

REVIEWS SPECIAL

Remembrance concert truly rewarding

A fitting tribute

Tyndale Choral Society, Lest We Forget concert

REVIEW
by David Moss

THE Tyndale Choral Society gave a large audience in St James' Church, Dursley, a most rewarding and thought-provoking commemoration of the fallen in war.

The unusual programme, *Lest We Forget*, featured two lesser-known but powerful works by the great composers Handel and Elgar, and a new solution to the completion of Mozart's unfinished Requiem.

Handel's Funeral Anthem *The Ways of Zion do Mourn* is relatively neglected compared with his

Coronation and Chandos Anthems – its sombre mood was perfectly suited to Remembrance Day. It would be difficult to imagine a more compelling performance than that produced by the Tyndale Choral Society and Tyndale Sinfonia under conductor Ian Harrold. The opening was powerful and dark, with good balance between chorus and orchestra, with precise orchestral rhythms providing vitality. The repeated lament "How are the

mighty fallen!" was interspersed with lighter, more radiant movements celebrating the lives of the fallen. The chorus skilfully negotiated all these variations in mood. There was a hushed start to the final movement, which finally led to a major key hymn-like remembrance of the dead reminiscent of 'As in Adam all Die' in *Messiah*.

The chorus were clearly totally committed to this music, presenting its varied moods, and the playing of the orchestra led by their authoritative leader Justine Tomlinson was a revelation in this complex score.

Unfortunately solo

soprano Jane Sherriff seemed ill at ease on this occasion, insecure in the high register.

Mozart's Requiem is one of the prime works in the choral repertoire, popular with performers and audiences alike.

The chorus generated great excitement in the dramatic opening movements, although the volume was unrelentingly loud.

The chorus was on great form, and sang with admirable vigour and accuracy in *Domine Jesu Christe*, and sensitivity at *Hostias*.

Altogether an occasion for remembrance and to remember.