

Tribute to a supreme musical genius

1991 is Mozart's Bicentenary year and the Capriol Singers aptly celebrated the event with an all-Mozart concert at St Faith's Church.

The musical world has been engulfed in a continuing series of Mozart concerts and recitals throughout this year, though the actual date of his untimely death was December 5, 1791, at the early age of 36.

The choice of programme highlighted two major facets of the great composer's genius, firstly his music for the theatre in the form of Act One of the delightful *Marriage of Figaro*, which gave the large audience the opportunity to savour Mozart's comic, lyrical style with much accomplished singing and animation which carried the plot forward at a brisk pace.

The second half of the programme featured a complete performance of the *Coronation Mass*, a suitably ceremonial piece to mark the bicentenary of the dearly beloved Wolfgang

Amadeus.

The soloists and Capriol Singers gave a distinguished rendition under the experienced baton of John Emery accompanied by the Manchester Camerata, a noteworthy ensemble now firmly established as one of the leading chamber orchestras in the country.

Crosby-born soprano Rosa Mannion made a welcome return from her operatic pastures together with Eleanor Dale (mezzo), James Nelson (tenor) and Dyfed Wyn Evans (baritone) in the *Coronation Mass*.

These singers also featured in the *Marriage of Figaro*, with other solo parts taken by Nancy Mann, Tony Clare and David Eddowes.

It is perhaps strange to reflect that in Mozart's lifetime his music was not taken seriously due to his reputation as a clown and eccentric but soon after his death he was recognised and revered as a supreme musical genius, and this has been the case ever since.

AH



Conductor John Emery and the Capriol Singers at St Faith's Church, Waterloo (see review above). Code ROR

November 1991

Leading vocalist comes home to perform Rossini work with Crosby Capriol Singers

Opera star Rosa returns

One of Britain's brightest operatic stars returns to the area next month, in harmony with the Crosby Capriol Singers. Andrew Brown finds out more...

The Crosby-born lead singer of the English National Opera's latest production is coming home.

Rosa Mannion is currently starring in Offenbach's "The Tales of Hoffman" at the Colosseum in London.

Next month, however, the soloist will accompany other members of the Crosby Capriol Singers in a production of Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle" at Bootle Town Hall.

Barbara Prince, spokesperson for the Singers, said: "We are delighted that Rosa is coming back to sing with us, especially as she has a very busy engagement calendar at the moment."

Despite her move to London Rosa remains president of the Crosby Capriol Singers, a post she has held for a number of

years. Her parents still live in Crosby.

While Rosa has been wowing audiences with the National Opera, other members of the Capriol Singers have been busy rehearsing for their eagerly-awaited Spring Concert.

With around 50 performers the group is bigger than a chamber choir but not quite as large as a choral society.

Members practise at Christ Church, Waterloo every Tuesday.

The Crosby Capriol Singers started life as St Michael's Youth Choir in 1960, changing its name to the Crosby Capriol Singers in 1966.

In its infancy the choir entered festivals and competitions, winning many prestigious awards.



SPRING IN THEIR STEP • Crosby Capriol Singers rehearse for the forthcoming Spring Concert at Bootle Town Hall Code DB3

Its repertory, which has grown considerably since 1980, ranges from the 16th Century to the present day.

Several first performances have been given and the group is interested in receiving new

works from composers.

At least three concerts are given each year: at Christmas, a major concert with soloists in the spring and a serenade concert in the summer.

Many of the great choral

masterpieces have been performed, including diverse works like "The Messiah," Mozart's "Requiem," Beethoven's "Mass in C," the "Hymn of Jesus" by Holst and "Dona Nobis Pacem" by

Vaughan-Williams.

Other composers represented have included Purcell, Haydn, Schubert, Faure and Benjamin Britten.

In the forthcoming Spring Concert, starting at 7.30pm on Saturday April 18, the singers will be accompanied by a piano and a harmonium (a type of small organ) in order to recreate an original rendition of Rossini's work.

The Singers will be led by John Emery, who is celebrating his 20th year as conductor of the group.

Tickets are available on the door, or from choir members.

• If you would like your group or organisation to feature in **INSIDE STORY**, please send brief details and a contact number to: **Andrew Brown, Inside Story, Crosby Herald, 43-45 Liverpool Road, Crosby, L23 5SD.**



Final preparations for Capriol concert

Crosby Capriol Singers are pictured making wonderful music in preparation for this Saturday's concert.

The chorus of hugely-talented singers will perform Bach in B minor at the 7.30pm event,

taking place in St Faith's Church, Waterloo.

For tickets, priced £7 (£5 concs) pop into Pritchard's Books in Crosby Village, or pay on the door.

Code GAV0499



SEASONAL SONG • Members of the Macmillan Cancer Relief, Crosby Committee, raised £900 for their charity following an annual Christmas evening at the United Reformed Church on Eshe Road. They were delighted to be joined by regular guests, the Crosby Capriol Singers. Committee chairman Ken Brown thanked all who have given their support to the charity over the past year. He is currently looking forward to an evening of "Music for the Millennium," with special guests the Birkenhead Operatic Society, to be held at the Blundellsands Hotel on February 2. Tickets available on 931 3281. Code GJ1299

7.12.99