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**BERLIOZ REQUIEM NEWSLETTER NO. 6**

**22nd JULY 2018**

Reply to Jos Gregson,

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Dear Singer

 This is a big thank you for taking part in our spectacular Berlioz Requiem performance last Saturday. To look out on a completely full nave was very inspirational, Adrian was happy with our performance and is prepared to work with us again which is great and the British Sinfonietta were quite amazing. I hope that you all have enjoyed the experience and are prepared to join us again on our next venture! My thanks to my excellent committee who have made my life a great deal easier over the past few months,

**COMMENTS**

There have been lots of positive comments, thank you and I give these below:-

*Many thanks for all your hard work organising this year’s BIG SING. I found it an amazing experience but realise just how much work you and your team put into making it all happen. THANK YOU!!! FN (TCS)*

*I should like to sing in the Mahler Workshop on 27th April 2019 at Crypt School Gloucester. Please send me a booking form. Thank you again for arranging the production of the wonderful performance of the Berlioz Requiem. RR (TCS)*

*Many thanks for your email, and thank you for putting your trust in the British Sinfonietta for such a large-scale event. We all enjoyed being a part of it, and I'm glad you were happy with the show we put on. Looking forward to hearing more about the Mahler, which sounds like another exciting project. DD (British Sinfonietta)*

*I realise that this is a little bit late but I wanted to say 'thank you'! Thank you for putting on and organising an absolutely fabulous concert last Saturday in Gloucester Cathedral. It was an amazing concert with outstanding musicians, wonderful singers and a brilliant conductor, of course. It was a real privilege to sing in it. AC (BCS)*

*Thank you so much for such a successful organisation of a very complex event! It was a truly memorable experience and I felt privileged to be able to take part, thank you. GB (BCS)*

*Thank you very much for everything that you did to make the Berlioz performance on Sat so successful. It was a great experience and I really enjoyed learning the work and taking part. Everything seemed to run so smoothly - many thanks to you and to your team for the hard work behind the scenes. I do hope that you were able to enjoy the concert. AW (GCS)*

*A huge thank you Jos on behalf of all at BCS, for the opportunity to sing in such a wonderful event last Saturday. Your meticulous planning resulted in a fantastic performance that will be remembered for years to come! CB (BCS Chairman)*

*What a tremendous achievement Saturday evening was. The music was beyond imagination. Thank you for masterminding the whole project. To hear such a wonderful work in such a magnificent setting was a truly memorable experience. It was a privilege to be part of the audience. I am sure that the huge number of performers were equally appreciative of the opportunity to be part of a once in a lifetime performance. RP (Audience)*

*I am still singing, humming and whistling the Berlioz Requiem two days later. It was a truly remarkable experience. Such was the emotion welling up in me on more than one occasion I am not sure how I managed to keep singing. Thank you so much to you and all of your team who worked so hard to make this possible, DD (BPC)*

*I thought that everything on Saturday was tremendous and a testament to your meticulous planning and sheer hard work.  Well done that you "pulled it off".  Will definitely have to put this down as one of the best musical experiences I have ever attended.  I hope Adrian was pleased too? MR (BBC)*

*May I add my huge thanks for last Saturday.  The Big Sing was most enjoyable and thrilling.  We are so fortunate to have been a part of it and your organisation was excellent as usual. We look forward to the Mahler next year.  Does that mean it will be the Big Sing in 2020? ME (TCS)*

*A big THANK YOU for all the work you put in behind the scenes, helping to make Saturday such a memorable occasion. I hope you were able to have a relaxing Sunday. This is the first SCBSG concert I’ve been involved with following attendance at the Berlioz workshop last year. I have made a note of the Mahler workshop date next year! VJ (BCS)*

*Thank you to you too for enabling this to happen.  Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to SGBSG. Great to work with you! AM (TCS)*

*Many thanks for this and thanks to you too, without whose vision, drive and efficiency it wouldn't have happened. Members of WCS loved the opportunity to take part in a performance that we would never have been able to stage on our own and I'm sure that all who took part enjoyed working with Adrian and singing in the Cathedral. I hope that you are now able to enjoy something of a break, richly deserved after all your hard work. CS (Rehearsal conductor, WCS)*

*This is just a brief thank you for your incredible organisation of the Big Sing on Saturday. It was such a privilege to be singing in such a wonderful event with lovely people, Adrian, the amazing orchestra and the building itself. My voice tells me that my choral singing days are numbered, after nearly sixty years of wonderful music making, so to be involved in something like Saturday's occasion is a memory that I will always cherish and thrill to. So many thanks again to you, and everyone else who worked so hard to make it possible, and, hopefully, I shall see you at some of Adrian's workshops in the future. SP (MCS)*

*Many, many thanks to you for all your hard work and organisation ---- and to the many other people involved in making Saturday an amazing experience. I hope to be able to take part in the Mahler workshop next year. In the fullness of time could you send me a booking form please. WC (SwCS)*

*Many thanks to you and your team for all the arrangements for the Berlioz, which culminated in a great concert.  It was good to have been able to sing this work again. Do keep me informed of any other ventures which the SCBSG embark on, and remember there’s a few of us in Oxford who are only too happy to be involved! JT (OBC)*

*I'm sure you're lying down in a darkened room, or on holiday, either of which you deserve.  Just to say thanks to you and everyone else for your organisation, and for giving us the opportunity to sing the GMDM.  I hope Adrian was pleased. Some friends I didn't know were coming emailed me to say they were blown away, never having heard the piece before, and thought the musicianship was fantastic (and they are quite discerning). AB (TewCS)*

*I should like to express my appreciation of your hard work and organisation regarding the production of the Berlioz Requiem on Saturday last. It was a privilege to be able to take part in the performance of such a stupendous work in a wonderful setting. I think it went very well, thank you again. HE (TCS)*

