

AN INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN

THE ARMED MAN –A MASS FOR PEACE 2017

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2017
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN
Neil Ferris - conductor



AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY!

... to work with a professional orchestra and artists and perform together in Worcester Cathedral.

This collaborative project for Worcestershire secondary schools will culminate in a public performance of **Karl Jenkins'** powerful and moving work in the context of Worcestershire's First World War (FWW) commemorations.

Full concert programme:

IRELAND: **Greater love hath no man**

ELGAR: **Cello Concerto** (*with outstanding young artist*)

JENKINS: **The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace**
- performance will include images from award-winning photojournalist, Michael St. Maur Sheil's, major exhibition:

Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace 14/18 www.fieldsofbattle1418.org

WHO IS IT FOR?

Students from years 9 – 13 may participate. (Those who will be leaving school in July 2017 may still take part *if* they can commit to the full rehearsal and concert day schedules.)

HOW IT WILL WORK

- teaching and learning to take place weekly in schools during Spring Term 2017 by schools' own music staff.
- schools will be provided with hire copies of vocal scores where required
- the MD will visit each participating school towards the end of the Spring Term to lead a rehearsal.
- three, compulsory half-day massed chorus rehearsals will be held in February, July & September (see additional note with Project Timetable below).
- **there is no cost to schools or students** 😊

Neil Ferris, Musical Director and concert conductor:

"I am really excited about coming to work with you on this incredible project. I know many will have had the privilege of being involved in similar projects in the past and I can't wait to get going in helping to produce what I am sure will be a memorable event. The joys of singing in a large chorus and being stirred by a large orchestra are thrills that can rarely be bettered in life!

I love working with young people and I'm looking forward to meeting you and your students when the project unfolds next year. I would like to offer you, and your colleagues in the other schools, the opportunity for a conducting workshop as part of CPD if that is something you would find useful in your teaching; I will be in touch about this in due course. In the meantime, I hope your school will want to participate in this special project and event for Worcestershire marking the centenary of the First World War."

www.neilferris.com



Trevor Jones, Strategic Music Education Manager, Severn Arts:

*"As Lead Organisation of the Worcestershire Music Education Hub, and consequently responsible for driving forward the delivery of the Government's National Plan for Music Education, we fully endorse and support the instigation of **The Armed Man** project and performance. The development of greater partnership working by key organisations in the provision of singing opportunities for children and young people across the county is resulting in an exciting vocal offer of which **The Armed Man 2017** initiative will be a significant part."* www.worcestershire.gov.uk/music

PROJECT TIMETABLE

Below is a timetable of project activity. **Please note that the three half-day massed rehearsals are compulsory:** this is essential for the quality of the final concert, and a requirement of all singers taking part. Those who do not meet the requirements will not be permitted to sing in the final performance unless special permission has been agreed with the organisers due to exceptional circumstances. It is essential that all students (and staff singers) can commit to the dates before signing up to take part.

DATE	ACTION REQUIRED
AUTUMN TERM 2016	
by Mon 21 November	Schools confirm their wish to participate in the project
by end of term	Schools advise anticipated numbers by voice part; whether teaching support is needed, and request number of (hired) vocal scores required..
by end of term	Schools needing teaching support have made arrangements for Spring Term teaching/learning via Anne Renshaw (AR)
SPRING TERM 2017	
Start of January	Hired vocal scores are delivered to schools; weekly rehearsals commence for the term
by end January	Schools return names list of singers by voice part (staff singers should not exceed one per six students singing.
Saturday 4 February	First compulsory half-day rehearsal : 10.00 – 13.00 (registration from 09.15) St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Pump Street, Worcester, WR1 2QT.
27-30 March	Conductor's visits to individual schools – schools to arrange precise date/time with AR/NF
SUMMER TERM 2017	
during the term	Schools run occasional revision rehearsals as required
Sunday 2 July	Second compulsory half-day rehearsal : 13.00 – 16.00 (registration from 12.15) St. Andrew's.
AUTUMN TERM 2017	
by 15 September	Schools confirm final names' lists by voice part for the concert programme
Saturday 16 September	Final compulsory half-day rehearsal : 10.00 – 13.00 (registration from 09.15) St. Andrew's
Saturday 30 September	Concert day: (all activity in Worcester Cathedral) Registration in the Chapter House: from 11.30 Chorus seating takes place in the cathedral: 12.10 Chorus + piano rehearsal/warm-up: 12.30 – 13.15 Full rehearsal with orchestra: 13.30 – 16.30 Chorus free between 16.30 and 19.00 – reassemble in the Chapter House Concert : 19.30

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR WORCESTER!

Support for the project is coming in from a number of local organisations including at this stage: the Bransford Trust, Severn Arts, the City Council, Worcestershire World War 100, and the University of Worcester.

It is hoped to broaden the interest and scope of the project through the involvement of **Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace**, and to create wider public interest through the special occasion of the FWW Centenary. Pre-event talks and a possible temporary exhibition in Worcester during September will herald the concert on Saturday 30 September.

Elements of the project and concert may be recorded for the archives thereby leaving a legacy for the county from the centenary events. Your students will have the opportunity to make their own contribution to the FWW commemorations through this unique, high quality project.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW

Check the dates

Complete the slip below and return to Mr Cobon or Miss Mckenzie

We have limited places and will operate on a first-come basis and hold a reserve list.



Name: _____ Tutor group _____

THE ARMED MAN –A MASS FOR PEACE 2017

Please complete and return to Mr Cobon or Miss Mckenzie.

I would like to take part in the **THE ARMED MAN –A MASS FOR PEACE 2017** and have checked availability for the following rehearsals

DATE	ACTION REQUIRED
Saturday 4 February	First compulsory half-day rehearsal : 10.00 – 13.00 (registration from 09.15) St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Pump Street, Worcester, WR1 2QT.
Sunday 2 July	Second compulsory half-day rehearsal : 13.00 – 16.00 (registration from 12.15) St. Andrew's.
Saturday 16 September	Final compulsory half-day rehearsal : 10.00 – 13.00 (registration from 09.15) St. Andrew's
Saturday 30 September	Concert day: (all activity in Worcester Cathedral) Registration in the Chapter House: from 11.30 Chorus seating takes place in the cathedral: 12.10 Chorus + piano rehearsal/warm-up: 12.30 – 13.15 Full rehearsal with orchestra: 13.30 – 16.30 Chorus free between 16.30 and 19.00 – reassemble in the Chapter House Concert : 19.30

Signed _____ **Student**

Signed _____ (Parent/guardian of) **Student**