



## *Helensburgh Oratorio Choir*

### **Advance Information**

#### **Remembrance Day Concert Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009 7:30pm West Kirk of Helensburgh**

A year of memories, of sadness, respect and gratitude. The last two British survivors of the horror of trench warfare both died this year; the memories of Henry Allingham and Harry Patch reminded us all of the sacrifices made, the suffering endured, of the bravery and also of the compassion of soldiers. Their desire that their memories would help to turn Mankind away from warfare was movingly evident. Special events to mark the ending of the First World War have been held throughout Europe recognising that the finality of first-hand memories of those times was at hand.

On Remembrance Sunday, the music chosen for the Helensburgh Oratorio Choir's concert also makes a plea for peace. Vaughan Williams served in the RAMC and knew at first hand the ghastliness of trench warfare. Before the First World War, he had written a lyrical romance for violin but had put the music away at the outset of hostilities. On his return to civilian life, he revised the work which is now one of his most popular: *The Lark Ascending*. In the 1930s, recognising that war again loomed, he wrote the choral work *Dona nobis pacem* – a passionate plea for peace. The concert will also include Brahms' sublimely beautiful *Song of Destiny*.

Soloists will be:

Justine Watts	violin
Emma Versteeg	soprano
Roland Wood	baritone



Tickets, £10 for adults and £5 for children, will be available from the end of September from Choir members, Kirk Cottage, The Scandinavian Shop and Bookworms.