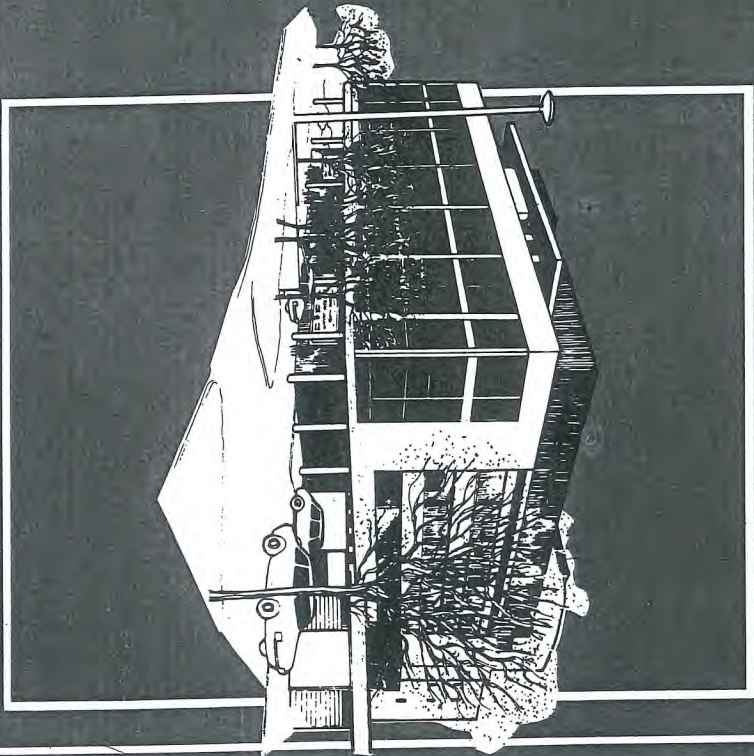




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# THE CONGRESS THEATRE



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SUNDAY MAY 17th 1987



*The Eastbourne Sinfonia*

Conductor: Graham Jones - Leader: Lisa Wignmore

## VERDI'S REQUIEM

HELEN CHARNOCK  
MARION DODD  
MICHAEL PRESTON ROBERTS  
TIMOTHY WOOLFORD

With singers from: Eastbourne Tudor Singers - Southbourne Choir  
Hastings Chamber Choir - Hailsham Choral Society  
Hamelsham Singers - Eastbourne College  
Seaford Choral Society - Heathfield Choral Society

Sponsored by

**EASTBOURNE**  
MUTUAL BUILDING SOCIETY



## The Eastbourne Sinfonia

The Eastbourne Sinfonia was founded in 1979 and gave its first concert in Eastbourne Town Hall in January 1980. Since then the orchestra, which numbers over 70 players, has sought to encourage musicians within the town and area, particularly the young.

The Choral concert, featuring the Eastbourne Tudor Singers and the Southbourne Choir, has been an annual event, but this year choirs from all over East Sussex have been invited to participate in this magnificent work.

The Sinfonia would like to express its gratitude to the Eastbourne Mutual Building Society for its generous financial support of this concert.

### SINFONIA OFFICERS

Patrons.....	His Grace, The Duke of Devonshire Jane Gow, John York
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Concert Manager.....	John Thornley
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### CONDUCTOR'S NOTES

# VERDI'S REQUIEM

Whilst differing creeds and philosophies may give explanations for death and suffering, reconciliation for the artist is achieved at a deep level by creation. Curiously, agnostics, such as Brahms, Berlioz and Verdi, have ultimately felt this as strongly as believers.

In 1840 Verdi's first wife and two children had died from disease. At this point, the deeply affected composer reacted strongly by stating that he would write no more, an attitude from which he was only finally dissuaded by his friend Merelli, the administrator at La Scala. However, the death of Rossini in 1869 gave birth to the unsuccessful idea of a symposial Requiem by Italian composers, but Verdi was the only composer to complete his section. In 1873 his close friend and compatriot, the writer and poet Alessandro Manzoni died. Verdi, in a letter to the authorities, now stated that the work he proposed to write sprang from "impulse, or rather, from a heartfelt necessity".

The Requiem is an immediate and highly personal work. Violent emotions oscillate beneath the surface of this calm, yet full-blooded Italian. Of the text's graphic and theatrical interpretation Hanslick observed: "Mourning and supplication, awe and faith; they speak here in language more passionate and individual than we are accustomed to hear in the Church".

The monument to a great man? Undoubtedly. Verdi's greatest opera? Perhaps. One of the emblems of a new national pride? Possibly. Yet ultimately the Requiem is more. Through his music Verdi spoke for a nation. Here he speaks for us all and to us all:

*"Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda".*

1. REQUIEM AND KYRIE

*Chorus and Quartet:*

REQUIEM aeternam dona eis,  
Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Te Decet Hymnus, Deus, in Sion et  
tibi redetur volum in Jerusalem.

Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis  
caro veniet.

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light  
perpetual shine upon them.

O God, a hymn is raised to Thee in Sion, and vows  
shall be paid to Thee in Jerusalem. Hear my  
prayer, to Thee shall all flesh come.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

2. DIES IRAE

*Chorus:*

DIES irae, dies illa,

solvet saeculum in favilla

teste David cum Sibylla

Quantus tremor est futurus,  
quando iudex est venturus,  
cuncta stricte discussurus!

That day, the day of wrath, shall consume the  
world in fire as David and the Sibyl told.

What terror will there be when the Judge shall  
come to pass impartial judgement on all!

*Chorus:*

Tuba mirum spargens sonum  
per sepulchra regionum  
coget omnes ante thronum.

*Solo Bass:*

Mors stupebit et natura,  
cum resurget creatura  
iudicanti responsura.

*Solo Mezzo:*

Liber scriptus proferetur  
in quo totum continetur,  
unde mundus iudicetur.

Judex ergo cum sedebit,  
quidquid latet, apparebit,  
nil inultum remanebit.

*Trio (Soprano, Mezzo, Tenor):*

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus,  
quem patronum rogaturus,  
cum vix justus sit securus?

*Quartet and Chorus:*

Rex tremendae majestatis,  
qui salvandos salvas gratis,  
Salva me, fons pietatis.

*Duet (Soprano, Mezzo):*

Recordare, Jesu pie,  
quod sum causa tuae viae;  
ne me perdas illa die.

The trumpet's miraculous sound spread  
throughout earth's graves shall summon all  
before His throne.

Death and Nature shall stand amazed when  
mortal creatures rise again to stand trial before  
the Judge.

The written record shall be brought forth in  
which the full account is rendered that  
judgement may be passed upon the world.

Therefore, when the Lord shall sit in judgement  
all that was hidden shall be revealed; nothing  
shall remain unavenged.

What shall I then in my anguish plead? Whom  
shall I ask to intercede when even the just almost  
lose hope?

Lord of majesty and might, who savest freely  
those who are to be saved, save me, O fountain  
of goodness.

Remember, good Jesus, that it was for me Thou  
camest upon earth, destroy me not upon that  
day.

Quaerens me sedisti lassus,  
redemisti crucem passus;  
tantum labor non sit cassus.

Juste iudex ultionis,  
donum fac remissionis  
ante diem rationis.

*Solo Tenor:*

Ingemisco tanquam reus,  
culpa rubet vultus meus;  
supplicanti parce, Deus.

Qui Mariam absolvisti,  
et latronem exaudisti,  
mihi quoque spem dedisti.

Preces meae non sunt dignae;  
sed tu bonus fac benigne  
ne perenni cremer igne.

Inter oves locum praesta,  
et ab haedis me sequestra,  
stans in parte dextra.

*Solo Bass:*

Coniunctis maledictus,  
flammis acribus addictis,  
voca me cum benedictis.

Oro supplex et acclinis;  
cor contritum quasi cinis;  
gere curam mei finis.

*Quartet and Chorus:*

Lacrimosa dies illa,  
Qua resurget ex favilla,  
iudicandus homo reus.  
huic ergo, parce, Deus.

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.  
Amen.

Seeing me Thou didst sit down weary; and didst  
suffer on the Cross to redeem me; let not all this  
labour be in vain.

Dispenser of just punishment, freely grant  
remission of my sins before the day of reckoning.

Conscious of my guilt I groan; I blush for my  
wrong-doing; have pity on me, Lord, I pray.

Thou didst pardon Mary Magdalene and hearst  
the robber's prayers; to me also hast Thou given  
hope.

My prayers are not worthy, but in Thy goodness  
show mercy that I may not burn in the everlasting  
fire.

Grant me a place among Thy sheep; separate me  
from the goats, and set me at Thy right hand.

When the wicked are confounded and  
consigned to searing flames, summon me  
among the blessed.

On my knees a suppliant I pray; my contrite heart  
is burnt like a fire to ashes; at my ending have  
regard for me.

Sorrowful that day when man shall rise again  
from dust, guilty man to suffer judgement! Then,  
God, have pity on him. Good Lord Jesus, grant  
them rest.  
Amen.

I N T E R V A L

3. OFFERTORIUM

*Quartet:*

DOMINE Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae,  
libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum  
de poenis inferni et de profundo  
lacu; libera eas de ore leonis, ne  
absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant  
in obscurum. Sed signifer sanctus  
Michael repraesentet eas in lucem  
sanctam, quam olim Abrahae  
promisisti et semini ejus.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, free the souls of  
all faithful departed from the torments of hell and  
from the bottomless pit. Deliver them from the  
faws of the lion, that hell may not devour them  
and that they may not fall into the abyss; but may  
holy Michael, bearing aloft his standard, lead  
them into the blessed light which of old Thou  
didst promise to Abraham and his seed.