

HOWARD GOODALL

Eternal Light

A Requiem



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ACCOMPANIST: JENNY WATTIS

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HOWARD GOODALL – ETERNAL LIGHT – A REQUIEM

This piece was first performed in November 2008 by London Musicians at Sadlers Wells. It is designed as a choral-orchestral-dance piece but Sacred Wing are engaging just with the choral element – to the relief of all.

This is the most contemporary piece that Sacred Wing has performed so far and we were encouraged to sing it on the basis that the man who composed the theme tune for Blackadder and Mr Bean clearly knew a bit about tunes!

Howard Goodall composed it as a Requiem ‘that acknowledges the unbearable loss and emptiness that accompanies the death of loved ones, a loss that is not easily ameliorated with platitudes about the joy awaiting us in the afterlife.’ He says that it is ‘intended to provide solace to the grieving, reflecting on the words of the Latin Mass by juxtaposing them with poems in English.’

(For more details <http://www.eternallightrequiem.com/>)

1. Requiem: Kyrie: Close now thine eyes

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua. Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

(Give them eternal rest, Lord, and eternal light. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.)

Close now thine eyes and rest secure;
Thy soul is safe enough, thy body sure;
He that loves thee, he that keeps
And guards thee, never slumbers, never sleeps.
The smiling conscience in a sleeping breast
Has only peace, has only rest;
The music and the mirth of kings
Are all but very discords, when she sings;
Then close thine eyes and rest secure;
No sleep so sweet as thine, no rest so sure
(Francis Quarles 1592-1644)

2. Revelation: Factum est silentium

Factum est silentium in coelo et vidi septem illos angelos qui adstant in conspectu dei quibus datae sunt septem tubae. Et septem angeli qui habebant septem tubas preparaverunt se ut clangerent.

Primus igitur angelus claxit et facta est grandio et ignis mista sanguine projectaque sunt in terram et tertia pars arborum exusta est et omne gramen viride exustum.

Deinde secundus angelus claxit et quasi mons magnus, igne ardens, projectus est in mare factaque est tertia pars maris sanguis et mortua est tertia pars creaturum quae erant in mari animantia, dico et tertia pars navium periit.

Tum angelus tertius claxit et cecidit e coelo stella magna ardens velut lampas ceciditque in tertiam partem fluminum, et in fontes aquarum. Nomen autem stellae dicitur Absinthium versa est igitur

tertia pars aquarum in absinthium et multi homines mortui sunt ex aquis, quod amarae factae essent.

Deinde quartus angelus clancula et percussa est tertia pars solis et tertia pars lunae et tertia pars stellarum ita ut obscuraretur tertia pars eorum et diei non luceret pars tertia et noctis similiter.

Et vidi et audivi unum angelum volantem per medium coeli, dicentem voce magna 'Vae, vae, vae incolis terrae a reliquis sonis tubae trium illorum angelorum qui clangenti'. (Book of Revelation, Chapter 8)

Translation after the break!

3. Litany: Belief

I have to believe that you still exist Somewhere...

That you still watch me Sometimes...

That you still Love me Somehow.

I have to believe That life has meaning Somehow...

That I am useful here Sometimes...

That I make small differences Somewhere...

I have to believe That I need to stay here For sometime...

That all this teaches me Something...

So that I can meet you again Somewhere .

(Ann Thorp)

4. Hymn: Lead, kindly light

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,

Lead Thou me on!

The night is dark, and I am far from home—

Lead Thou me on!

Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see

The distant scene—one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou

Shouldst lead me on.

I loved to choose and see my path; but now,

Lead Thou me on!

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.
(John Henry Newman 1801-1890)

5. Lacrymosa: Do not stand at my grave and weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am in a thousand winds that blow,
I am the softly falling snow.
I am the gentle showers of rain,
I am the fields of ripening grain.
I am in the morning hush,
I am in the graceful rush
Of far-off birds in circling flight,
I am the starshine of the night.

Lacrymosa, dies illa (That sorrowful day)

I am in ev'ry flower that blooms,
I am in still and empty rooms.
I am the child that yearns to sing:
I am in each lovely thing.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there. I did not die.
(Mary Elizabeth Frye)

6. Dies Irae: In Flanders fields

Dies irae, dies illa, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde.
(That day, the day of wrath, calamity, and misery, that terrible and exceedingly bitter day.)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

(John McCrae 1872-1918)

7. Recordare: Drop, drop slow tears

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet
Which brought from Heaven
The news and Prince of Peace:
Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye
See sin, but through my tears.

