

Songlines

Notes from the musical staff

Rest and requiem

This February, Summit's choir will be joining other singers from the university area and beyond in a performance of the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924). It's an opportunity for small choirs, such as ours, to be involved in singing a major work that we would be unable to do on our own. There will be rehearsals on three Sunday afternoons in February, and the performance is on Sunday February 24, at 3 pm, here at Summit. Save the date!

The Requiem is the name of the Roman Catholic service for the dead, and many composers have written settings of it over the centuries. Fauré's Requiem is quite distinctive and deservedly well loved. It is tender and calm rather than grandiose or monumental, reflecting Fauré's own beliefs.

Here's the composer in his own words:

"My Requiem is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."

"It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death, and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience. Perhaps I have also instinctively sought to escape from what is thought right and proper, after all the years of accompanying burial services on the organ! I know it all by heart. I wanted to write something different."

Particularly famous movements include the lovely 'Pie Jesu' (Sweet Jesus), sung by a soprano solo, the stirring 'Libera me' (free me), and 'In Paradisum' (In Paradise), a serene depiction of heaven, that ends the work.

If you know someone who might be interested in hearing this beautiful music, please invite them along on February 24. Admission is free, and a collection will be taken in support of Neighborhood Services Inc.

An open invitation to singers

Finally, a reminder that Summit's choir is always open to fresh faces and new blood. Please don't be shy of joining us. We sing a wide range of music, including contemporary praise songs, anthems, African American songs, and music from many other parts of the world. We would particularly welcome some more men!

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