

## **Wetherby Choral Society Press Release – January 2018**

Following an extremely successful performance of “Messiah” at Christmas, for its next concert Wetherby Choral Society, under the baton of Music Director John Dunford, will present another of Handel’s major masterpieces.

**Handel - “Israel in Egypt”  
Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
St James’ Parish Church, Wetherby.**

Was there ever such wonderful musical word-painting as this? Furnished with a matchless Biblical text, Handel invites us to share in the sighs of the oppressed Israelites, to share in the revulsion of the Egyptians as their rivers turn to blood. Hear – in a wonderful Tenor aria – frogs, hopping about with impunity in the King’s chambers!

The Chorus is for the large part of this work divided into two separate choirs at opposite sides of the auditorium, so the plagues of flies, lice and locusts do indeed “come from all quarters”. Hailstones, fire and thunder are hurled from one choir to the other and Handel’s musical imagination takes us to the shores of the Red Sea to witness the miracle of the parting of the waters and also the subsequent terrible drowning of the Egyptian chariots and their galloping horses.

Hugely exciting to sing! Hugely exciting to listen to! Come along and experience it for yourselves!

Soloists: Andrea Ryder, (Soprano), Jenny Bianco, (Mezzo Soprano), Austin Gunn, (Tenor), Phil Wilcox, (Bass).

Orchestra: The Wetherby Pro Musica Orchestra.

Music Director: John Dunford.

Tickets, £16.00, (18s and under, free) from Kathy Hart 07860 454894, any Chorus member, “Nicolla” Florist, 1, Bank Street, Wetherby, or on the door on the night.