(Phineas Fletcher 1580 – 1650)

Recordare, Jesu pie, quod sum causa tuae viae; ne me perdas illa die

(Remember, kind Jesus, my salvation caused your suffering; do not forsake me on that day.)

8. Revelation: Tum angelus tertius clanxit

Tum angelus tertius clanxit et cecidit e coelo stella magna ardens velut lampas ceciditque in tertiam partem fluminum, et in fontes aquarum. Nomen autem stellae dicitur Absinthium versa est igitur tertia pars aquarum in absinthium et multi homines mortui sunt ex aquis, quod amarae factae essent.

Deinde quartus angelus clanxit et percussa est tertia pars solis et tertia pars lunae et tertia pars stellarum ita ut obscuraretur tertia pars eorum et diei non luceret pars tertia et noctis similiter.

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9. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis, dona eis requiem

(Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us and grant them peace.)

10. In Paradisum: Lux aeterna

In paradisum deducant te angeli, in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres, et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem. Chorus angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem.

(May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs receive you in your coming, and may they guide you into the holy city, Jerusalem. May the chorus of angels receive you and with Lazarus once poor may you have eternal rest.)

Lux aeterna luceat eis cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam, dona eis, Domine.

(Let light eternal shine on them with thy saints forever, for thou art merciful. Rest eternal grant them, O Lord.)

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda quando coeli movendi sunt et terra.

(Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death, on that fearful day when the heavens and the earth are moved.)

Requiem aeternam, dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

(Give them eternal rest, Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them.)



Carols & Readings

We hope that you will stay for the second part of the evening and join us in what has now become a well-established Sacred Wing tradition.

After mince pies and coffee during the interval, we'll ask you to take your seats again. The lights will be dimmed, and a small group from the choir will sing the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* while the choir enters with candles. Please join in with the rest of the carol, and feel free to come forward and light your own candle.

We will continue with a sequence of readings and carols. You'll find the words for the more familiar carols in this programme – sing them with us and enjoy the experience of “making a joyful noise” alongside everybody else.

Once in Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from Heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Reading: The Lighting of Candles: Elizabeth Stuart. From 'Daring to Speak Love's Name'

Reading: Revelation 8 – the translation of the Latin we sang in the Eternal Light Requiem.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

(Choir only)

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessing of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him,
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Reading: BC:AD by U A Fanthorpe

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as one with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Reading: 12 Days of Christmas by Carol Ann Duffy

God Rest you Merry Gentlefolk

God rest you merry, gentlefolk
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found Him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and harmony
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.

Choir: The Lord is my Shepherd by Howard Goodall

Reading: Health & Safety – Seasonal Rules

Oh Come All Ye Faithful

Oh come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
Oh come ye, Oh come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Sacred Wing

Sacred Wing happens because some members of the lesbian and gay choir Gay Abandon and some members of All Hallows Church like to sing sacred choral music with a few friends. Membership changes from year to year but a core team, including musical director David Fligg, repetiteur Fiona Thompson and accompanist Jenny Wattis, gives continuity.

We are grateful to be able to rehearse and perform here at All Hallows, which aims to be an open, welcoming and inclusive church. (One year the then vicar, Ray Gaston, introduced us as the 'sacred wing of Gay Abandon'; it's not quite accurate, but we liked the name so much that it stuck.)

We haven't yet decided what we're singing next year, but keep an eye on our website www.sacredwing.org.uk, our FaceBook group, or the All Hallows announcements to see what we're up to and when.

If you'd like to get involved, just speak to any member of the choir or email info@sacredwing.org.uk.

- 1999 Gabriel Fauré: Requiem
- 2000 Antonio Vivaldi: Gloria
- 2001 George Frideric Handel: Zadok the Priest, highlights from
Messiah
- 2002 Gareth Valentine: Requiem for all those who have died with
AIDS
- 2003 Wolfgang Mozart: Requiem
- 2004 Gabriel Fauré: Requiem
- 2005 Karl Jenkins: The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace
- 2006 John Rutter: Requiem
- 2007 Antonio Vivaldi: Gloria
- 2008 George Frideric Handel: highlights from Messiah

To make our concerts more accessible, they are free. But please give generously on your way out if you can afford to do so – all the profits go to local charities.