

# Marking friendship in mosaic and music



## Unveiling Tunsgate's twin town plaques

Dignitaries from Guildford and its twin town Freiburg got together on Saturday (October 31) to strengthen ties across the waters.

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The Freiburg delegation was welcomed to Guildford for the weekend visit with a dinner at the Guildhall on Friday evening, hosted by the mayor.

The cause of all the celebrations was the unveiling of two new plaques showing the town's crests underneath the arch at Tunsgate. The mosaics, which took a month to complete, are part of the borough council's environmental improvements programme. Pictured left are Freiburg's Burgermeister Thomas Landsberg (left) and the Mayor of Guildford, Tony

Thanking the Guildford civic hosts and members of the Guildford-Freiburg Association for their welcome, Burgermeister Landsberg stressed that links between people and places in Europe were even more important now at a time when relations between countries were being strained.

# Singers join forces to celebrate links

IT was an impressive sight: 225 singers grouped above and around the ranks of Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra musicians in the Civic Hall, in full voice.

The international language of music was given a German emphasis for Saturday's celebration concert of the Guildford/Freiburg link.

The Philharmonic Choir was swelled by the members of the Freiburger Bachchor, and the concert, given over exclusively to a performance of Brahms' *German Requiem*, was conducted by the Freiburg conductor Hans Michael Beurle, an acknowledged expert on Brahms' music.

Beurle brought with him not only strong ideas on how the requiem should be

played and sung, but also how the work should be staged. Singers were ranged around the orchestra and the result was a cohesive whole, both tonally and visually.

The discipline of both choirs was demonstrated in their response to Beurle's direction on dynamics and phrasing.

Two young German soloists joined the choirs: Annette Robbert sang with sensitivity, but baritone Klaus Hager stood out. Already an international prize winner, his voice shows enormous potential.

The concert was attended by joint civic delegations from Guildford and Freiburg.

Like all the season's concerts, this bore the stamp of Sir Charles Groves musician's instincts. It was he who decided, just months before his death, that the Brahms requiem should stand alone, with no accompanying work to lessen its impact.

The Freiburger Bachchor grew out from Theodor Egel's determination to perform the *St Matthew Passion* in Freiburg Cathedral on March 5 1944, using university students and Freiburg citizens. The choir flourished, its reputation spread, and in 1983 Egel handed it over to Beurle, professor of the Freiburg conservatoire.

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