

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

Saturday 7th December 1985
Bunbury Parish Church

Handel: MESSIAH

Saturday 21st December 1985
Nantwich Parish Church

CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

Saturday 22nd March 1986
Nantwich Parish Church

Bach: B MINOR MASS

Saturday 21st June 1986
Venue to be announced

Orff: CARMINA BURANA

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY IS SUPPORTED BY
NORTH WEST ARTS,
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC SOCIETIES AND
CREWE AND NANTWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cameo Printing of Nantwich

Nantwich Choral Society

BRAMMS REQUIEM

CATRIN LEY, soprano

BENJAMIN ODOM, baritone

PETER GOULD, organ

JOY ROBERTS, piano

conducted by
STEPHEN BUCKMAN



SPONSORED BY ROLLS ROYCE MOTORS

9th Nov. 1985.

SONG OF DESTINY (opus 54)

Johannes Brahms

Far in yon region of light,
where pleasures fail not,
Wander the spirits blest,
breathed on by airs of glory,
bright and divine,
Like a harp, when a master-hand wakes it from silence.
Free from care, like a babe that is sleeping,
Are they in heaven that dwell:
Pure and lowly as half-opened blossoms
In those fields of light they ever bloom;
And in bliss are their eyes still gazing
On clearness calm and eternal.
But man may not linger,
and nowhere finds he repose;
We stay not, but wander,
we grief-laden mortals,
Blindly, from one sad hour to another.
Like water from cliff unto cliff ever dropping.
Blindly at last do we pass away.

(Translated from the German of Friedrich Holderlin by the
Reverend J Troutbeck, DD)

VON EWIGER LIEBE (opus 43 No 1)
DIE MAINACHT (opus 43 No 1)
AN DIE NACHTIGAL (opus 46 No 4)

Catrin Ley, soprano
Joy Roberts, piano

FANTASIA AND FUGUE ON B.A.C.H.
Peter Gould, organ

INTERVAL

J Brahms

F Liszt

GERMAN REQUIEM (opus 45)

Johannes Brahms

1. Blessed are they that mourn
(Matthew 5 v.4; Psalm 126 vv.5.6)
2. All flesh doth perish as the grass
(1 Peter 1 vv.24.25; James 5 vv.7.8; Isaiah 35 v.10)
3. Lord, let me know mine end
(Psalm 39 vv.4-7; Wisdom 3 v.1)
4. How lovely are thy dwellings
(Psalm 84 vv.1.2.4)
5. Ye now have sorrow
(John 16 v.22; Ecclesiasticus 51 v.27; Isaiah 66 v.13)
6. For we have no abiding city
(Hewbrews 13 v.14; 1 Corinthians 15 vv.51.52.54.55;
Revelation 4 v.11)
7. Blessed are the dead
(Revelation 14 v.13)

Johannes Brahms was not a conventionally religious man. Indeed, there is no evidence that he was a Christian at all. It is obvious, however, that he derived a great deal of consolation from the words of Holy Scripture. Although the music of the GERMAN REQUIEM is sombre, each movement ends on a definite note of optimism.

The GERMAN REQUIEM has nothing in common with the ordinary, liturgical Requiem Mass of the Catholic Church. It has more in common with the Anglican Church's "Order for the Burial of the Dead". The texts were freely selected, by the composer, from the Bible and the Apocrypha. Because of its construction, the validity of calling the work a Requiem has been questioned by many purists. The GERMAN REQUIEM contains no prayer for the dead, it does not even mention Christ's name. Rather, it has to be viewed as an act of consolation for the living.

The deaths of both the composer Robert Schumann and Brahms's mother have been severally cited as the inspiration behind the GERMAN REQUIEM. The composer himself asserted he had "the whole of humanity in mind" when he set about creating the GERMAN REQUIEM.