

Haslemere makes music with Horb

Haslemere has a very successful town twinning arrangement with Horb am Neckar, in South West Germany. Every year people from both towns get together alternating between Haslemere and Horb am Neckar. We take part in social events, go on visits to beautiful and/or historic places and generally enjoy being with host families for a few days. In the last couple of years this has taken on a new dimension – MUSIC. You may remember how this story began. In 2017 Clive Osgood (organist of St Bart's Church, Haslemere) joined our group, visiting Horb, tempted by the offer of playing the newly restored Baroque organ of the church in Horb. This, he accomplished, but furthermore, came home with the incomplete manuscript of the 'Missa Solemnis' by Ernesto Weinrauch (1730 – 1793). Clive undertook to work on the score and compose the missing soprano part.

The completed work was first performed in St Christopher's Church (Haslemere) in May 2018, and this year Clive invited selected singers from Haslemere to join with a 'Project choir' in Horb for a performance of the Mass in the church where it was first performed more than 200 years ago, namely, the Stiftskirche Heilig Kreuz (Collegiate Church of the Holy Cross).

Also in the programme were two compositions of Clive's, *Lord for thy tender mercy's sake*, and *The peace of God*, sung by Haslemere's chamber choir. (These are on Clive's CD 'Sacred Choral Music'). Accompanied by Clive on the Baroque organ, Leanne Osgood and Jean Weston sang solo parts in both the Mass and an aria by Handel. Versatile as he is, Clive played the harpsichord in the small orchestra which accompanied the choir.

The programme finished with the choir and congregation singing Beethoven's Ode to Joy. We, the audience, and, I am told, the members of the choirs, found this whole evening of joint music making very moving, conscious of the friendship we have built up with our German hosts. We were also extremely proud of Clive, whose composition skills were duly acknowledged at the end, during a tumultuous standing ovation.

Dorothea Nattrass, July 2019