

## **Three Choirs Festival 2019**

### ***Messiah* - G F Handel**

A much-loved tradition of the musical landscape of the North-east and border region for more than thirty years, the Three Choirs Festival is a collaboration between three local choirs – Beechworth Singers, the Murray Conservatorium Choir and Vocal Dimension, Wangaratta.

The Three Choirs Festival 2019 will be a performance of Handel's *Messiah* by the three combined choirs supported by the Three Choirs Festival Orchestra, formed for this event and involving musicians from across our region.

Composed by Handel in only 24 days, *Messiah* was first performed in Dublin in April 1742. The subject matter being of a sacred nature, there were initial cries of "blasphemy" – a not uncommon experience for composers in the 1700s – in spite of Handel dedicating the oratorio "To God Alone the Glory".

However, by the nineteenth century, it was well established as a Christmas tradition, and is now one of the most loved and most often performed choral works in the Western music tradition.

*Messiah* is a reflection on the life of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah called the Christ. It is in three parts. Part One begins with prophecies from the Old Testament, moving to the birth of Jesus and the annunciation by the angels to the shepherds.

Part Two covers the Passion of Christ and ends with the mighty Hallelujah Chorus.

Part Three covers the Resurrection and the promise of everlasting life, ending with a prayer of thanks and a resounding Amen.

Local audiences usually have to travel to one of our capital cities to enjoy a performance of *Messiah*.

The Three Choirs Festival 2019 is an opportunity for you to enjoy a performance in the local area, by local singers and instrumentalists, all under the baton of wellknown local conductor, Paul Tasker.

We promise you an uplifting and joyful experience and we look forward to seeing you at one of the performances.