

29 September 2008

Dear Elena,

I am writing to thank you for the magnificent concert recital you gave at St Mary's Church, Bromley last Saturday 27 September with Matthew Schellhorn. I was spellbound throughout by the high quality of the performance, and like the rest of the audience did not want it to end. We would happily have sat on the hard pews for hours more to hear such ravishing music so spiritedly projected.

I had not previously heard the Messiaen *Poèmes* performed live, and was bowled over by the way in which you extracted emotion from the musical line, and got that across to the audience in a strongly physical way. We all felt your grief, fear and longing as they were presented to us so clearly. Being so easily able to identify with the singer made the ravishing sounds both meaningful and memorable.

In the Tosti *Canzoni* you brought contrasts of true musical ability to the various love situations they described. Your register was so clear, and you mixed the awesomely powerful with the sweetly lyrical with deceptive ease. The clarity of your tone, particularly in the high notes, was wonderful to hear and made the performance appear faultless. When you sang "Adieu", we longed for more. Even this little party piece was treated to a delightful acting of farewell, so effortlessly integrated with the music.

We can only hope that you will soon be returning to warm our hearts again with the purity of your voice, and to thrill us with the real drama you inject into everything you sing. I hope that many more will have the opportunity to rejoice in the glory of your vocal control and clarity of diction. We were privileged to have heard you last Saturday. May your career be as meteoric as your talent deserves.

Yours sincerely,

*Peter Fall*