

About our programme

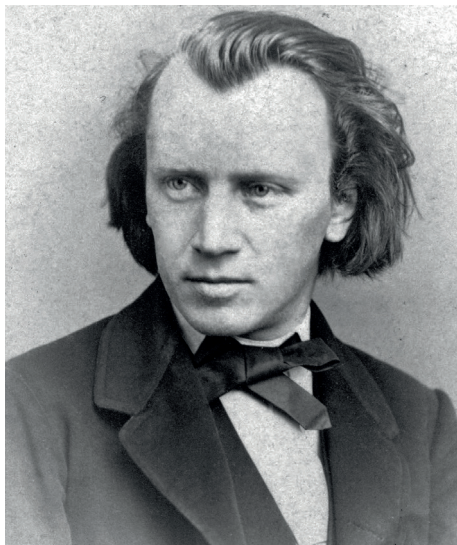
Requiem

Johannes Brahms (1833–97)

Brahms's Requiem is a virtually unique work in the choral repertoire, and one of his greatest achievements. Known in its original form as 'Ein Deutsches Requiem' ('A German Requiem'), this profoundly moving product of sorrow and rebellion had its origins in two deep personal losses for the young composer, that of his close friend and mentor Robert Schumann in 1856 and his own mother in 1865.

Although the young composer started formal work on the project in 1866, some of the material (especially the second movement) dates from 1854, after Schumann's first suicide attempt. However, although setting out as a fitting tribute to two very dear individuals, it is definitely not a requiem mass setting like those produced by Brahms's predecessors. The traditional requiem mass, with its protracted prayers for the souls of the dead and graphic depictions of the Day of Judgement and hell, used the text of the Catholic mass in Latin. Brahms was brought up as a (somewhat sceptical) Protestant German Lutheran and wanted his message of consolation on bereavement to be accessible to all his audience. He drew his text exclusively from the German Lutheran Bible and selected the passages personally to accord with his message. Brahms himself declared that his Requiem could equally be described as a mass "for humanity", as its message of consolation was intended to communicate directly with all his listeners.

In keeping with Brahms's wish that the



work should be in a language that the audience understands, Lyme Bay Chorale will be singing it in English today. However, this poses a problem: what version of the Bible should one use? One could choose the closest equivalent English text, which would perhaps be the 'Authorised' version of 1662 with a similar status and tone to Luther's Bible, but as Brahms's music was written to fit the word order and structure of that text, it could not possibly fit exactly to words in a different language. For this performance the choir is using a new edition that re-translates the entire work from the German, choosing words that best fit the rhythm and, as far as possible, the exact meaning of the German words in their original location (see the text transcription).

Programme notes by Ian and Kay Luckraft

Thank you for sharing this concert with us. We hope to see you at our other events this year: a fundraising workshop and performance on Saturday 30 July, Remembrance concert of Duruflé's Requiem on Sunday 13 November, and our Christmas concert on Sunday 11 December. Please visit our website (www.lymebaychorale.co.uk) nearer the time for more details.

Lyme Bay Chorale 2022

BRAHMS Requiem

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Alex Davies

SOLOISTS Chloe Stratta · David Fouracre

PIANO Andrew Millington · Aleks Szram

Sunday 3rd April at 4pm

St Michael's Church

Lyme Regis



www.lymebaychorale.co.uk

The company

Musical director	Alex Davies		
Piano	Andrew Millington Aleks Szram	Soloists	Chloe Stratta, soprano David Fouracre, baritone
LYME BAY CHORALE			
Soprano	Kate Buchanan, Mary Carpenter, Janet Clayton, Alison Davies, Cecilia Davies, Dymrna Duncan, Julia Eager, Fleur Gardner-Wray, Gilly King, Jeni Melia, Linda Nicholson, Amelia Parker, Heather Parker, Sudhi Salooja, Josie Walledge		
Alto	Julie-Anne Conway, Sally Crowther-Burnage, Kate Gunn, Hilary Highet, Kay Luckraft, Nicola Moore, Maya Pieris, Caroline Richmond, Maurene West, Caroline Whitaker		
Tenor	Les Baker, Nicholas Brown, Adrian Carpenter, Charles Gould, Ian Luckraft		
Bass	Malcolm Foster, David Fouracre, Adrian Hatfield, Graham Jones, Joss Kent, Andrew Nicholson, Oliver Parker, Eric Ritchie, Nigel Whitaker		

Andrew Millington, piano

Andrew was director of music at Exeter Cathedral from 1999 to 2015 and his work with the cathedral choir included broadcasts, recordings and overseas tours. He is now best known as an organ recitalist, having played in most major UK venues, and has made several recordings as an organ soloist. He is also a pianist and an active composer of church music.

