

The following comments are taken from the review of the concert by Paul Dyson which appeared in the Harrogate Advertiser on 28 May 2004

SCHUBERT and MOZART – RIPON CATHEDRAL

..... An 'uncompleted' theme ran through the main two works presented at Harrogate Choral Society's latest concert in Ripon Cathedral on Saturday 22nd May. Neither Schubert's '*Unfinished*' *Symphony* nor Mozart's *Requiem* were concluded by the respective composer, but also both pieces were written by the two most prolific composers of all time and by men who both died in their thirties

..... The second item on the programme was one of Schubert's six settings of *Salve Regina* performed by soprano Elizabeth Cragg accompanied by the orchestra's string section. The almost-continuous lingering melody was controlled most effectively and attractively by Ms Cragg who displayed a beauty and power in her voice, although with a little too much vibrato at times, that promised much for this young singer

..... The second half of the concert was devoted to the *Requiem*. Although not at their very best (the sopranos in particular needing more vibrancy) the choir was accurate in its entries and gave a rhythmic and well-accented version of the *Dies Irae*. The acoustics muddied some of the contrapuntal passages a little and some of the softer passages could have been much quieter but the choir showed commitment and enthusiasm throughout a performance in which the work hung together well as a unified whole and was accompanied by most sympathetic orchestral playing

..... Highly-regarded conductor Jeffrey Wynn Davies now has just two concerts remaining before his retirement from the Society. Its committee will soon be making major decisions with regard to his successor and its responsibility for ensuring the continuing high standard of choral singing in an area that attracts prestige and a high number of visitors is there for all to see