

## MSME CHRISTMAS CONCERT REVIEW

On Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, in St. Nicholas Church, Ash, MSME gave a Christmas Concert. (For those who haven't heard of MSME, let me explain that this is a newly created group of musicians from science and medically related backgrounds whose purpose is to use performance opportunities for fund and profile-raising of selected charities and causes linked to the scientific and medical professions). Like most medical and scientific people, if they are good, they are usually very good.

The joy of this musical group was augmented by the presence of young science students. These youngsters all sang but we had a lovely clarinet accompaniment by one of the sopranos in Handel's Pastoral, a harp by another; a tenor played the saxophone in the jazz part of the programme and the young bass, the trumpet accompaniment in Glory to God (Handel's Messiah).

Excerpts from Britten's Ceremony of Carols and the Messiah were performed as Handel would have expected it to be sung, by a small choir. The latter, I particularly liked because as a child I had sung in a choir of twenty five, my first introduction to Handel. A musically critical member of the audience found the impact of "For Unto Us a Child is Born" utterly delightful when sung by this small number of singers.

It was my first experience of hearing Angeline Kanagasooriam. Her fame as an opera singer is well-known. On this occasion, she accompanied herself at the piano and sang a Manger Song Medley with every word and note so clear and true, I was, in the modern parlance, quite "blown away".

The Christmas Jazz Finale had us "Rocking around the Christmas Tree", joining in "Rudolph" & Winter Wonderland, before being invited to have a Merry Christmas in "The Christmas Song", reminding me of the joys as medical students put on shows at Christmas for the wards at Barts. Naturally on this occasion, there was no barrel of beer pulled behind on the trolley.

All this was put on, as much for the joy of singing and playing together, as it was for those who came to listen. Importantly, the proceeds go to Charity, this time for Pilgrim's Hospice in Kent. I would suggest you keep an eye open for future concerts. You will not be disappointed.

Pat Cave