

Rare Britten performance

Three choirs, two orchestras, two conductors and three soloists are combining their talents to perform a spectacular rendition of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem in Bury St Edmunds this weekend.

The rare performance, at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday May 16, will see the Bury Bach Choir, the North London Chorus, the London Graduate Orchestra and St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choristers join forces to mark the 70th anniversary of

victory in Europe.

The War Requiem, which Britten composed in 1962, was originally written to celebrate the consecration of Coventry Cathedral but later became better known to represent the Suffolk composer's anti-war beliefs.

Almost 250 singers and musicians will come together to perform this complex and emotive piece of music from 7.30pm on Saturday.

Philip Reed, Director of the Bury Bach Choir, said of

the piece: "Britten's War Requiem is now regarded as a public statement of outrage against war, conflict and violence, sentiments that were intensified by the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and the growing public awareness of and discomfort with atrocities in Vietnam."

For more information and to book tickets please visit www.burybachchoir.co.uk and follow the links or call the box office on 01284 758000.