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## local NEWS

# Concert proves to be a rewarding experience despite some austere touches

**Norwich Music Group**  
St Peter Mancroft

### Review

The choral concert by the Norwich Music Group, under their conductor Philip Aldred, attracted a fairly generous audience to St Peter Mancroft on Sunday evening.

Although it appeared at first to be a somewhat austere affair – no

orchestra, no programme notes – it was in fact a rewarding experience with highly disciplined singing and excellent balance despite the usual problem of more female than male singers.

In two short pieces for choir alone, The Ground by the young

Norwegian composer Gjielo, together with And The Mother Did Weep from Karl Jenkins then the work Stabat Mater, the sounds were always warm and explicit.

All the soloists were choir members; soprano June Harrison and alto Felicity Devonshire's sensual performance of Purcell's My Dearest, My Fairest a true

delight. Baritone Simon Rumsey was the eloquent soloist in Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs capturing their spiritual nature perfectly, while the choir were excellent in the finale.

The main work was Haydn's late and great Nelson Mass with truly fine choral singing matched by equally excellent performances from the four soloists: soprano June

Harrison, alto Diane MacMullen, Andy Hobson tenor and Simon Rumsey baritone.

Philip Aldred's vigorous conducting maintained the tension throughout.

Last but certainly not least, the evening owed much to the excellent accompanying of pianist Florence Liu.

Frank Cliff.