

Berlioz Grande Messe des Morts is rarely performed because it requires such large forces that are usually beyond the ability of choral societies. An extremely large orchestra is required, including 12 tympani, vast arrays of horns and bassoons and, in addition, four brass bands.



The Chorus Master is Gavin Carr, whose energy and charisma make him a fast-rising star in the choral world. In August 2009 Gavin was approached by the renowned Bournemouth Symphony Chorus to become their new Chorus Master and began his work with them with the much lauded *Die Schöpfung*. Gavin is also the Chorus Master of the South West Festival Chorus, which gave the Chinese premieres of Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* in a highly successful tour to Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai in 2009. In February 2010 the South West Festival Chorus performed the Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts* in the Colston Hall, Bristol. Gavin, an alumnus of King's College Choir, Cambridge, also directs the celebrated Bristol Bach Choir, and the Bath Minerva Choir, and was associate conductor at the Wexford Festival for three seasons, making his debut with the Peter Brook *Carmen* in 2007. He has for many years also pursued a highly successful career as an opera and concert baritone, appearing at the ENO and with companies and festivals worldwide, most recently in Santiago, Chile and at the

Novaya Opera, Moscow in performances of Britten's *War Requiem*. His technical knowledge of singing and his great passion for and experience in the choral repertoire coupled with his natural good humour make his work with choruses across the UK vibrant, stimulating and uplifting experiences for all concerned.

The conductor for this spectacular concert will be the celebrated and dynamic founder of the Sussex Symphony Orchestra, **Mark Andrew James**.



Known for his great musical expertise and communication skills, Mark has become one of the most sought after conductors both in the UK and abroad, most notably in mainland Europe, the USA and the Russian Federation. Mark is known for his 'no nonsense' approach whilst keeping rehearsals stimulating and great fun and concerts unforgettable. Mark was described by one of his tutors, **Leonard Bernstein** as being 'an extraordinary musician' and a man who 'will delight audiences the world over'

A choir of about 150 voices is needed to make this festival concert a success and a further festival is planned for 2012 when there will be an opportunity to sing in a performance of *Britten's War Requiem*

For singers who would like to stay in Brighton please ask for details of special hotel rates in the area.



**BRIGHTON CENTRE
SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2011
7.30 PM**

BERLIOZ

Grande Messe des Morts

With

Sussex Symphony Orchestra

Gavin Carr – Chorus Master

Neil Jenkins – Tenor

Mark Andrew James – Conductor

www.SouthernFestivalChorus.co.uk
rosemary.pardey@sky.com

SOUTHERN FESTIVAL CHORUS

BERLIOZ GRANDE MESSE DES MORTS

BRIGHTON CONFERENCE CENTRE SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2011

This is an opportunity to perform one of the grandest works in the entire choral repertoire. Berlioz wrote this work for massed choirs and equally massive orchestra, including four off-stage brass bands, eight bassoons, twelve French horns and ten sets of timpani. This is a rare opportunity to take part in a performance of this work. The Chorus Master will be **Gavin Carr** – Chorus Master *Bournemouth Symphony Chorus*. The conductor will be **Mark Andrew James**, with the Sussex Symphony Orchestra.

The performance will include a full alto involvement.

Weekend One:

Hove Park School

Friday 11 th March	7.00 pm – 10.00 pm	Chorus rehearsal
Saturday 12 th March	10.00 am – 7.00 pm	Chorus rehearsal
Sunday 13 th March	10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Chorus rehearsal

Weekend 2

Hove Park School

Friday 18 th March	7.00pm – 10.00 pm	Chorus rehearsal
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Brighton Conference Centre

Saturday 19 th March	2.30 – 5.30 pm 7.30 pm	Final rehearsal Performance
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Price per person: £40 to include music hire and tea/coffee at rehearsals

SOUTHERN FESTIVAL CHORUS UK LTD

Musical director: Mark Andrew James

Secretary: Brian Cooper

Administrator: Rosemary Pardey

Email: rosemary.pardey@sky.co.uk

Website: www.SouthernFestivalChorus.co.uk

SOUTHERN FESTIVAL CHORUS

Berlioz Grande Messe des Morts

Application form

Please return completed Application form to:

Rosemary Pardey, Administrator, at

11 Barrowfield, Cuckfield, West Sussex. RH17 5ER

Name & Title:

Address:

..... Post code

Tel: Mobile

Email:

Have you sung this work before? Yes / No *delete as applicable*

Which choir(s) do you sing with?

Enrolment (tick boxes as applicable)

Enrol me as a singer to take part in the rehearsals and performance of Berlioz Grande Messe des Morts

I enclose a cheque for £40 payable to **SOUTHERN FESTIVAL CHORUS UK LTD**

I'm paying by Bank Transfer to details to come

We regret that we cannot accept payment by Debit or Credit cards and that fees are non refundable, except in exceptional circumstances.

Signed Date:

Post to: Administrator, Southern Festival Chorus,
11 Barrowfield, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5ER