*I cannot express adequately in mere words how much I enjoyed the Requiem. I first heard an excerpt on Grand Central Station New York in 1970, when they had set up a booth demonstrating quadrophonic sound! I immediately bought the Munch record set and have always wanted to hear a live performance. Saturday was my first. My wife was absolutely terrified during the Tuba Mirum, but the performance was beyond my wildest dreams. The echoing acoustic of the cathedral helps.GH (Audience)*

*I wanted to say how much I enjoyed the whole process and performance of the Berlioz in such wonderful surroundings.  The whole organisation was so impressive and made a big difference. Many thanks and kind regards to you and all the team. FO(WFC)*

*I just wanted to thank you so much for all the work and organising you have done for the Berlioz. It was a thrilling experience and very much enjoyed, and the feed back has been so positive. My Husband said it was fabulous! RL (WCS)*

*Congratulations on the concert yesterday - it was a triumph! MP (TCS)*

*It was a great pleasure and privilege to be involved with SCBSG for the concert. My wife Frances had an enjoyable evening. Your hard work and calm unflappability was wot didit ! AW (SCS)*

*Many congratulations on all you must have done for last night.  It sounded AMAZING!  I can’t imagine how Gloucester Cathedral is still standing after all that magnificent sound. You will deserve a well earned rest. SD-S (Audience)*

*Congratulations to everyone concerned for the magnificent performance of the Berlioz.   It really was a triumph and we were so delighted to be there.  We know that all such events involve an immense amount of planning, hard work and dedication.  I know there were “things” to be done at the end of the evening too but when you finally arrived home we hope you enjoyed that bottle of wine you had promised yourselves. AB/MB (Audience)*

*Just to say a very big thank you for all the hard work put in, particularly by you but also by your team, in promoting , organising and then putting on the performance of the Requiem. It was a great experience, wonderful to sing in front of a full cathedral and the sound of those timps reverberating through the cathedral awe inspiring. I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy it. SG (GCS)*

*Just wanted to say a massive thank you. It was brilliant to sing with you plus all my guests loved the experience. Thank you once again and I hope to join in with your next workshop. AJ (HCS)*

*That was a fantastic event - several members of the audience approached me as I left the cathedral to say how much they enjoyed it. Many thanks for your efforts in making it happen. DQ (NCS)*

*Thank you so much for allowing me to join in this, despite being unable to attend the Saturday workshop. I enjoyed every minute, of rehearsals and concert. It was a wonderful opportunity to take part in such a big event. The organisation was superb: every last detail, right down to the portaloos! We were kept fully informed about everything. I am noting the date of the Mahler workshop, and hope to see you again there. AJ (NeCS)*

*I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed singing in the wonderful Concert last night and to thank you (and all your 'team') for putting so much effort into giving us the opportunity to take part in such a memorable event. This is the third 'Big Sing' I have done and they don't disappoint! I enjoyed all the rehearsals too and Adrian is such an inspiring and encouraging conductor - please pass on my thanks to him too. Best wishes and look forward to joining you for the next 'Sing' in April. GY (WCS)*

*Yesterday's Berlioz Concert  was one of the most  marvellous musical experiences of my  life I hope you  enjoyed it as much  as I did, despite all  the concerns of arranging such  a big event. It  is an  enormous credit to  you  and your team  that  the arrangements went so  well; everything from  the calendar of rehearsals, car  parking and even  the thoughtful  supply  of refreshments. As one of the more long standing members of the Wycliffe Choir, a big thankyou from all of us. PH (WCS)*

*How did you enjoy the concert? What a sound you made. From what I could see the audience loved it and came out of the cathedral reeling!! There was a lovely atmosphere before, during and after. A truly wonderful experience for all - audience and performers. AMcG (Cheltenham Festival)*

*A very special “thank you”, particularly to you but also to your team for making possible this performance of the Berlioz “Grande Messe des Morts” and giving us all this great experience. I feel this has taken us all to another level of music making and I want you to know how much I appreciate the opportunity. TS (TCS)*

**SCORE ERASURE**

My thanks to members of Thornbury Choral Society who took scores from me for erasing penciled notes as follows:-

Alison, Anita, Annis, David, Janet, Maggie, Margaret, Penelope and Penny

All fulfilled very promptly and efficiently, many thanks

**THE NEXT EVENT**

Adrian has said that he is happy to run a Workshop on Mahler’s 8th Symphony, the massive so-called “Symphony of a Thousand”. This will take place at The Crypt School., Gloucester **on Saturday April 27th 2019** and will hopefully lead to a full performance in 2020. Mahler’s 8th has no complications as we had with the Berlioz in that altos are altos, not Soprano 2s or Tenor 1s but is written throughout for double choir which will make the part rehearsals at Stonehouse and Alveston somewhat different in 2020. One venue will be for Choir 1 and the other for Choir 2. The part singing is identical in either choir with similar high notes so there is no reason to favour one choir over another regarding voice part.

The scores are also less specific, Adrian is happy for any available score to be used. I am arranging to borrow Universal Edition scores from Three Choirs Festival for the Workshop. I have a Serenissima score from last time that I sang the work which is ideal. Any score that we choose to recommend will have fully written out music so that no counting of bars is required. The third available score is the Kalmus. The Serenissima is currently available for £14.35 from eBay or £14.95 from Amazon. I will attempt to offer these in the booking form.

This is actually a case where it would be a very good idea to own your score and highlight your part as the page gets very complicated on occasion with up to 18 lines of music to choose from!

It will take a few days before I am able to send out the booking form as the Workshop needs to be costed but I hope to email everyone out a copy and also to post it on the website [www.sccg.info](http://www.sccg.info) .

Jos Gregson

Chairman

South Cotswold Big Sing Group