

Afterglow  
5/5/19

The response of those hearing your last two concerts has been heartening.

Steven, Regina Roper's husband, was amazed that an American choir could sing the Howells with the style and sensitivity of an English choir (meaning Cambridge, Oxford, etc.). In response to his query, I had to tell him that no, I had not studied choral music in England. Steven is an audiophile extraordinaire.

Cindy Coombs, accompanist for the Children's Choir, spoke to me in glowing terms about your Tabernacle performance and is considering auditioning next fall.

Dolores, my wife, who has permission to not be polite with me, was not pleased with the Bach at the Tabernacle (acoustic and balance issues) but was highly complementary of the Bach and especially of the Howells and Mantyjärvi at Good Shepherd.

John Ribera, conductor of the Interfaith choir (and a violinist), said of the Tabernacle performance: Great sound from the Chamber Singers; diction was clear as a bell. Intonation was spot on. We.... enjoyed the Shakespeare Songs and the Bach. Great to hear the Chamber Singers full throttle on the Massenet and Rossini.

This morning at church, people who attended the concert came up to me, grabbed my hands (in some cases) and gave heart-felt expressions of deep appreciation. They knew they had heard a very good choir.

My own opinion is that the Chamber Singers have come of age, have arrived as a truly mature choral ensemble. On the About page of our site, I have stated:

Members of the St. George Chamber Singers—setting new standards of virtuosity and musicianship, performing with tonal richness, expressive intensity and compelling collective artistry—are dedicated choral artists, committed to excellence in vocal chamber music. Each auditioned member is held to a high standard of attendance and rehearsal preparation. Founded in 2015, the Chamber Singers continue to perform exciting choral music from the classical repertoire.

Your performance, especially at Good Shepherd, gives substance to this claim. What started as aspiration, has now been achieved. It is a true statement!

At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Franklin was queried as he left Independence Hall on the final day of deliberation. In the notes of Dr. James McHenry, one of Maryland's delegates to the Convention, a lady asked

Dr. Franklin “Well Doctor what have we got, a republic or a monarchy.” Franklin replied, “A republic . . . if you can keep it.”

I hope you grasp what you have created and will fight to sustain it.

PS: Rachel’s and Harrison’s work with the Children’s Choir has, in my opinion, achieved in one year what it took the Chamber Singers to do in three. Bravo!