



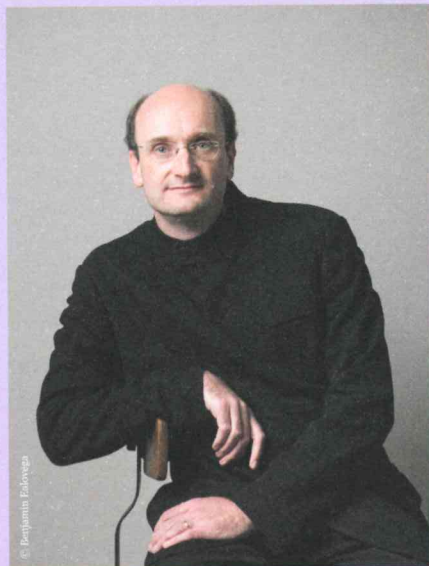
**Benjamin Britten**

# **War Requiem**

 **LIVERPOOL  
PHILHARMONIC**

**Concert Programme**  
Saturday 10 November 2018  
Liverpool Cathedral

## Foreword by Andrew Manze



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Over the last few years I have got to know the players and singers of Liverpool and Hannover very well and I find that they have a lot in common both as musicians and as warm, caring human beings. For me, uniting these great musical forces from Britain and Germany has profound symbolism as once hostile countries rehearsing and performing Britten's landmark *War Requiem* together in two UNESCO Cities of Music.

Both Wilfred Owen and Britten were pacifists, raging against man's inhumanity to man. Whilst war and conflict continues around us today, *War Requiem* resonates as powerfully as ever as a sign of reconciliation, bringing us together to hear great music that moves us and challenges us to think of the impacts of our actions at a time of remembrance. So I have a strong instinct that these concerts will be special, memorable events in the lives of all the participants and listeners.

**Andrew Manze**

**Principal Conductor, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover**

**Principal Guest Conductor, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**

Andrew Manze in rehearsal with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra



© Mark McNulty

# 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**

# Welcome from the Mayor of Hannover



These two UNESCO Cities of Music, Hannover and Liverpool, cultivate close and mutually enriching relations. Liverpool became part of the UNESCO City of Music network in December 2015, a year after Hannover joined, and has since then been an important and dedicated partner.

What a great pleasure it is to see how, in the sphere of the arts, these ties of friendship between Hannover and Liverpool are growing ever closer. They have been strengthened through the UNESCO Cities of Music network, and the concert performances of Britten's *War Requiem* undoubtedly represent one of the highlights in our partnership.

This performance of Britten's *War Requiem* is a milestone event that marks the realisation of a major bilateral project to commemorate the end of the First World War. I am very grateful to both the NDR Radiophilharmonie and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra for these superb concerts, held last week in Hannover and today in Liverpool.

Hannover and Britain can look back on a long and very special relationship. The Kingdom of Great Britain and the Electorate of Hannover were, for more than 120 years, joined by the personal union (1714-1837). We celebrated the 300th anniversary of this special German-British connection back in 2014.

With Britten's *War Requiem*, we are sharing in remembrance of the end of the First World War, of which 2018 marks the centenary. Here in Hannover we are grateful that, especially after the inhumanity of World War Two, the focus of the British people has been on reconciliation between former enemies. Two world wars cannot weaken this bond. And the two countries have

consistently cultivated shared values and raised high the banner of peace and understanding to the world.

In experiencing the *War Requiem* together tonight, we want to remember this by looking back, but also to look ahead to the future. Where political links look set to be severed by Brexit, we want to proactively – and jointly – send out a clear signal that we embrace community and commonality, and not the things that separate and isolate us. Culture connects.

And this is why it means so much to us, as part of this international network that the UNESCO Cities of Music represent, to have forged such a close relationship with Liverpool. Musically, Liverpool and Hannover have already achieved much together. Musical projects have been developed, with joint performances involving Hannover-based musicians in both of our cities, and with reciprocal visits a fixture between us. It was one of these visits that gave rise to the *War Requiem* project, in whose realization our UNESCO City of Music ambassador in Hannover has played a leading role together with Andrew Manze, Principal Conductor of the NDR Radiophilharmonie.

Andrew Manze, the Principal Conductor of the NDR Radiophilharmonie and Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, personifies the ties between our two Cities of Music. Both he and the NDR Radiophilharmonie are tremendous ambassadors for Hannover as a centre for music.

**Stefan Schostok**  
Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the City of Hannover

Benjamin Britten

# WAR REQUIEM

Saturday 10 November 2018 7.30pm  
Liverpool Cathedral

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Programme edited by Ian Stephens

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**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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