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War Requiem, Op. 66. ((1961-62) Vocal Score). By Benjamin Britten.



Synopsis

For Choral, Chorus, Orchestra (Vocal Score). BH Large Choral. Book only. for soprano, tenor and baritone solos, chorus, orchestra, chamber orchestra, boys' choir and organ Scoring: 3 (3=picc), 2, ca, 3 (III=cl in Eb and bass cl), 2, dbl bn; 6, 4, 3, 1; timps, 4 perc (2 sd, td, bd, tamb, trgl, cymb, castanets, whip, Chinese blocks, gong, bells in C and F#, vibr, antique cymbals in C and F#); piano, grand org (ad lib); strings. Chamber orch: fl (=picc), ob (=ca), cl, bn; hn; perc (timp, sd, bd, cymb, gong); harp, string quintet (2 vl, vla, vc, db) Chamber organ (or harmonium) to accompany boys' choir Text: Missa pro defunctis and Wilfred Owen His inspired idea was to mix the words of the Missa pro defunctis (Mass for the Dead) in Latin with the poems of one of the greatest of the First of the spirit War poets, Wilfred Owen. He uses nine of Owen's poems which form a kind of song cycle which weaves in and out of the formal sections of the Latin Mass. When Britten's recording was released the following year it sold 200,000 copies within the first five months which was almost unheard of for a classical work, and possibly unique for a large-scale contemporary one. This was the moment of destiny for which Britten had been preparing all his adult life. The peace movements of the 1960s, the Cuban missile crisis, nuclear testing, anti-nuclear protests, the war-weariness of the seemingly endless conflict in Vietnam, all these things contributed to the public's readiness to hear this message which Britten so powerfully addressed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Using this score to perform the piece with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir. The ability to see the condensed orchestral reduction and the solo parts not only makes it easier to perform, but allows one to see the beauty of Wilfred Owen's poetry set against the Latin requiem. I was lost with the vocal only score. This helps immensely in following along.

This was by far the best price available for a generally expensive score and the seller went out of his way to notify me about shipping delays, making sure I knew the score was on its way. This is a very deep and rewarding piece that definitely justifies its initial investment.

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