



Vivace Chorus will perform Benjamin Britten's War Requiem.

Vivace sing Britten

VIVACE open their new season with a well-timed performance of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* at Guildford Cathedral on Saturday November 17.

It is 50 years since the first performance of this iconic work, composed to celebrate the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral destroyed by air raids in the Second World War.

This performance in the anniversary year, and so close to Armistice Day on November 11, will be especially significant.

Britten was a pacifist and he chose to set the war poems of Wilfred Owen with the words of the traditional Latin Mass.

The result is a piece of almost unimaginable poignancy. Owen's famous lines "My subject is War, and the pity of War..." aptly sums up this wonderful work.

War Requiem has special meaning for

Vivace. They have sung it many times, and have shared several performances with the choir from Guildford's twin town of Freiburg, so it is particularly appropriate that members of the Freiburger Bachchor are joining the Guildford group for this anniversary concert. In the 1990s Vivace Chorus performed this work with the Freiburger Bachchor in the Stadthalle in Freiburg.

It was a very moving occasion. John Britten, a Vivace Chorus bass, and Benjamin Britten's nephew, spoke to a reception after the concert, explaining that his uncle had requested a Russian soprano, an English tenor and a German baritone for the first performance, but had not envisaged that a British and a German chorus might join together in the future to rehearse and sing this great work.

Tickets at www.vivacechorus.org.