

Gates_Elizabeth

Subject: FW: Music Chair/Choral Conductor Candidate Talk

From: Horowitz_Rebecca
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 11:04 AM
To: FACSTAFF
Subject: Music Chair/Choral Conductor Candidate Talk



Rhodes College

Department of Music

Music-Text Relationship in

War Requiem,

by Benjamin Britten

A talk by Dr. William M. Skoog

DATE: Wednesday, February 25, 2009

TIME: 4:00 pm

LOCATION: 100 Hassell Hall

Benjamin Britten wrote a musical monument against war in 1962, entitled *War Requiem*. In this work, he combined the liturgical text of the *Missa Pro Defunctis* (Mass for the Dead) with poetry of Wilfred Owen, a poet who witnessed first-hand the agonies of World War I, perishing one week before Armistice Day. Britten's work is no glorification of war; it was a testament against it, and an indictment against a church that would condone it. His music highlights and interconnects the two seemingly disparate texts in a way that engages the listener deeply, and - in a most personal way - brings home the atrocities of war through art. The way in which Britten has done this will be the focus of the presentation.

Dr. Skoog is Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the College of Musical Arts at Bowling Green State University. He has conducted at the Dvorak Festival in Prague and has served as Artistic Director/Conductor for the Lucerne Choral Festival in Switzerland. Portions of this paper were presented as part of the 2007 interdisciplinary conference on the Literature of War at the Durrell School in Corfu, Greece.

For more information please contact the Department of Music 901-843-3775.