





# Welcome from the Lord Mayor of Liverpool



It is my great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of The City of Liverpool to the awe-inspiring Liverpool Cathedral and this performance of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*.

Last week I had the privilege of representing the city at the first performance in Hannover's beautiful Kuppelsaal. I can assure you it was a powerful, moving and most memorable occasion and I am proud that the concerts have brought together two great UNESCO Cities of Music.

Liverpool 2018 marks the 10th Anniversary of Liverpool's memorable year as European Capital of Culture. It looks to the future with a year-long programme which celebrates the city's culture and creativity, including the Brittle Heart season of concerts and events, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War One.

In *War Requiem* Britten drew on the poems of World War One war poet Wilfred Owen fused with traditional Latin. Owen, who grew up in Birkenhead, was killed in action in 1918, aged 25.

*War Requiem* has become one of the great works of the 20th century, and of all British music, a timeless and profoundly moving exploration of man's inhumanity to man.

Britten intended the work as a gesture of reconciliation and in that spirit it was Andrew Manze, recently announced as the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor, and Principal Conductor of NDR Radiophilharmonie, who invited the orchestras and choristers of the two UNESCO Cities of Music to unite to mark this significant historical anniversary with Britten's universal work.

Tomorrow marks the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day and the end of World War One and I will represent the city by laying a wreath at the Cenotaph on St George's Hall Plateau. Tonight's concert is a fitting and moving tribute to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I would like to thank Andrew Manze who has united hundreds of musicians and choristers from Britain and Germany in two performances of Britten's masterpiece.

Please enjoy the concert.

**Councillor Christine Banks**  
**The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor of Liverpool**





Benjamin Britten

# WAR REQUIEM

Saturday 10 November 2018 7.30pm  
Liverpool Cathedral

**Patron** Her Majesty the Queen  
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**Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Board of Directors**  
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—  
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Programme edited by Ian Stephens

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Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra  
The CLASSIC *fm* Orchestra in North West England

**Andrew Manze** *conductor*  
**Susanne Bernhard** *soprano*  
**Ed Lyon** *tenor*  
**Benjamin Appl** *baritone*

**Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**

**NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover**

**Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir**  
*chorusmaster* Ian Tracey

**Knabenchor Hannover**  
*director* Jörg Breiding

**Choristers of Liverpool Cathedral**  
*director* Lee Ward

Please note that there is no interval in this concert

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