

Titanic Requiem reviews

From the audience

At first, I thought the concert was shaping up to be a let down. A lady came on stage announcing that the hologram effects weren't working due to a technical issue. She then vanished, leaving the poor conductor (of the first part) to cover for her to introduce the pieces of music that were being played. Meanwhile, the percussionist looked like he'd have rather been in bed with a cup of Lemsip or similar! Worst of all, the hall was half empty at the start.

But gradually, people arrived (not really up with classical concert protocol walking in late!). And, as we approached the interval the hall was full and became absolutely boiling hot!

The lady who sat next to me had only come to see Robin Gibb. She wasn't even a Bee Gees fan but wanted to see him in a small hall. How disappointed she was when I told her he wouldn't be there.

When the second half (i.e. the Requiem) started, the atmosphere was immediately electric. Of course, this was what people had come to see. The orchestra was bigger and louder. The choir were exactly as on the CD. Best of all, the only bit of the requiem that I didn't like (the end of the immigrants' song) was changed, with the choir joining in. This was a vast improvement. Afterwards, I asked Cliff Masterson (arranger and conductor) why the change. He said that RJ had had a last minute moment of inspiration.

As the work continued, I could sense deeper emotional involvement. The afore mentioned lady next to me, gave a few "Wows". Suckling and Jones were great in their solos. The piano solo, "reflections", played by the first poor conductor above, was sensational. Then Robin's song, of course played from the CD - probably not a dry eye in the house - ahead of the rousing finale. The thing about the Titanic Requiem is that it's a very depressing work. But that's exactly what it's supposed to do. So, it does what all good music should do, which is to hit the emotional senses.

This was a super classical concert. Had the one missing ingredient been there, it might have been one of the best musical evenings of my life. As it was, I left feeling emotionally drained....for two similar but different reasons: one being purposeful; the other being just so very, very sad. I didn't see Barry and Linda - they left very punctually (they always do) to avoid the crowds, but I am reliably informed that they were there with Dwina. I saw Adam and Steven. I also spoke at length to Spencer afterwards. All I can say is that he gave me an impression that he's a really lovely man.

(Robin S.)

also read:

- <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/music/classicalconcertreviews/9198105/Titanic-Requiem-Central-Hall-Westminster-review.html>

- <http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/liverpool-news/breaking-news/2012/04/12/gibb-fighting-health-problems-son-100252-30744612/>

videos:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQU1UnsIgoA&feature=share>

R. J. Gibb introduces the World Premier performance of the Titanic Requiem at the Westminster Central Hall in London, 10 April 2012.

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_-PHhQVx-E&feature=relmfu

Robin Gibb's son RJ receives a standing ovation following the World Premier Performance of his and his father's Titanic Requiem.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0HF2EFJIL8&feature=related>

Don't Cry Alone, from the album: The Titanic Requiem

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-17688099>

R.J. tells about the TR on BBC

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