Britten's War Requiem: His Most Influential Work: Annotated Bibliography

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Britten’s War Requiem: His Most Influential Work

Annotated Bibliography


This dictionary entry will give a general overview into the life and compositions of Benjamin Britten which I will use to elaborate on how his life influenced his compositions, with specific regards to his War Requiem and how it is his most influential work.

Dissertations and theses:


This dissertation will delve into Benjamin Britten’s sense of nationalism which led him to compose the War Requiem. This sense of nationalism gives way to his being inspired to prepare something that not only gives a sense of horror as to what happened in the war, but also eludes to his want for peace and rebuilding.


This dissertation will help me to delve into the poems used by Britten and how he uses them in the War Requiem to show first hand the horrors of the War.


This dissertation will help me in looking at one of Britten’s other major works,
and help to contrast its influence to his War Requiem.

Patricia Brace, “A Rhetorical Study of Coventry Cathedral and Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem" Revealing the Tropes of Metonymy, Metaphor and Irony” (1993, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses).

This dissertation will give historical insight into the reason behind Britten’s Composition of the War Requiem, giving me further knowledge of his influences and how the Requiem influenced him and the surrounding culture after its conception.


This dissertation will help me to delve more into Britten’s pacifist ideology, and how this influenced his composition of the War Requiem.


This dissertation will give further insight into what influenced Owen in writing his poetry and thus why Britten used them in his War Requiem.


This article will give historical insight into to rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral and how this influenced Britten’s Composition of the War Requiem.


This article will help us delve into one of Britten’s other works. We will look at the music itself as well as how this work influenced other works and music as a whole.

This article will help me understand what Britten’s early influences were and how these came to fruition in his composing of the War Requiem.


This score will help us to analyze the actual music of the War Requiem, and inquire as to why it is Britten’s most well known and most performed work. It will also help us connect the previous historical readings and apply them to the work itself.


This book will give us more insight into Britten’s sense of pacificity and his want for peace, and how he used these thoughts to compose his greatest work.