

MAY 2023

B R E V E

The Kettle Moraine Symphony Newsletter

Def: Brève, brev 1. (music) a note having the time value of two whole notes 2. (gen) brief, short



SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 3PM
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
FIELDHOUSE

Listen in wonder as 6 choirs and a whole symphony of musicians perform this beautiful work in a moving experience you won't soon forget!

Symphony News:



Symphony Storytime

Did you know that we have "Symphony Storytimes" throughout the season at the West Bend Memorial and Kewaskum Public Libraries? Like us on Facebook to stay in the know about upcoming library events.

We're on the radio!

[Listen to this interview of Maestro Hynson and Dr. Gibeau](#) on "15 Minutes with Fuzz" as they discuss the Kettle Moraine Symphony's mission and vision, Brahms, and everything it takes to put together a concert of this magnitude.



Video from "Champions of Change"

Thank you Volunteer Center of Washington County for having us at Champions of Change at the Bend Theater! Check out [this video](#) captured by sound tech Joe Polizzi.



Pre-Concert Lecture with Dr. Gibeau

Come 45 minutes early (2:15pm) to the concert on May 21st to learn all about the music- the talk will explore musical symmetry and the ways Brahms incorporates a three note motive in each movement of the Requiem.

Click here and buy your tickets today!

Celebrating Life and Humanity through Brahms' Requiem

In 1865, Brahms' mother died, and he was unable to say goodbye. In anguish, he set to work composing his biggest work, A German Requiem. Unlike the traditional Latin requiems which are more liturgical in nature and focused on the Divine, Brahms'

is deeply rooted in humanity. While a Latin requiem would traditionally open with a prayer for the dead, Brahms instead opens with "Blessed are those who mourn," from the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount and later *ends* with a blessing for the dead. From the very start, the focus is on the living- whom the dead have left behind to mourn. Written in the German language as opposed to Latin, it was more accessible for listeners- and Brahms himself even said that if he could have written it for "humanity" (in all languages, not just for Germans) he would have.



Throughout the work, the listener teeters on the edge of anxiety and peace, between emotions of tragedy and comfort as the music moves from one movement to the next. For those of us who have experienced the loss of a loved one, the disconcertedness of experiencing these conflicting feelings is spot on. What is more innately human than conflicting emotions, especially when experienced in the thin place that exists between this life and the next?

(As a side note: I just happened to read [this article](#) from CNN recently, and I find it relative to this train of thought...go ahead and take a look if you feel like it)

Although not in the original debut, the heartachingly comforting, and very personal to Brahms, fifth movement for soprano and chorus contains the biblical text: "You now have sorrow; but I shall see you again and your heart shall rejoice and your joy no one shall take from you... I will console you, as one is consoled by his mother."

(Oh man, my tender mama heart can barely take it! I'll be the musician wiping away tears between page turns during the performance.)

This Sunday is Mother's Day, and one week later the Kettle Moraine Symphony along with the Bel Canto Chorus, Moraine Chorus, and four (yes FOUR) area high school choirs will perform in an ultimate collaboration of collaborations to bring you this beautiful work. So this Mother's Day, buy your mom some flowers, [buy her some concert tickets](#), and celebrate LIFE with Brahms' Requiem.

We'll see you there,

Hannah

Support a Local Treasure

DONATE NOW

Your donation helps KMS pay its players a modest stipend, and supports our youth outreach programs, our music director, venue costs, and

general operating expenses. Thank you!

Moraine Symphony, Inc.

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