

280 Years Later.....

The Mowbray Singers, the mixed-voice chamber choir based in Sowerby, together with Strings Attached, Thirsk's string orchestra - leader Julie Bates, performed Handel's Messiah, Parts 2 and 3, on Saturday, 2nd April at St Oswald's Church. Their performance marked 280 years since this ever-popular work was first performed in Dublin in April 1742.

The vocal solos were very ably sung by members of this versatile choir, as happened in the work's first performance and, together with both magnificent and moving singing and playing in the choruses, the work's uplifting music and words were much appreciated by an almost capacity audience.

The *Hallelujah* chorus, *Worthy is the Lamb* and the final *Amen* were particularly triumphant and expert renditions but the most memorable movement was *Why do the nations so furiously rage together* which was not sung in this performance by a bass soloist as Handel originally intended. Instead, all the men of the choir sang in a powerful unison, reflecting the world's current general dismay at the situation in Ukraine.

The organ, played by Helen Proudley, the Trumpet by Andrew Clarke, the timpani by Alec Peach and the basso continuo by Evelyn Wilson and Jane Jackson all performed expertly and the whole ensemble was directed by Trevor Wilson.

The Mowbray Singers' next concert is called "About the '70s" and will take place at 7:30pm Saturday, 16th July 2022 in St James' Green Methodist Church, Thirsk.

By Philip Charles