

## **Local Choir and String Orchestra enthrall capacity audience**

The Mowbray Singers, the mixed-voice chamber choir based in Sowerby, and Strings Attached, the Thirsk-based string orchestra, joined forces under the baton of conductor Trevor Wilson to perform a concert entitled "Shining Heavens" in Sowerby's St Oswald's Church on Saturday 26th November. The concert programme started with a performance by the strings of Vaughan Williams' popular English Folk Song Suite. Its lively outer movements, skilfully played, contrasted with the beautifully expressive playing in the Intermezzo, with the leader, Julie Bates, presenting the solo violin passages with great tenderness. This was followed by the composer's nine "Songs of Travel", a setting of poems by Robert Louis Stevenson, here effectively arranged for the choir and strings and performed with wide-ranging expression and conviction. The choir and strings were joined in the concert's second half by the organ, played by Helen Proudley, and the Harp, played on the keyboard by Evelyn Wilson, for a performance of Gabriel Fauré's evocative "Requiem". The vocal solos were sung by Janet Miles, Soprano, and Robert Williamson, Baritone – both members of the choir. The final movement of this ever-popular work, "In Paradisum", was sung and played with a sincerity and serenity that produced an apt conclusion for the capacity audience to the concert's musical journey from folk song, through the Songs of Travel and then to Fauré's wonderful expression of profound peace and fulfilment. The choir's next concert will be Christmas Words & Music which is taking place on Tuesday 20th December at 8 p.m. in Sowerby Methodist Church. Admission is free with a retiring collection.