

AXMINSTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Spring Concert: Brahms, A German Requiem

There was a big turnout on the second Tuesday in January for the first rehearsal of the New Year. Choir members are enjoying the new term with enthusiasm and expectation for the spring concert on April 28, when the Society will perform Brahms' German Requiem.

The German Requiem is Brahms' greatest and longest choral work. Its great originality still strikes us today with its selection of texts. Most Requiems use the standard Latin texts of the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead with the composer almost shaping the music to fit the preset text. Brahms, however, carefully chose passages from Luther's German translation of the Bible (which has a similar literary significance in the German-speaking world to the King James Version in English-speaking areas) to convey the precise sentiments he wanted and shows - *sublime musical reflection of his concern for the bereaved rather than for the soul of the dead. Time and again grief is followed by consolation, despair by solace. Comfort is a recurring theme.* The word "comfort" itself recurs in several movements

Brahms began to write the Requiem in 1865. The first performance in 1867 was conducted by the thirty four year old composer and was well received. There were six movements. A further movement was inserted later and became the fifth movement of the work as we now know it. It was this version when performed in 1869 in Leipzig that won Brahms general acceptance across Europe as a composer of significance. He was now able to demand five times as much for the Requiem as for any other work that he had sold before.

Although the Requiem was written originally for choir and orchestra, Brahms also scored a version for four hands (two pianists and one piano), so that the Requiem could be performed in churches and other smaller venues, rather than in the grand concert halls. Brahms had already demonstrated his fondness for the four handed format, he used this format for his celebrated *Liebeslieder*.

The concert will be conducted by music director Peter Parshall and the piano will be played by Andrew Millington, former director of music at Exeter Cathedral and Peter Lea-Cox, who has an established reputation in the South West as a keyboard continuo player and is our regular accompanist at rehearsals.

The Society welcomes back Soloists Harriet Mountford (soprano) and Julian Rippon (baritone) both of whom have sung with the Society on several occasions.

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Johannes Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem

On Saturday, 28th April 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

At the Minster, Axminster.

Tickets: £15.00 & £12.00

Your Details:

Mr Mrs Miss Ms

Contact Address:

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Tel. No..... E-mail.....

No. Of tickets required:

£15.00 £12.00 Total £.....

Collect tickets on door (Send cheque with form)

Or return this form (Plus SAE with cheque) to:

Mrs. R. Bulmer, The Barn, Ford Bridge, Honiton, Devon. EX14 4TR

Tel No: 01404 881838 E-mail: rvbulmer@btinternet.com

Please make cheque's payable to:

Axminster & District Choral Society

No details will be passed on. *Many thanks*

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