



THE SENTINEL Monday June 23, 2003

## REVIEW Music

**Nantwich Choral Society Concert, St May's Church, Nantwich**

GREATLY daring, Nantwich Choral Society tackled Estonian composer Arvo Pat's Berliner Messe as the centrepiece of Saturday night's concert at St May's Church.

One would have thought that hours of practice needed to be expended on a work so complex and unusual, yet in the event the performance betrayed distinct signs of under-rehearsal by both the choir and the accompanying Consort of Strings — or perhaps it was the mix of the two that was at fault.

The piece was far from being a disaster, but it was not up to the standard normally expected of Nantwich Choral Society.

And when Musical Director Patrick Larley omitted the final Alleluia, the sense of unease only increased.

The remainder of the programme was well done. Haydn's Little Organ Mass featured a

radiant, soaring Benedictus from soprano Sue Tyson, and Monteverdi's Beatus Vir — a setting of Psalm 112 (Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord) — had breadth and grandeur.

There was grandeur, too, in Andrew Mildenhall's playing of two solo organ pieces by Andrea Gabrieli, and the brief work that introduced the concert merits a mention.

Composed by Patrick Larley, it was "Peace in the World" for solo voice (Sue Tyson) and string quartet.

Using the words of a Chinese proverb, Larley certainly achieved simplicity and profundity.

**Eric Snape**