

# Choir makes hearts soar

**Handel's Messiah, Bury Bach Choir and Prometheus Orchestra, Apex, Bury St Edmunds**

ONE hundred finely-tuned voices, a unique baroque 20-piece orchestra and four exquisite soloists combined to bring the moving Handel's Messiah to a packed Apex, on Saturday night.

There were few seats available for a truly memorable evening featuring the Bury Bach Choir, the Prometheus Orchestra, and soloists Linda Richardson, soprano, Valerie Reid, mezzo soprano, Michael Bracegirdle, tenor, and Graeme Danby, bass.

The wonderful acoustics of the venue provided the perfect platform for the choir and soloists to excel as their voices soared to the rafters under the baton of conductor Philip Reed.

It was the first time the choir had performed at the Apex and it was evident on the animated faces of the group that they enjoyed every minute of it.

From the bass section right through to the sopranos their intonation was pitch perfect and superbly augmented the four soloists.

Particularly memorable were the opening bars from the choir of *And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed* and the more well-known passages of the *Hallelujah Chorus* and at the end with the finale *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain*.

The choir, which draws on its members from in and around Bury, is a treasure for the town.

It has four more concerts planned for this year, including a concert to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, on Saturday, May 26, as part of the Bury Festival.

For those who haven't heard the choir before, this is the perfect chance to hear them.

**Russell Cook**

East Anglian Daily Times,  
Tuesday 27th March 2012.