Street Requiem Performance - London, September 2018

Here is the Background from Rebecca Clarke TCS Chair.

**Teddington Choral Society** and **Battersea Choral Society** have been invited to participate in a performance of Street Requiem (and other items) with Sing the World 2018 tour, at Central Hall, Westminster on Friday 28th September, 2018. They would be joining a touring choir of singers (Sing the World) from Australia (primarily) who will have performed the piece in Edinburgh and Manchester.

**Street Requiem (2014)** is a work written by Dr Jonathon Welch AM, Andy Payne and Kathleen McGuire. The complete ten-movement work was premiered at the Melbourne Recital Centre on the 7th June 2014. Jonathon Welch conceived of Street Requiem with the aim of bringing a sense of peace, remembrance and hope to communities struggling to come to terms with street violence, war and the loss of safety on our streets. It is a highly accessible, contemporary work including English, African and Persian lyrics alongside a modern setting of the traditional Latin texts. Street Requiem was originally intended for performance by community choirs. It can be performed with piano only accompaniment, but will be considerably enhanced by the additional instrumentation of a didgeridoo, string quartet and percussion. The work has been performed over 10 times in the USA as well as many times in Australia and in New Zealand. Performances are done for charity with all proceeds going to local charities for the homeless and needy.

Sing the World is an international Choral tour. The first tour was held in 2015 when singers traveled from Australia to Rome, Milan and London and in 2016 another tour took in Boston and Carnegie Hall, New York where they performed Street Requiem with famed mezzo-soprano Frederica Von Stade. The tours are led by Jonathon Welch.

2018 sees the third Sing the World tour under the baton of Jonathon Welch. The 2018 tour has singers tour Edinburgh (where they will perform at Usher Hall), Manchester (where they will perform at Manchester Cathedral) and culminating in a massed performance in London. To finish off the tour with a bang, Teddington Choral Society and Battersea Choral Society have been invited to join in this final performance. Singers who wish to be involved will be required to purchase the music which will be printed and bound for you at a cost of approximately £13. Jonathon Welch will be running an introductory rehearsal session on the 17th May in SW London. There will also be a combined rehearsal day at the beginning of September where Teddington and Battersea will join under the baton of Sam Evans (date and venue TBC). The individual choirs may spend some of their usual rehearsal time on the work if Sam sees fit. Sing the World (the tour) will be covering the cost of staging the performance and the hire of instrumentalists on the 28th September. They will also cover cost of promotion although the choirs are encouraged to still promote through their usual channels of social media and active promotion in the community. On the day of the performance (Friday 28th May) performers would be required from mid/late afternoon for sound checks and rehearsal with the performance beginning around 7:30pm.

We hope that most of Teddington Choral will decide to be involved in this new performance experience. There will be opportunities for us to perform other works in the first half of the programme and we will confirm those with singers as soon as they are decided. It allows us to perform somewhere different and exciting, it gives us the opportunity to collaborate with other singers and performers and we can be involved in a charity performance raising money for worthy charities (Streetwise Opera is one that is involved in London). There are opportunities for singers to join the performances in Manchester and/or Edinburgh and you are welcome to discuss this with Rebecca or with Jonathon on the 17th May. RC.

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