

# MOZART REQUIEM

& AVE VERUM CORPUS

JAMES MACMILLAN  
SEVEN LAST WORDS  
FROM THE CROSS

& IN SPLENDORIBUS SANCTORUM

*"LAST WORDS"*

Ruby Hughes soprano  
Helen Sherman mezzo-soprano  
Andrew Tortise tenor  
Callum Thorpe baritone

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR  
SOUTHERN SINFONIA  
GRAHAM CALDBECK conductor



SATURDAY 27 JULY 2013  
WELLS CATHEDRAL  
at 7pm



*Crucifixion 2008 -  
the Craigie Aitchison Memorial Window  
at St Mary The Boltons, SW10.  
Image courtesy St Mary The Boltons*

TICKETS: £28, £25, £20, £18 (reserved), £14, £10 (unreserved)  
available from Taunton TIC Tel: 01823 336344 or book online:

[www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)

Two of **Mozart's** last and most famous compositions - the magnificent *Requiem* and the intimate motet *Ave verum corpus* - are set alongside beautiful and affecting works by **James MacMillan** - the motet *In splendoribus sanctorum* and what many consider to be his masterpiece - *Seven Last Words from the Cross*. This stimulating mix creates a satisfyingly rich programme.

The compelling story of Mozart's *Requiem* has everything: a strange commission from a courtly intermediary on behalf of the pretentious Count von Walsegg, so that he could pass it off as his own to commemorate the death of his wife; the young composer of genius making his first setting of the Requiem Mass, and finding an absolutely original voice to do so; his tragically early death at the age of 35, leaving the work unfinished. Mozart died after writing only eight bars of the *Lacrimosa*, poignantly describing 'that day of tears and mourning.' The Requiem was later completed by his contemporary, Süssmayer, using the composer's sketches.



The traditional text of the *Seven Last Words from the Cross* - a liturgical sequence of the last seven utterances by Christ - was set by James MacMillan in response to a 1993 BBC TV commission, and screened in seven nightly episodes during Holy Week in 1994. This dramatic work, scored for choir and string orchestra, possesses an intense spiritual power and combines a striking evocation of the context of Jesus's words with a sublime meditation upon them, additionally using texts from the Good Friday liturgy. References to plainsong and to Victoria, Gesualdo and Bach mingle with MacMillan's contemporary style in vivid music of desolate, dignified beauty and serenity.

MacMillan's motet *In splendoribus sanctorum* for solo trumpet and choir features expressive, flamboyant flourishes on the trumpet over a sequence of different versions of a traditional Christmas plainsong - exciting sounds ideally suited to the acoustic of Wells Cathedral.

Do come to hear **Somerset Chamber Choir**, a team of four brilliant **young soloists** - including a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, a YCAT singer and soloists with WNO and GTO - plus the sumptuous sounds of **Southern Sinfonia**, in this heart-stirring programme.

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**Available from Taunton TIC: 01823 336344 (Mon-Sat 9.30am - 4.30pm)**

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or from Wells Cathedral shop