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## Foreword

The writing of a Requiem is a special challenge for any composer. The great Requiems of the past by composers such as Mozart, Verdi and Berlioz interpret the sacred Requiem text literally, offering prayers of salvation for the departed, whose souls are assumed to be in purgatory facing a terrible judgement. *Eternal Light: A Requiem* is, by contrast, intended to provide solace to the grieving, reflecting on the words of the Latin Mass by juxtaposing them with poems in English. For me, a modern Requiem is one that acknowledges the unbearable loss and emptiness that accompanies the death of loved ones, a loss that is not easily ameliorated with platitudes about the joy awaiting us in the afterlife. This, like Brahms', is a Requiem for the living, addressing their suffering and endurance, a Requiem focussing on the consequences of interrupted lives.

Howard Goodall, June 2008

*Eternal Light: A Requiem* was commissioned by London Musici (Artistic Director: Mark Stephenson) to celebrate its 20th anniversary. It was commissioned as both a choral-orchestral-dance piece for London Musici, The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and Rambert Dance Company (Artistic Director: Mark Baldwin) and as a choral-orchestral work.

London premiere of *Eternal Light: A Requiem*: 11 November 2008, Sadler's Wells with Rambert Dance Company, London Musici, The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, Finchley Children's Music Group & soloists, conducted by Paul Hoskins.

*Eternal Light: A Requiem* was first recorded in May 2008 by London Musici, The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, soloists Natasha Marsh, Alfie Boe and Christopher Maltman, conducted by Stephen Darlington, and is available on EMI Classics.

## Instrumentation

2 keyboards

Strings

Harp (optional)

The score is in C

Full score and orchestral parts available on hire from the publishers.

A reduced version for piano, harp and (3-manual+pedals) organ is available on special sale from the publishers ([hire@fabermusic.com](mailto:hire@fabermusic.com)).

*Eternal Light: A Requiem* may be performed with either two or three soloists (the tenor part being optional).

Total duration: c.40 minutes

59

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e -

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e -

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e -

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e -

*mf*

64

-le - i - son.

*mp*

e - le - i - son.

-le - i - son.

*mp*

e - le - i - son.

69

*p*

♩ = 80

### 3. Litany: Belief

Ann Thorp

Howard Goodall

♩ = 46

Solo\*

*p*

I

Piano

*pp*

7

have to be - lieve That you still ex - ist Some - where... That

[S.A.T.B. 2nd time only]

*pp*

Ah

Some - - - where

*pp*

11

you still watch me Some - times, — That you still love me Some - how. —

Ah

Ah

Some - -

\* Can be sung by Soprano, Tenor or Baritone soloist, but should be consistent throughout the movement.