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Carol concert audience angered by actor's 'smut'

SMUTTY jokes have no place in a family carol concert, and members of the audience made this plain during the interval and at the end of Sunday's event in the Civic Hall, Guildford.

The target of the public's displeasure was Guy Siner, an actor who appears in the BBC television comedy 'Allo 'Allo. He was the compere of the concert presented by the Rotary Club of Guildford in association with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, under the baton of Neville Creed, the choir's chorus master, and which also featured the Guildford Cathedral choristers with the choir master, Andrew Millington

Mr. Siner upset people with his repartee. Some complained to the Mayor of Guildford, Mrs. Mary Lloyd-Jones, who was the principal guest, and others to the many Rotarians who acted as ushers.

A letter to the editor of the *Surrey Advertiser* from two members of the audience said their afternoon had been "ruined" by Mr. Siner who had "felt it necessary" with every introduction to "add an embarrassing and rude remark thinly veiled as humour. Mr. Siner proved to be

highly insensitive to the theme of family and the celebration of Christmas."

Mr. Rodger Broad, chairman of the Rotary club's fund-raising committee, which organised the event, said he was aware that some people had found Mr. Siner not to their liking, but added that he had also received some favourable comments. Mr. Siner's appearance, he added, was arranged by the conductor, Mr. Creed.

"It is to be regretted if some people took offence at Mr. Siner's style," said Mr. Broad, "and I hope this will not detract from the fact that this carol concert was the best ever. We had the biggest audience, the most children and raised more money than in other years for the Mayor of Guildford's Christmas and Local Distress Fund."

● See letters page 13.

Carol concert 'jokes'

Sir, — A lovely family carol concert at the Civic Hall, Guildford on Sunday, was ruined by the compere, Guy Siner from 'Allo 'Allo.

His style of presentation was totally inappropriate for the occasion and some of his so-called "jokes" were very offensive, especially in the

context of the Christmas carols.

A number of my friends and family came to the concert and they were all very shocked

MARGARET MYLCHREEST.

11 Chatfield Drive,
Merrow Park, Guildford.

THE ADVERTISER, DECEMBER 28, 1990

Carol concert guest compere

Sir, — In the December 14 issue of the *Surrey Advertiser*, it was incorrectly reported that I arranged the appearance of Guy Siner at the carol concert, held on December 9, in the Civic Hall, Guildford.

It was my idea to seek a celebrity presenter, and the carol concert committee, consisting of representatives of the Rotary Club and Guildford Philharmonic, agreed to seek one from among the contacts of members of those organisations.

The committee agreed to invite Guy Siner when his name was put forward.

I also conduct the carol concerts at Bournemouth and Poole, where this year the presenter, Roy Castle, was a great success.

Clearly, involving a celebrity in such concerts results in increased ticket sales and thus a greater contribution to local charities.

NEVILLE CREED.

45 Ryfold Road,
Wimbledon Park,
London SW19.

Siner was no sinner

Sir, — Having attended the Rotary Club's carol concert at the Civic Hall, Guildford, with my maiden aunt and young cousin, I must take exception to Margaret Mylchreest's recent letter.

I and my companions thoroughly enjoyed the feast of entertainment and thought Guy Siner was hilarious and no ruder than some of the things you hear on television during the early evening.

My thanks to Rodger Broad, who seems to do so much for charity, for a most wonderful evening.

HOWARD GALE.

27 Roffords,
Goldsworth Park,
Woking.