

## **Wetherby Choral Society Press Release – May 2017**

Wetherby Choral Society's March performance of Monteverdi's "Vespers" was an acknowledged triumph. More than an incentive to come and hear their next concert!

**Antonio Vivaldi – Gloria**  
**Benjamin Britten – Rejoice in the Lamb**  
**Hubert Parry – I Was Glad**  
**Ralph Vaughan – Williams – Five Mystical Songs**  
**Leonard Bernstein – Chichester Psalms.**  
**Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 7.30 pm**  
**at St. James' Parish Church, Wetherby.**

"Smitten!" declared Leonard Bernstein on hearing his work performed in Chichester Cathedral, "In Chichester I heard angels sing."

The Rev. Walter Hussey, then Dean of Chichester Cathedral, who commissioned the work, wrote to Bernstein saying, "Many of us would be delighted if there was a hint of "West Side Story about the music". Bernstein obliged! The second movement of the Psalms contains an adaptation from the Prologue to the composer's famous musical.

Benjamin Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb" was also written for Walter Hussey at an earlier date. The music is set to Psalm - like verses from an epic poem by one Christopher Smart. Interesting to compare the music from this quintessentially English composer, (along with the Parry and Vaughan-Williams), with what is our principle encounter with Hebrew choral music in the Chichester Psalms.

Vivaldi's "Gloria" needs no introduction to the concert-goer, it is such a well-loved piece. The chorus will demonstrate their versatility in performance, having to master very different styles *and* sing in English, Latin and Hebrew!

Soloists: Hannah Kerr, (Soprano), Lucy Appleyard, (Mezzo-Soprano), Ben Tan (Tenor), John Dunford, (Bass).

Orchestral players: Greg Smith, (Organ), Sarah Patterson, (Harp), Cherry Bratskowski, (Percussion) .

Music Director. John Dunford.

Tickets, £15.00. (Under 18's free) from Kathy Hart, 07860 454894, any Society member, or from St James', Wetherby, Parish Church Office, 01937 583074, or on the door on the night.