

REVIEW

Music

Carmina Burana

Nantwich Choral Society,
Nantwich Civic Hall

WRITTEN by German composer Karl Orff between 1935 and 1936, the electrically-charged Carmina Burana is probably the most famous piece of music ever composed in Nazi Germany. The work, written to texts of Latin, Middle High German and Old French, was first performed in Frankfurt Opera House in 1937, and since then the fame of the piece has grown extensively. Excerpts from the powerful opening and closing number, O Fortuna, in particular have been widely-used in film and television, providing the background music for such adverts as Old Spice and Capital One. But at Nantwich Civic Hall, it was left to the Nantwich Choral Society to project this magnificent choral composition — which they did with precise execution and professionalism. Because Carmina Burana mixes together highly-rhythmic and percussive passages with melodic sections (some for full ensemble and some for solo voice) it was essential that the society had the talent and precision to captivate Orff's work.

In this respect, soloists Sue Tyson (soprano), Tim Massa (counter-tenor) and Adrian Blakeley (baritone), together with pianists Andrew Mildinhall and Patricia Wood, were perfectly chosen.

Liz Rowley