

THE performance of Handel's *Messiah* by the Tyndale Choral Society in Dursley Church on November 9 was both memorable and uplifting.

A good balance was maintained between the orchestra, the choir, and the soloists, allowing the creation of the intended atmosphere throughout the work, with its alternating meditative and extrovert styles.

The music evokes a wide range of emotions, using textures such as slow sustained chords in rich harmony, and rapid florid melodies cascading between the voices of the choir. It presents quite a challenge to singers, but Tyndale achieved a high standard.

Tempo is important for the success of the work, and in this respect the performance was admirable. Tempo was lively, and nowhere did the choir slow down to accommodate difficult colouratura passages.

Transitions from one piece to another were accompanied with notable smoothness and minimal delay. Thus the momentum and vigour intended by Handel were attained.

The first and final items were very effective, capturing the changes of mood very well. Noteworthy was *He Trusted in God*, the sopranos having real menace, and the harmonious *But Thanks Be To God*, and also the duet *Death, Where Is Thy Sting?*

Phrasing was good throughout, though sometimes the basses needed to be more decisive in their entries. Maybe the men should stand in front of the more plentiful ladies.

All singers should sing with well-defined consonants to improve clarity in a resonant building such as Dursley Church.

Uplifting show

TYNDALE CHORAL SOCIETY

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