

Musical weekend of Remembrance and Reconciliation
10 and 11 November 2018

Cantores Dominicae will be marking the centenary of the ending of the First World War on November 10th and 11th of this year by a special weekend of choral events to be held in Canterbury Cathedral. Mutual remembrance and reconciliation will be the focus through this cooperative endeavour.

The events are hosted by local choir Cantores Dominicae who will be joined by a German choir, Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei from Kiel, Oyster Singers Whitstable and Canterbury Singers.

The weekend will be introduced by a short lunchtime concert at midday on Saturday 10th November, performed by Cantores Dominicae and Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei. This will include some movements from Brahms' German Requiem.

On Remembrance Sunday – November 11th – Cantores Dominicae will be joined by Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei, the Oyster Singers from Whitstable and the Canterbury Singers. This community of four choirs will perform a special evening service entitled *Remembrance & Reconciliation* composed by one of the Cathedral organists Adrian Bawtree, in Canterbury Cathedral at 6.00pm. More than 200 musicians from Britain and Germany will be taking part in this unique performance.

Remembrance and Reconciliation

Since 2016, writing and development has been undertaken in readiness for the November 2018 commemorations when the 11th day of the 11th month fall on Remembrance Sunday itself.

The first section of the piece charts the national mood and begins with a folksong-like lament from a small child asking his mother why poppies were being sold in town. The music then moves into a slow march, or dirge, using propaganda slogans and patriotic poems that were used to rally the troops and then becomes more wistful with moments of reflection set around sunset with thoughts turning to before battle. The final part of the first section represents what became known as the *Loss of Innocence*, as the national mood changed, understanding that war was far from going to be over by Christmas.

The second section is based on words written by Canon Christopher Irvine, former Canon Librarian at Canterbury Cathedral and focuses on *Steps to Reconciliation*. There are six steps in all and main musical themes from the first half of the piece are reused and developed. Since Cantores will be joined by the German choir this Remembrance Sunday, throughout the whole piece German material will also appear to give the piece a mutuality. Indeed, the opportunity to include music from the German *Day of Mourning* has provided a climactic focus that a composer could only dream of. The whole piece will end with the same sounds as were heard in England whilst the Armistice was signed, with people singing *O God our help in ages past* entwined with *Ist hatt' einen Kamaraden* whilst the church bells from the city will ring out.

All are welcome to the concert and to this special service in the Cathedral which will last approximately one hour.