**WALTHAM SINGERS**

**Christmas Concert at the Parish Church**

**08.12.2012**

**A Yuletide cornucopia from Andrew Fardell and the Waltham Singers, avoiding the obvious and celebrating the coming of the Light of the World.**

**James MacMillan's muscular O Radiant Dawn made an impressive opener, one of several works by living composers, including Colin Mawby's late-flowering Romantic Ave Maria, Morten Lauridsen's hypnotic O Magnum Mysterium, and Eric Whitacre's justly famous Lux Aurumque, performed with filigree-fine vocal textures.**

**With the Meridian Sinfonia, the Singers gave us a fine Vivaldi Gloria to finish, with solos from Geoff Coates' oboe, Richard Fomison's natural trumpet, Sarah Potter, soprano, and Edward McMullan, counter-tenor, who also sang But Who May Abide, from Messiah, before the choir's For Unto Us, beautifully realised, the placing of the voices bringing out the drama and the power of Handel's choral writing.**

**Under Andrew Fardell, their Musical Director for the past 30 years, the Waltham Singers' sound is strong, agile and disciplined; their audience packed the church. They celebrate 40 years in 2013, with Verdi's Requiem in Chelmsford Cathedral.**

Michael Gray’s Arts Blog