

# Peace of Versailles



TREATY OF PEACE  
BETWEEN THE  
ALLIED  
AND  
ASSOCIATED POWERS  
AND  
GERMANY  
AND THE  
TREATY  
BETWEEN  
FRANCE AND  
GREAT BRITAIN

**Francis Poulenc**  
**Ildebrando Pizzetti**

*Figure humaine*  
*Messa da Requiem*

*and works by Milhaud, Ravel and Sandström*

*conducted by*  
*with*

**John Gibbons**  
**Hattie Jolly – flute**

**TICKETS  
& BOOKING**

£15 (£5 child/student)

tel **07570 454744**; email [tickets@stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk](mailto:tickets@stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk);

online [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk), or via link from our own website

**[www.stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk)**

St Albans Chamber Choir is a registered charity no. 280876

“Je suis  
né pour te  
connaître ...  
Liberté”

**Paul Eluard  
(1942)**

“Scatter the  
seeds of peace  
over our  
land”

**Seán  
McLaughlin  
(1998)**



@SACChoir



The signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919 brought the First World War to an end. To commemorate the 100th anniversary, we present a programme of music evoking mankind's longing for a future lived in peace and freedom.

Francis Poulenc's masterpiece **Figure humaine** (1943) was written during the German occupation of France in the Second World War. Dedicated to Pablo Picasso, it sets texts by the surrealist poet Paul Eluard which express the 'suffering of the people reduced to silence' and the hope of the final 'triumph of freedom over tyranny'.

The **Messa da Requiem** (1922) by the Italian composer *Ildebrando Pizzetti* was a commission to commemorate King Umberto I, assassinated by an anarchist in 1900, and was written following the death of the composer's wife. It expresses his 'need for the hope of peace'.

*Darius Milhaud's* **Cantate de la Paix** (1937) is a tribute to the French statesman Aristide Briand, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his part in negotiating the Locarno Treaties in 1925 following the Treaty of Versailles.

*Maurice Ravel* wrote the tender song **Trois Beaux Oiseaux du Paradis** (*Three beautiful birds-of-paradise*) in 1914 shortly after the outbreak of the First World War. It presents a haunting image of three birds in the colours of the French flag bringing the news of a soldier's death to the girl waiting for him at home.

In **Across the Bridge of Hope**, Swedish composer *Jan Sandström* sets a poem by twelve-year-old Seán McLaughlin, one of the 29 victims of the terrorist car bomb in Omagh in Northern Ireland in August 1998. Written after the Good Friday Agreement the previous April, the poem became the voice of all young victims in a world of war and violence and for their universal longing and hope for peace.