

Britten *War Requiem* – Notes

Mistake in score:

Mvt. 2 “Dies Irae,” 5 bars before rehearsal 24, tenor line should have “C” as second note (syllable “- ti”)

Clarification for the 2nd bar after rehearsal 55, the bass line low G-flat also applies to the upper octave pitch.

Mvt. 4. “Sanctus”:

Starting at rehearsal 87 through 89, and again 92 to 93, we are adjusting the voicing to accommodate the three-part division with the use of the most voices. We are adding voices to these lines, so the three parts will be taken by the following voices:

Soprano line – top part soprano 1, middle part soprano 2, bottom part alto 1.

Alto line – top part alto 1, middle part soprano 2, bottom part alto 2.

Tenor line – top part tenor 1, middle part alto 2, bottom part tenor 2.

This voice readjustment continues up to rehearsal 89, but there are two phrases in the alto line (6-10 after rehearsal 88) that are two-part, so soprano 2 tacet (don’t sing) the alto line in those two phrases. The same thing occurs for tenors (8 after 88 to 89). All voices return to their own parts pickup to 4 before 93 as well.

This voice adjustment means that some parts will move from staff to staff, leaving off one phrase to join the next line. The most important thing to sing is the entrances of each part.

In movement 6. “Libera Me” we will supplement vocal sections from rehearsal 116 to 118 as follows:

3 bars after 116 – soprano entrance. Add alto 1.

6 bars after 116 – alto entrance. Add soprano 2.

10 bars after 116 – bass entrance. Add tenor 2 (then tenors jump to tenor entrance).

12 bars after 116 – tenor entrance. Add bass 1 (jump from bass line to tenor entrance).

16 bars after 116 – alto entrance. Add soprano 2 and half of tenor 1.

13 bars before 117 – soprano entrance. Add alto 1.

12 bars before 117 – tenor entrance. Add alto 2.

7 bars before 117 – soprano entrance. Add alto 1.

2 bars before 117 – alto entrance. Add soprano 2.

4 bars after 117 – soprano entrance. Add alto 1.

7 bars after 117 – tenor entrance. Add bass 1.

11 bars after 117 – alto entrance. Add half of tenor 1.