

SALT LAKE CHORAL ARTISTS OPEN SEASON WITH PLEA FOR PEACE

Posted on [October 10, 2011](#) by [Edward Reichel](#)

The name Karl Jenkins probably doesn't ring a bell for most people. But play a few measures from a couple of his pieces and you'll instantly recognize the tunes – that is, of course, if you've watched television anytime in the last 20 years.

Some of his music has reached millions of people through commercial advertising. The first movement of his *Palladio Suite* was for a long time used in a DeBeers Diamonds ad. More recently, the "Adiemus" from his *Songs of Sanctuary* was the background music to a commercial for Delta Airlines. His name might be unknown, but his music certainly isn't.

Brady Allred is set on changing that. He will acquaint local audiences with Jenkins' name this weekend when his Salt Lake Choral Artists present their first concert of the season on Saturday in Libby Gardner Concert Hall. On the program are two works by the Welsh-born Jenkins, *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* and the "Adiemus." There will be two performances, a matinee at 2 p.m., and an evening performance at 7:30 p.m.

Allred has been wanting to do a program focusing on Jenkins' music for some time. "A few years back we did a reading of *The Armed Man* in our Summer Choral Institute," he told Reichel Recommends. Not too long ago, Allred came into contact with the piece once again "I was at the Cork (Ireland) International Choral Festival and Jenkins came and conducted it," he said. "It was a powerful experience. And afterwards I had a chance to meet and talk with him."

The message of *The Armed Man* is simple and direct, Allred said. "It promotes peace and unity and encourages us to put aside our cultural and religious differences."

The musical basis for Jenkins' Mass is the medieval song *L'homme armé (The Armed Man)*, a tune which has been used in Masses and other sacred works since the early 1300s. "It's interesting to hear how Jenkins treats this melody," Allred said.

The Armed Man makes a strong impression on the listener. It also transcends political boundaries. "It has universal appeal," Allred said. "It's on the same lines as Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona nobis pacem* and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. Jenkins is saying, 'War is a terrible thing and we must do all we can to bring about peace.'"

But the Mass, which uses the traditional Catholic liturgy along with passages by Rudyard Kipling and Alfred Lord Tennyson, also offers hope. "It takes you down a very bleak road but it brings you back and is very hopeful about the Millennium, the thousand years of peace," Allred said.

Joining the Choral Artists will be mezzo-soprano Holly Sorenson and a full orchestra.

Accompanying the performance will be a slide presentation that Allred and the Choral Artists have assembled. “There was a silent film that accompanied the performance I saw in Ireland, but instead of using that we decided to put together our own film,” Allred said.

Before the concert, the Young Choral Artists will give a short performance in the atrium of Libby Gardner Concert Hall.

CONCERT INFO:

What: Salt Lake Choral Artists, Brady Allred, conductor

Venue: Libby Gardner Concert Hall, University of Utah

Time and Date: 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 15

Tickets: \$20 general, \$8 students, group discounts also available

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