

West Sussex Philharmonic Choir

Krakow 2011

In May a group of singers from the West Sussex Philharmonic choir, augmented by members of other choirs for which Stephen Hope acts as Music Director, set off on a week's visit to the delightful Polish city of Krakow.

Three concerts took place: the first at St Joseph's Church in the suburb of Podgorze, location of the 1942 Jewish ghetto and of Oskar Schindler's factory; two further performances were given at St Barbara's Church and at the 13th century Franciscan Church, both in the centre of Krakow close to the Main Square – Rynek Glowy.

Accompaniment was provided by members of Sinfonia da Chiesa and solo vocalists, with whom splendid rehearsals were held in the Jazz Cellar at our hotel.

The repertoire consisted of John Rutter's Requiem, and a somewhat unseasonal Oratorio de Noel by Camille Saint Saens, together with a Missa "Brevissima" in G, reputedly by Joseph Haydn and several "portfolio" items by Mozart, Elgar, Purcell and Bruckner. An impromptu performance of the latter's Locus Iste was given 400 metres underground in the Great Hall of the Wieliczka Salt Mine.

