

The Rolling Requiem



For Immediate Release

September 6, 2002 ... London Ontario

The London Fanshawe Symphonic Chorus, Gerald Fagan Singers, and Concert Players Orchestra extend an invitation to people in London and area to be part of a worldwide choral commemoration of 9/11 called "The Rolling Requiem". Choirs in every time zone around the world will be performing Mozart's Requiem at 8:46 a.m. local time on September 11, 2002 – the time the first plane hit the first tower nearly one year ago.

The London performance is being held at Centennial Hall and the doors open to the public at 7:30 a.m. At 8:30 a.m., police and fire honour guard will open the ceremony followed by the performance of the Requiem, the traditional Catholic mass for the dead. The concert will run approximately 70 minutes and will progress without speeches, intermission, or applause, to allow for a solemn time of reflection and remembrance.

The idea for The Rolling Requiem was born in Seattle, Washington with the Seattle Symphony and Chorale. The organization approached Conductor Gerald Fagan in early August and he immediately signed on. "The hair on the back of my neck stood up when I heard the idea," commented Fagan. Rehearsals are now underway with all performers donating their time, soloists and orchestra waiving their fees, and the City of London graciously donating Centennial Hall.

More than 175 choirs are now involved from New Zealand and Taiwan to Wales and Latvia. There are currently four other Canadian choirs participating. Every performer will don a badge with the name of one of the victims, a way to evoke a personal connection to the many who lost their lives.

Leader of the Official Opposition Stephen Harper, Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco, members of City Council, provincial and federal government representatives, police, fire and other emergency personnel, plus church and cultural leaders will be in attendance.

For more information about the Rolling Requiem, visit the website at www.rollingrequiem.org.

For interviews with Mr. Fagan or more information about the London performance, contact Marlene Fagan at 519 433-9650.