

Wetherby Choral Society, Press Release.

Wetherby Choral Society's summer concert, under the Musical Direction of John Dunford, showcases the astonishing genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Mozart – Requiem
Mozart – Exultate
Mozart – Solemn Vespers
Saturday, 24th June 2018, 7.30 pm
St James' Parish Church, Wetherby.

Ten years ago, this Society gave a concert entitled "The Magic of Mozart". That magic of course never, ever grows any less. The ravishing soprano solo "Exultate Jubilate" was composed in 1773 when Mozart was in Milan and only in his teens! Six years later, back in his birthplace, Salzburg, and still only a mere twenty-four, he wrote the "Solemn Vespers", a piece full of both energy and youthful exuberance allied to beautiful lyricism – just think of the soprano aria, 'Laudate Dominum', often performed as a stand-alone piece, but here in its rightful place as part of the complete work.

How poignant then, that only ten years later, Mozart was composing the Requiem Mass that was to be, in effect, his own. Those who have seen the play or film "Amadeus" will remember the mysterious hooded stranger who knocks on Mozart's door to apparently commission this piece, and the subsequent insistent soundtrack which is the music of the 'Requiem' as Mozart lies dying. Apocryphal or not, powerful images!

Mozart did not live to complete this sublime piece. He died on the 5th December 1791 aged thirty-five. Knowing this, how could anyone, hearing, particularly, the 'Libera me!', the 'Dies Irae, the 'Lachrymosa' fail to be profoundly moved.

Soloists: Samantha Hay, (Soprano), Lucy Appleyard, (Alto),
Stephen Newlove, (Tenor), Phil Wilcox, (Bass).

Orchestra: The Wetherby Pro Musica.

Musical 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.