We have never seen anything like this, it's fantastic.

Christmas with Jesus
College Choir

Ah yes! I find myself writing another review on a Christmas concert. When asked to review it, the first thought that crossed my mind was ‘oh boy, here comes another one’ but then seeing the St John’s inside my mind, ‘Hey, it’s a foreign place, should be good so let’s go watch it’

Classical music has the power to make an individual be transported to different realms of life when listening to it. But the difference between how this happens in all the hands of more musically gifted hands of those who

Little did I know that we were about to be flown away by the magnificent and beautiful harmonies that were going to flow through the hall of St John’s College, presented by the Choir of Jesus College, University of Cambridge, at which the first Lady was the Queen of Norway.

The evening started off with a song titled ‘Mother of God, here I stand’ by John Tavener, and then flowed on into more classical pieces ranging from the 18th to the 19th century. In the audience was a lady who normally didn’t appreciate classical music but she was expected to be in the hall. But right throughout the piece, there was a sense of silence only broken by thunderous applause at the end of each song performed.

Solos in this half included Max Coddell who sang “A每当夜临” composed by Isabel Safford and Peter Lutheber who did an exceptional job on “Three Kings’ from the Cantata of Tanaka” arranged by Peter Cornelius.

My favourite from this half was the song “Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree” composed by Elizabeth Pinnock which had a very intimate harmony induced along with the choir performing this song extremely well.

The second half kicked off the traditional arrangement of everyone’s favourite Christmas tune ‘Jingle Bells’ by Ralph Allwood and many more interesting byells and carols.

You need both hands to know how lovely melodies sound to have the audience indoors. So, when Choir Director Mark Williams announced that John Tavener would be taking on the school’s own favourite, ‘Oh, Holy Night!’ Seventy per cent of the audience naturally responded with the perfect St John’s’ blend while the other thirty percent went ‘sunniness’ (Yeah, even I didn’t know how that came about, since it was normally used when something unusual is said).

Julia did a fantastic job on the songs and every song is a personal favourite, as well. I paid extra attention to it and by paying that much of extra attention, I found something that I seemed to have missed in the entire concert.

Every soloist was hard at work by the choir; they didn’t even pause for a moment, any of the soloists and that kind of non-stop singing that made listening to music even more enjoyable and I thought it was without the usual air of aromatic.

Susan Anstitt did a brilliant job on “Lascia Ancora” and she held onto a note for so long that it was too cool to be true. The second half also included very interesting rendition of “Deck the Halls” and “Ride on, King.”

Ending off with the moving piece “I wish you Christmas” which happened to be singing while typing this article. So yeah that was my favourite piece.

Brett Belmore and Benjamin Morris did a brilliant job on accompanying the choir on the piano and Brett also added flavour with his amazing skills on the timpani.

Kudos to Mark Williams who kept the audience even more entertained with his fantastic sense of humour between every two songs. There is something about the British and their humour that cracks you up and has you in fits of laughter.

All in all, a fantastic day at the theatre and for those who missed it, you certainly missed a fantastic concert.