



Music Festival 2018

RSCM
Requiem
John Rutter

Sunday 1st July, 2018

The RSCM supports a world-wide network of over 8,000 churches, schools and individuals. We are committed to achieving the best use of good music in worship – whatever the resources, whatever the style. Through education, training, publications, advice and encouragement, we aim to support church music today and to invest in church music for the future.

We have

7,100 active members and affiliates, and 1,100 supporting friends encouraged by 600 volunteers in the UK, Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and supported by a small central staff This is an open, life-long learning organization with involvement from people of every age, from under 8 to over 80 committed to enabling singing, encouraging choirs, nurturing skills, and developing understanding

What is the RSCM aiming to achieve?

The RSCM's mission is to enable the best use of music in Christian worship, church life, and in the wider community. Our objectives are to support our members through:

- practical and applied programmes of education and training
 - music-making at festivals and courses
 - music and training resources
 - information, advice and guidance
- to serve the churches by*
- encouraging music-making in general, and singing in particular
 - providing training in essential skills for church music
 - developing understanding of music in the church's ministry and worship
 - encouraging good music everywhere through fostering outreach from the churches into the community
 - engaging with young people in singing

How can you help the RSCM to do more?

- by becoming an affiliate (open to any church, school or group), individual member or friend
- by encouraging other churches, schools, groups, and individuals to join us
- by making a donation
- by remembering the RSCM in your will



Programme

Requiem - Rutter

INTERVAL

Zadok The Priest - Handel
Gabriel's Oboe - Marricone
Do Not Be Afraid - Stopford
Time to Say Goodbye – Quarantotto/Sartori
The Lord Bless You and Keep You - Rutter
Saint's on a Spree - Ogden
Halleluiah Chorus - Handel

Though he is perhaps best known for his carols and other short pieces, John Rutter also has a number of large-scale works for chorus and orchestra to his name. Most of these received their first performances in the United States, where Rutter is a frequent visitor, writing regularly for American choirs and conducting performances of his own music.

The *Requiem*, completed in 1985, does not adhere strictly to the conventional Catholic liturgy, but combines texts from the Requiem Mass and the Book of Common Prayer. This is by no means unusual; Fauré, Brahms and Duruflé all followed their own individual preferences when selecting appropriate verses to set.

The *Requiem* was first performed in its entirety on 13 October 1985 at the United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, conducted by the composer. Since then it has become a firm favourite with choirs and audiences all over the world. Though it necessarily has its dark moments, Rutter's *Requiem* is unmistakably optimistic in its message of hope and comfort, expressed through the beauty of the chosen texts and Rutter's uplifting music. It is not entirely surprising that after the tragic events of 9/11 it was this setting of the Requiem that was the preferred choice of music at the many memorial services which followed across the USA.

John Rutter's thoughts on his Requiem: "The *Requiem* was written in 1985 and dedicated to the memory of my father, who had died the previous year. In writing it, I was influenced and inspired by the example of Fauré. I doubt whether any specific musical resemblances can be traced, but I am sure that Fauré's Requiem crystallized my thoughts about the kind of Requiem I wanted to write: intimate rather than grandiose, contemplative and lyric rather than dramatic, and ultimately moving towards light rather than darkness – the "lux aeterna" of the closing text. The composition of the *Requiem* was interrupted by other commitments and by illness. For me it stands as a clear sign of humanity's quest for solace and light amidst the darkness and troubles of our age. André Gide said "art must bear a message of hope" – a message which is embedded in the age-old texts of the Requiem Mass, and also in the Burial Service, some of which I have interpolated into the structure of the work, using the incomparably resonant and glorious version from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer."

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ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH **Music Festival**

Saturday 30th June 7.30pm - St Nicholas' Singers

Vivaldi Magnificat - Pergolesi Magnificat

With Baroque orchestra and soloists Danielle Thomas and Clare Griffiths

Sunday 1st July 7.30pm – RSCM Combined Choirs

Rutter - Requiem

Directed by Geoff Williams

Monday 2nd July 7.30pm – Liverpool Male Voice Choir

Directed by Neil Kirkwood

Tuesday 3rd July 7.30pm – Sefton Youth Jazz Orchestra

Directed by Ged Harrison

Wednesday 4th July 4.00pm – St Nicholas School Choirs

Directed by Rachel Cunningham

(free admission)

Wednesday 4th July 7.30pm – Merchant Taylors' Girls School

Choirs, Orchestra and soloists directed by Stephen Newlove

Thursday 5th July 7.30pm – Michael Foy – Organ Recital

Traditional organ music as well as transcriptions of several well known pieces

Friday 6th July 7.30pm – Maghull Wind Orchestra

Directed by Phil Shotton

Saturday 7th July 7.30pm – Chamber Music

Performed by Kirsty Ligertwood, Edwin Paling and Rosalin Lazaroff

ONLY £5 PER CONCERT

Under 16's FREE

*Tickets available from Church, Harmonics Music & Pritchard's
Books or pay on the door*

Bridge Road, Blundellsands. L23 6SA

Reg charity: 1158819