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I am pleased to write with regard to Ray Saunders' compositions which were performed by the Weston Choral Society under my direction in our concert on December 1st 2012. I selected four pieces from those which Ray presented which I felt provided good contrasts in mood, and interesting harmonies for the singers. This is music in a contemporary style with considerable folk influences. The harmonic writing is not in the traditional four part style and this has proved a valuable experience for the choir, but the result is musical, and Ray's writing is tuneful, original, has many subtleties of rhythm, and a wide range of contrasting styles.

If you look at the contributions from the choir and audience members on Ray's website you will find many complimentary and supportive comments, and I heartily support those comments. There are those in the choir who feel we should only be singing the traditional Choral Society repertoire and they have not contributed to the website. That is only to be expected in a large and very traditional SATB choir. Overall though, the majority have been in favour of Ray's music. I would point out though that they, and I, can only speak for the four pieces which we performed. I know that Ray has a lot more material and you will need to form your own opinions, choices, and make your own decisions.

If you are looking for new music in contemporary styles of choral writing for your choir (or other musical resources), then I feel that Ray's compositions may very well suit your needs.

Ray Willis. January 17th 2013