

Oldham Choral Society

Present

“*The Glory of the
Baroque*”

With Adrienne Murray (Alto)

and

The East Lancs Sinfonia

Conductor: Nigel Wilkinson

**At Oldham Parish Church
On Sunday November 18th 2001
at 7.30p.m.**



MUSIC

Choral Society covers itself in baroque glory

OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY — Oldham Parish Church

THE Choral Society's latest concert went under the title "The Glory of the Baroque", and the society covered itself in glory.

The choir started in fine voice in Handel's coronation anthem "Zadok the Priest", followed by the orchestra in the composer's popular "Entry of the Queen of Sheba" from the oratorio "Solomon".

The solo oboe part was superbly played by Alan Simpson and indeed the orchestra's

contribution to the evening, generally, was the concert's continuing highlight.

The East Lanes Sinfonia, assembled by the choir's music director Nigel Wilkinson, provided splendid support to the choir.

Vivaldi's "Concerto for Two Trumpets" was beautifully rendered by Matthew Balson and Gail Coleman with smooth articulation, although a slightly less than perfect blend. Outstanding was the "Concerto for Two Violins" by Bach, beautifully played by Sally Robinson and Karen Hoyle with perfecting blending and lovely tone throughout. These were two of many fine contributions.

The soloist, alto Adrienne Murray, offered a pleasing voice, a little light at times but outstanding and dramatic in "Che Faro" from Gluck's "Orfeo e Euridice".

Thrilling

The choir was at its best in two familiar pieces by Handel — "For Unto us a Child is Born" from "Messiah" and "See the Conquering Hero Comes" from "Judas Maccabeus". There was thrilling support from the orchestra and Douglas Butters at the organ.

The ladies' voices blended poignantly in a moving performance of the opening to Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater".

Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" and the Mass in B Minor gave conductor Nigel Wilkinson the chance to mix choir, trumpets, orchestra and organ with consummate skill. Appointing him is proving to be one of the best moves the choir has made. DS