteverdi)

Sopranos: Alison Phillips

Ruth Walland

Tenors: James Watson

Brian Greensill

Bass: Neil Phillips

Baroque violins: Duncan Bruce

Pauline Nobes

Sackbuts:

David Allan

Richard Scoates

Anthony Whittingham

Simon Mansfield

Bass:

Geoffrey Wallis

Organ:

Edward Hewison

CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL BRIDGER

Claudio Monteverdi was perhaps the greatest composer of the early seventeenth century. He was a prolific writer of both operas and church music. Much of his music was written for performance in the celebrated Cathedral of St. Mark, in Venice. Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 are : often performed nowadays, and in order to provide a further work in the same idiom Denis Stevens, the noted Monteverdi scholar, has assembled a sequence of psalm settings, plainsong antiphons, and a hymn from collections published by Monteverdi in 1640 and 1650. This is the work we are performing this evening.

In effect it is a complete set of music for the Vespers Service at Christmas as it could have been selected by a seventeenth century choirmaster. Appropriately for the festive season, the texts are psalms of praise, each preceded by a fragment of plainsong. The music is grand in its overall conception requiring a number of soloists, an instrumental group of strings and sackbuts, and a double choir that often divides into eight parts. As always in the music of Monteverdi, the monumental sections are interspersed with music of dance - like freshness.

Nantwich & District Choral Society's next concert will be a performance of HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH', at Nantwich Parish Church, on SATURDAY, 26th MARCH 1983, at 7p.m.

Further concerts to be given next year will include works by Haydn, Dvorak and Kodaly.

New members are always welcome, especially tenors and basses.