Chloe Stratta, soprano

Chloe grew up in Lyme Regis and attended Colyton Grammar School. She has a first-class degree in music from the University of Manchester.

Chloe has performed in oratorio, opera and recitals across the country. She teaches singing, directs the Uplyme Gospel Singers, and is a co-founder of Grassroots Opera, which brings opera to intimate rural venues.

Aleks Szram, piano

Aleks studied at the former Trinity College of Music (now Trinity Laban Conservatoire), where he is now a teaching fellow. He specialises in performing music of the 20th and 21st centuries and has released several albums of contemporary repertoire. He has performed in more than 40 countries over six continents and has appeared on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and Channel 4.

David Fouracre, baritone

David read chemistry at university and worked in retail management before running a business in Colyton. He has been singing all his life, and has performed as a soloist with choirs from Dundee to Torquay. He is now in demand as a bass-baritone soloist throughout the South West and has a particular personal affection for 20th-century English song.

The programme

I Andante moderato e con espressione

Blest are they that sorrow bear, for to them shall be given comfort. (Matt.5:4)

They that sow lamenting shall reap a joyful harvest. Who goeth forth with weeping, and beareth precious seed for sowing, shall come home rejoicing and bring his good sheaves with him. (Ps. 126:5,6)

II Lento, alla marcia, Poco piu mosso, Tempo I, Un poco sostenuto, Allegro non troppo, Tranquillo

Behold all flesh is as the grass, and all the goodness of man is as the flower that fadeth. The grass is now withered and the flower thereof is fallen. (I Peter 1:24)

Now therefore be patient, my dear brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. See how the husbandman waiteth for the earth's precious fruit to ripen, and long he waiteth with patience, until the coming of morning rainfall and evening showers. (James 5:7)

But yet the Lord's word standeth for evermore. (I Peter 1:25)

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, unto Zion coming rejoicing. Unending gladness for ever on their heads shall be. Pleasure and gladness ever shall possess them, and grief and sorrow, they shall vanish. (Isaiah 35:10)

III Andante moderato

Lord, make me to know that the measure of my days is set; that my life hath an ending, and I must go hence. Surely, all my days here are but a span long to thee, and my whole life is but as naught to thee. Ah, as nothing every man living, he trusts himself but vainly. He walketh about as a shadow; he is disquieted and is greatly troubled in spirit; his riches, he knoweth not who shall gather them. Now Lord, wherein is my comfort? My hope is in thee. (Ps 39:4-7)

For the righteous souls are in the hand of God, and no more pain touches them now. (Wisd. Sol. 3:1)

Interval

IV Con moto moderato

How lovely are all thy dwellings fair, O Lord of hosts! For my soul now is yearning and longing sore for the blest courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for joy unto the living God. How blest are they that in thy house are dwelling; they give thee praise evermore. (Ps. 84:1,2,4)

V Lento

Ye now are sorrowful, but yet I will again behold you and then your hearts shall be joyful, and this your joyfulness no man taketh from you. (Jn. 16:22)

Now behold me: I had but for a little time labour and trouble to bear, and yet great comfort now I have found. (Ecclus. 51:27)

For I will comfort, like as a mother giveth comfort. (Isaiah 66:13)

VI Andante, Vivace

Here on earth have we no continuing home, rather we seek one to come. (Heb. 13:14)

Lo, I will show unto you a mystery: we shall not all slumber, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, the twinkling of an eye, at the sounding of the last trumpet. Then the trumpet shall be sounded, and the dead shall all be raised up incorruptible, and we shall all be changed. (I Cor. 15:51,52)

Then shall be fulfilled the word that is written thus: Now death is swallowed up in victory; Death, where is thy victory? Hades, where is thy sting? (I Cor. 15:54,55)

Lord thou art worthy to gather praise and honour and power, for it is thou hast all things created, and for thy will's sake they are and have their being, and were created. (Rev. 4:11)

VII Solennemente

Blessed are the dead, which in the Lord are sleeping from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, they may rest now from all their labours; their works shall follow after them. (Rev. 14:13)