

Prague March 2005

On a wet and windy March morning the Shepshed Singers departed East Midlands Airport bound for Prague and their Easter Tour. The inauspicious start weatherwise became irrelevant as we landed in Prague to bright sunshine! From the moment we arrived to the moment we left we saw nothing but blue skies (cue for a song I think!) and fine weather to accompany our tour. The Hotel Opera was our most sumptuous stay so far and we began our visit by rehearsing in the dining room ahead of our first concert in the Church of St Nicholas in the Old Town Square scheduled for the following lunchtime.

The concert was preceded by a short rendition on the steps of the church to hopefully encourage the passers-



St Nicholas Church On the steps of St Nicholas Concert in St Nicholas Church

by to come in and listen. An appreciative audience enjoyed our programme and afterwards Andrew was presented with a book on the history of the church together with a CD of music performed there.

Our concert in Karlovy Vary, formerly Carlsbad, two hours west of Prague proved to be the most enjoyable. The spa town was looking at its best in the spring sunshine and we enjoyed a brief 'tour' with our NST rep, Hannah, before adjourning to a variety of eateries for lunch.



St Anns Church Karlovy Vary Rehearsing in St Anns

As we arrived at St Ann's for our concert the evening sunshine outside belied the cold conditions inside. This church is in a poor state of repair with no heating or electricity and the purpose of our concert was to help raise funds for its renovation. The locals turned out in force to watch us perform – in our coats due to the very cold conditions.

Andrew's arrangement of Smetana's Vltava proved most popular and served as an encore that elicited a standing ovation from a very 'full house'! Despite the lack of grand surroundings that we have encountered in a lot of our venues, we all felt really uplifted by this concert and the response we received.

Our final concert involved participation in a mass at St Giles Church in the centre of Prague where we performed from a high balcony that meant that we didn't really feel part of the service and once again it was very cold inside! Our final night of the tour saw us on a boat on the Vltava for a two hour cruise including supper which rounded off the tour wonderfully well! Many thanks are due to Andrew, Wyn (Treasurer), Peter (Chair) and Ann (Secretary) for all their hard work in the planning of the tour and whilst we were there. We look forward to the Shepshed Singers Tour 2007, but where to.....?



Prague Tour Members

Repertoire for the Prague Tour

St Nicholas Church Concert of sacred music		St Anns Karlovy Vary Concert of sacred and secular music		St Giles Music for the mass	
Caelos ascendit	Stanford	Blazheni	Tchaikovsky	Locus iste	Bruckner
Jesus junxit se	Palestrina	Jesus junxit se	Palestrina	Kyrie	Goff
If ye love me	Tallis	O Rex gloriae	Marenzio	Gloria	Goff
O Rex gloriae	Marenzio	If ye love me	Tallis	If ye love me	Tallis
Haec dies	Howells	Narozene pane	Martinu	Sanctus	Goff
Beati quorum via	Stanford	Regina caeli	Croce	Agnus Dei	Goff
Alleluia surrexit	Anerio	Vltava	Smetana	Jesu dulcis memoria	Victoria
Narozene pane	Martinu	Two songs	Dvorak	Haec dies	Howells
Gloria	Goff	Besame mucho	Velazquez		
Blazheni	Tchaikovsky	Brown eyes blue	Woods		
Abendlied	Rheinberger	Anything goes	Porter		
Justorum animae	Stanford	The way we were	Hamlisch		
O quam gloriosum	Victoria	The Oak and the Ash	Rathbone		
Regina caeli	Croce	Swing Low	Rathbone		
		Nine hundred miles	Rathbone		
		Downtown	Goff		
		Marianne	Wilby		
		Byker Hill	Wilby		
		Water of Tyne	Woods		
		Every night...	Stocks		
		Sacramento	Woods		

