

**Sunday - May 13th 2007**

**OLDHAM PARISH CHURCH**

**OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

Present

***Rossini:  
Petite Messe  
Solennelle***



***Elgar:  
“Scenes from  
the Bavarian  
Highlands”***

**Linda Gerrard (Soprano)**

**Kathleen Wilkinson (Mezzo)**

**Simon Crosby-Buttle (Tenor)**

**Alan Fairs (Bass)**

**Conductor: Nigel Wilkinson**

**Accompanists: Chris Idle and Geoff Kerr**

# Soloists help society to a night of triumph

## OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Oldham Parish Church

A PACKED house was treated to a very special sound on Sunday night, when the society performed works by Rossini and Elgar.

The choir was aided by four superb soloists: Linda Gerard, soprano; Kathleen Wilkinson, mezzo; Simon Crosby-Buttle, tenor; and Alan Fairs, bass.

In past concerts the accompaniment has been provided by the North-West Sinfonia, but this time there were two keyboard players, Chris Idle and Geoff Kerr, who were able to change the voice of the keyboard to fit the harmonium sound that Rossini originally wrote.

The choir has been extremely fortunate to be able to call on the services of a large number of excellent soloists. Those who sang on Sunday have all sung leading operatic roles at Glyndebourne, the Royal Opera House and Opera North.

The concert began with the first three songs from Elgar's "From the Bavarian Highlands", which range from a fast, spirited movement, to a slower lullaby.

Three solos followed, all by Rossini and all of which showed off the musical gymnastics of the soloists' voice.

The first half ended with the last three songs by Elgar, again ranging from fast and breathless to spiritual and dreamy.

The second half of the programme was Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle".

Here the words of the traditional mass have been set to music which is unashamedly operatic in style.

The choir and soloists went from hushed, religious intensity to boisterous high spirits by way of many memorable tunes and rhythms.

The whole concert was under the able baton of Nigel Wilkinson.

● The choir is always glad to welcome new singers and would be happy to see them at rehearsals, which are held at the new Baptist church in Chaucer Street, just off Union Street, Oldham, on Mondays (7.30pm).

HT