

## **“O HOLY NIGHT”**

Saturday 14th December 2024 at 7.00pm, at All Saints’ Church Ryde

A well packed audience of about 80 listened to a magical evening of Carols and Christmas songs sung by the highly professional Ryde Chorus led by their outstanding musical Director Jurgita Leistrumaite. The audience participated in four well known Carols whilst the Choir and organ under the superb musicianship of James Longford gave them a helping hand.

The evening started with a beautiful solo to open, “Once in Royal David’s city” and was followed through by Karen Bridgeman singing two other solos, “He shall feed his flock” by Handel and the Candlelight Carol by John Rutter. This was again beautifully sung by Karen, the piece being full of reminiscence and memories of better times. The Huron Carol from a traditional French melody was sung with wistful pathos in a polished performance by Peter Savory. Kathy Howells completed the trio of soloists with a quite startling purity of voice and pitch which left one quite breath-taken in a wonderful rendering by the Chorus of “O holy night” arranged by Adolph-Charles Adam which had a magnificent accompaniment by James Longford on the piano. I confess that I wanted to hear this again immediately. It was such a moving performance.

The chorus achieved a quality of performance which is hard to achieve – a harmonic balance that enriched all the pieces they sang. One couldn’t have wished for a more enjoyable evening which quite overcame the unusual cold of the evening which most who attended had anticipated with warm clothing. This Chorus goes from strength musically and I for one cannot wait for their next concert, which I urge all to attend.