



Spin a Tale Requiem



Constella OperaBallet

Constella are the world's only company dedicated to opera-ballet, and create cutting-edge, interdisciplinary performances for modern audiences. Founded in 2011, we perform in theatres, at site-specific locations, and broadcast to the world by embracing the possibilities of virtual performance. Described by The Times as 'imaginative and beautifully shaped', Constella's work has been seen across the UK and has been featured at the Royal Chelsea Flower Show and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Gramophone Magazine highlighted Constella as one of the 'inspirational creative initiative keeping music alive in 2020' for Connecting Stars, a virtual performance programme for care homes, providing support for the elderly and paid opportunities for performers during the Covid pandemic. www.constella.org.uk

Spin a Tale

Spin a Tale is Constella OperaBallet's virtual and participatory programme celebrating the heritage of Darley Abbey, commissioned by the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. From February – April there will be a series of online and interactive opportunities involving song, dance, theatre and design and we are inviting the community to take part!

These activities will culminate in a vibrant collection of video recordings made by Constella's internationally renowned artists in collaboration with the local community. On the 8th May 2021, in partnership with Darley Abbey Day 2021, the videos will be released to the public alongside a trail of oversized bobbins and bunting made by local residents, threaded throughout the village.

Over the coming months there will be numerous opportunities to get involved with *Spin a Tale*. Our first event is *Requiem* and there will be more opportunities to be announced as we get closer to the 8th of May. Join our mailing list here <https://www.constella.org.uk/contact> and keep an eye on our social media platforms for announcements to find out more.

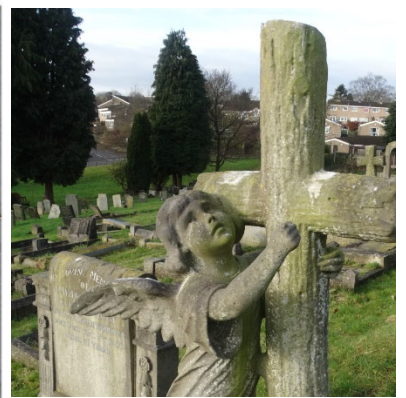
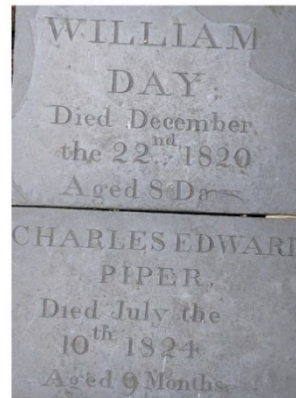
Spin a Tale Partners

Requiem

At Darley Abbey Church, there are a considerable number of memorial paving stones which have been laid in memory of young infants who died. Today, these stones act as a solemn reminder of the high infant mortality when the cotton mills were active in the 19th century.

It can be easy to overlook these memorials so we will be paying our tribute by capturing some filmed footage of the stones to be accompanied by the Introit from Faure's Requiem.

We are inviting singers to take part in this video, by submitting audio recordings made from home in self-isolation.



Recording Process

The information below describes the process for recording your part for the introit from Faure's Requiem using a video learning track. Once all recordings have been collected, they will be sewn together in a video and released to the public online on the 8th May 2021. The recording will not be used for commercial purposes. You are only required to submit audio recordings, however if it is easier, we can accept video submissions and we will extract the audio.

Essential Equipment

You will need the follow equipment to make your recording. If you do not have access this equipment, you could ask local, fellow musicians if it might be possible to borrow theirs. Please make sure that you adhere to social distancing rules if you do borrow equipment.

- **Recording device**
This could be a phone, computer, tablet or video camera or audio recording device.
- **Playback device**
In addition to the recording device, you will need a device to play the learning track from. This could be the same device you use for the recording, for example, you can use playback and record function on a computer simultaneously or you may prefer to use separate devices for each requirement.
- **Headphones / Earphones**
To ensure that you are in time and in tune with everyone else you will need to sing-along to the learning track. The learning track must be played from headphones/earphones otherwise it will be heard in your recording.

Music

- Attached to this email, is the score for the requiem.
- There are some annotations on the score to help with your recording. In particular, please note that the final note will need to be held for 4 beats.
- Record the part that you would usually sing and if you like, you may record more parts, e.g. tenor 1 & 2. All recordings will be equally mixed for the final edit.

For the Latin diction, please use Italian pronunciation. If you are not sure about this, simply mimic the sounds you see and hear in the learning track. In the score, you will see some annotated notes to guide your interpretation.

Prepare

- Get to know the music before you record. Look at the score and listen to a recording to get a feel of the music.
- Practise singing along to the learning track – this may take some getting used to.
- Set yourself up in a quiet space that has a dry acoustic (large rooms or outdoors should be avoided)
- Place your recording device at a metre distance and ideally level with your mouth.
- If you are using a microphone, make sure that the input level is low so that your dynamic range doesn't distort the recording.

Recording

You will need to sing along to the video learning track – there is a track for each voice part (with thanks to Constella's mezzo-soprano Rachel Maby and baritone Peter Edge). The track comprises of a click and the sung vocal line in question. This will allow you to be in time and in tune. Please follow these learning tracks as closely as you can, particularly in relation to diction and duration of notes. A certain amount of magic can be achieved with editing but not everything can be fixed...

At the beginning of the learning track there is a 2-bar count in. On the downbeat of the second bar, clap with the singer. This is to allow easy alignment in the editing.

To record, follow these steps:

1. Hit record on your chosen device
2. Hit play on the learning track – REMEMBER THIS MUST BE WITH HEADPHONES
3. Count the 1-bar intro and then clap once on the downbeat
4. Count the 2-bar intro
5. Sing along till the end in one take
6. Stop recording

You may wish to try a couple of takes until you are satisfied. Once you have finished, please email your recording to info@constella.org.uk by **9pm Monday 1st March**. In the email, please include your name and voice part you have recorded.

Video learning tracks have been by made by Constella's