

Vivace
Chorus



WAR REQUIEM

Benjamin Britten

Brandenburg Sinfonia
Brandenburg Chamber Orchestra
Tiffin Boys' Choir
Members of Freiburg Bachchor
Vivace Chorus
Conductor:
Jeremy Backhouse

Tickets £12, £16 and £24
Tourist Information 01483 444334
Michael Taylor 07958 519 741
or purchase on our website
vivacechorus.org

Registered Charity No. 1026337

Saturday
17th Nov 2012

7.30 pm Guildford Cathedral
6.30pm Pre-concert talk



FUNDRAISING
IN SUPPORT OF
**HELP for
HEROES**

Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*

Written in 1962 (so this year marks its 50th anniversary), Britten's *War Requiem* was composed for the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral in May of that year, the old building having been destroyed in the Battle of Britain. It juxtaposes texts from the Latin Requiem Mass alongside poems by the First World War poet Wilfred Owen who was killed just one week before the end of the war, ('My subject is war, and the pity of war') in the most potent and dramatic fashion; the message is unashamedly anti-war and entirely reconciliatory. Performances are profound, moving, unforgettable. This huge work is scored for soprano, tenor and baritone soloists, chorus, boys' choir, organ, a full orchestra and a chamber orchestra.

A note from Vivace Chorus bass John Britten, Benjamin Britten's nephew: 'My Uncle Benjamin experienced World War 1 as a young child in much-bombed Lowestoft. Although his passionate pacifism will have been reinforced by the many wars of the 20th century, notably the Spanish Civil War and World War 2, I feel that the seeds of his attitudes and convictions were already being sown by what he saw and heard in his first five years of life. The *War Requiem* was perhaps his greatest effort to warn of the dangers and horrors of war.'

There will be a retiring collection in aid of 'Help for Heroes'.

Free pre-concert talk

The talk will be given by Dr Christopher Mark, senior lecturer in musicology at the University of Surrey, whose research is focused on 20th century English music. He has published book chapters, articles and reviews on Elgar, Britten, Vaughan Williams and Tippett, and has also written two books on Britten: *Early Benjamin Britten* was published in 1995 and the second, *Britten: An Extraordinary Life*, is due for publication in late 2012.

If you do not have a reserved concert seat, you will be able to save a seat in the unreserved area prior to the talk.

About the Vivace Chorus

The 150-strong Vivace Chorus has established a reputation for performing first-class concerts across a diverse range of musical repertoire and thrives under the exceptional leadership of our Musical Director, Jeremy Backhouse, who is supported by Francis Pott – not just a very fine rehearsal accompanist but a composer of international reputation and a concert pianist in his own right.

At home with the great choral works of Mahler, Brahms, Verdi, Bach and Elgar, the chorus also enjoys 21st century music having performed Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* and Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* as part of our Contemporary Choral Classics series. In 2009 the chorus commissioned a *Te Deum* by Will Todd, and in 2010 we made the first ever recording of this work.

Amongst our most recent successes have been a sell-out performance at the Royal Albert Hall, where we sang Mahler's Symphony No. 8 (the Symphony of a Thousand) and a sell out at G Live for 'A Night at the Opera'.

This summer we have been on a highly successful tour to Strasbourg, Freiburg and Heidelberg.

We welcome new members across all voice parts, and rehearse at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford on Monday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30. To find out more visit vivacechorus.org or follow us on Twitter and Facebook, or email our membership secretary at membership@vivacechorus.org



There is ramped access into the Cathedral via the west door, and to the Refectory Restaurant and toilet facilities from a clearly marked passage to the University beside the Cathedral Offices. A few wheelchairs are available within the Cathedral.

Dates for your diary

Sun 16 Dec 2012

7.00 pm

**The Mayor's
Christmas
Concert**

Holy Trinity Church
Guildford

Sat 26 Jan 2013

10.00 am

Come and Sing
Bach Mass in B minor
Normandy Village Hall
full details - see vivacechorus.org

Fri 4 January 2013

7.30 pm

Mozart
Requiem

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Sat 9 March 2013

7.30 pm

**An
Evening of Elgar**
The Music Makers
and
Julian Lloyd Webber
playing the
Cello Concerto
G Live

Sat 25 May 2013

7.30 pm

**Contemporary
Choral Classics**
Chilcott, Rutter, Todd
and Mealar
Guildford Cathedral

All information is correct on going to press.
Please check our website:
vivacechorus.org
in case of any last-minute changes.