



Gravesham Choral Society & Orchestra

HANDEL FAVOURITES

Messiah Parts 2 & 3

Dettingen Te Deum

7.30pm Saturday 18 November 2017

St George's Church, Church Street, Gravesend, DA11 0DJ

Sophie Edwards – soprano, Katarzyna Balejko – mezzo-soprano

Stefan Kennedy – tenor, Piran Legg – baritone

Alan Vincent – conductor

On 27 June 1743, the British army and its allies, under the command of King George II and Lord Stair, won a victory over the French at the battle of Dettingen. On the King's return a day of public thanksgiving was decreed, and as "Composer of Musick for His Majesty's Chapel Royal", Handel was commissioned to write a *Te Deum* to mark the occasion. The work was first performed in November 1743 at the Chapel Royal in the presence of the King.

Dettingen Te Deum is an extended hymn of praise rather than a conventional *Te Deum* setting. Comprising eighteen short movements, mostly of a brilliant, martial nature, it is scored for soloists, five-part chorus and orchestra with three trumpets and timpani much in evidence to thrilling effect. This is Handel at his extrovert best.

Messiah, Handel's universally acknowledged masterpiece needs little introduction. Far more varied in content, and stylistic and emotional impact than his *Dettingen Te Deum*, it was composed in 1741 to a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. It received a modest reception at its premiere in Dublin, but soon gained in popularity to become one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music. Part 2 concentrates on the Passion, and Part 3 on the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in heaven.

Tickets at £12 (£5 full-time students) available in advance on 01474 816684, from Gravesham Choral Society members or on the door.

www.graveshamcs.co.uk