

Creating choral music in Salisbury

On Saturday night, Salisbury Cathedral played host to Salisbury Musical Society's (SMS) Come & Sing Haydn's Creation. Singers from as far afield as Belfast, Shropshire and the Isle of Wight came to join this fun choral event where there was no rehearsal before the day itself. The work celebrates the creation of the world according to Genesis, and the afternoon rehearsal began similarly to that well known story, with a "Representation of chaos" as singers learned notes and rhythms. However, under the entertaining and encouraging tutelage of conductor Ian Wicks, the choir worked through "Despairing cursing rage" and were soon producing a beautiful sound alongside the superbly skilled piano accompaniment of David Halls.

The choir were privileged to be joined for the evening performance by three outstanding local soloists Abigail Hooper (soprano), Nicholas Hawker (tenor), Richard Hooper (bass), whose elegant narration of the first six days of creation was punctuated by resounding choruses celebrating the completion of each day's work. Abigail's exquisite rendering of the beautiful "With verdure clad" was a particular high point, as she soared through her entire musical range with barely a moment for breath. For participants and audience alike, "Achieved is the glorious work" of a wonderful performance.

To join SMS or find out more, visit www.salisburymusicalsociety.org.uk

Christa Spencer