

I'm still up in the stratosphere – we all are! Singing the War Requiem gave us all such a high it'll be a while before we get back to terra firma. The two concerts in Germany, especially the one in the Kreuzkirche in Dresden, and the two here in SA were quite simply out of this world experiences. The power of Britten's music – painting the horrors of war and hope for peace with his choice of tonality, rhythm and orchestration – the haunting poems by Wilfred Owen so beautifully sung by the soloists (Siyabonga and Andiswa both absolutely magnificent) all made for experiences never to be forgotten. The pinnacle of SCJ work! We're all grateful to Richard for giving us this opportunity.

The next Choir produced concert also has a war theme – or rather a 'let's never forget those who gave their lives so we can live in freedom' theme – it's the

Remembrance Concert
at the Linder Auditorium – Sunday 11th November @ 11:00.
Nicholas Nicolaidis – tenor,
the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra and
Richard on the podium

This concert will commemorate the signing of the WWI armistice – note the date and time! – on a railway siding in the forest of Compiègne, and is a tribute to all the men and women who lost their lives in the war. Peter Terry will be reading of WWI poetry and of course there will be plenty of well known tunes from the period plus much loved excerpts from both the Mozart and Faure Requiems. The SA Legion will be there to sell poppies – donations and the proceeds from the sales go to the very valuable work carried out by the Legion here in SA. We hope to see everyone sporting a poppy that day – and – if you are a decorated war veteran it would add an extra touch of poignancy if you would wear your medals on the day. Book now to be part of this special occasion.

And so we get to the end of the year – can you believe it? Hard on the heels of this concert comes:

Christmas with Richard C
at the Linder Auditorium –
Saturday 8th December @ 16:30 & Sunday 9th December @ 15:00
Siyabonga Maqungo – tenor
the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra and
Richard on the podium

The traditional family Christmas concert: All the wonderful old carols we love to sing – and some new ones! Some for you to sing together with the choir - and some for the choir to sing alone. Some with orchestra – some without. Some for orchestra alone!

This trusted format is so popular we have already sold a lot of tickets for these two concerts, so book now to avoid disappointment.

Booking for these concerts is through Debbie 082 853 9709 or scj@worldonline.co.za or me on 011 788 2340 or news@symphonychoirofjohannesburg.co.za as usual.

Please remember that booking is essential – we sometimes have to conjure up tickets at a moment's notice, we usually succeed but – Please remember to book - it makes securing your tickets so much easier.

We thank you once again for your generous support of the Choir. It is greatly appreciated!

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg,

Kate Pope