The Smith College Choir joined forces last Sunday with the MIT Glee Club, to give an excellent rendition of Poulenc’s “Gloria,” and a somewhat less satisfying rendering of the well-known Cantata No. 4 of J. S. Bach.

Frances Poulenc, who passed away only about five weeks ago, believed that sacred music should be joyous rather than dull, and wrote accordingly. The “Gloria” is sometimes regarded as an extreme example of this attitude; but simple and, though they may approach it with caution, usually perform it with an exhilarating sense of having discovered something truly new in music. The combined choirs fulfilled Poulenc’s wish for reverence through enthusiasm. The audience was immediately electrified by the bizarre beginning and the energetic excitement of the performers, a spirit which prevailed throughout the piece. The first phrase, “Gloria, in excelsis Deo . . .”, began by the bass section, got the work off to a vigorous start. The second section, “Laudamus Te . . .”, created even more momentum with its almost primitive lack of inhibition, while the players demonstrated to the listeners that they were not at all uncomfortable in this medium. They possessed great rhythmic sense, and handled difficult passages admirably.

The third section is a fantasy with a supranatural choral and orchestra providing the setting. The soloist, Adrienne Arsht, was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting. Though the moods alternated triumphantly, the “Gloria” was quite competent musically, but her apparent lack of interest was sometimes distracting.