

Parliament Choir



**SAINT MICHAEL'S SINGERS
DEUTSCHER CHOR LONDON
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS**

Conductors

SIMON OVER & PAUL LEDDINGTON WRIGHT

**SOUTHbANK
SINFONIA**

ESO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

CLAIRE RUTTER soprano

DANIEL NORMAN tenor

STEPHEN GADD baritone

BRITTEN WAR REQUIEM



WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

7.45pm (ends at approx. 9.15pm)

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

London SW1 9DQ

Tickets: £30, £25, £10

Available from Ticketmaster on 0844 847 1524

from 15 September 2010

www.ticketmaster.co.uk

Further information from The Parliament Choir

01728 452392 / 07980 748547 (email: parliamentchoir1@btinternet.com)



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Founded in 2000 for those – MPs, Peers and staff – who work in the Palace of Westminster, the Parliament Choir now has over 90 full members united across traditional party divides by the common love of choral singing.

The Parliament Choir has sung with many leading soloists including Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Felicity Lott and Dame Emma Kirkby and with some of the finest young singers at the beginning of their careers. It has performed in some of the country's most spectacular buildings, among them Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, York Minster and Coventry Cathedral.

2010 is the Parliament Choir's tenth anniversary and it is celebrating the year with three special events: in March there was a landmark concert in the historic Westminster Hall within the Palace of Westminster and in November there are two performances of Britten's *War Requiem*, one in Coventry Cathedral (on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the bombing of the cathedral) and one, three days later, in Westminster Cathedral.

www.parliamentchoir.org.uk



Southbank Sinfonia (SbS) is an orchestra of young professionals recently described by The Times as 'a dashing ensemble who play with exhilarating fizz, exactness and stamina'. SbS is firmly established as Britain's orchestral academy, providing the most talented music college graduates with a much-needed springboard into the profession.

SbS presents over 60 performances each year which includes concerts across the UK and Europe. The breadth of repertoire that is performed by SbS is particularly distinctive. From opera and ballet to Baroque, contemporary, core classical and light music - a truly versatile orchestra.

Alongside SbS's public performances, the orchestra works in conjunction with many leading performing arts organisations including the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

Southbank Sinfonia, under its Music Director Simon Over, has played for all the Parliament Choir's major concerts since 2002.

www.southbanksinfonia.co.uk

Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* was commissioned for the consecration of Coventry Cathedral on 30th May 1962 after the original fourteenth century structure was destroyed in a World War II bombing raid on the night of 14th November 1940.

Acclaimed as a masterpiece even before its first performance, the *War Requiem* takes the traditional Latin text and intersperses it with poetry by Wilfred Owen, killed a week before the end of World War I. The result is a hugely powerful work, which has considerable resonance today.