



Marvel at a Mozart masterpiece

The next Music at the Siam Society concert will feature Mozart's *Requiem in D Minor (K 626)* to be performed by the Mahidol University Baroque Choir and Orchestra under the baton of Henri Pompidor, at the Siam Society on March 16 at 7:30pm.

This choral masterpiece will be repeated at Assumption Cathedral Bangkok (near the Oriental Hotel) on March 18, also at 7:30pm. The concert will feature sopranos Fuengalada Prawang and Kamonporn Huncharoen, mezzo-soprano Sassaya Chavalit, tenor Nutthaporn Thammati, and bass singer Tulanan Narasetapisarn with Bakhtiyor Alaberganov on harpsichord.

Universally recognised as one of the greatest choral masterpieces, the *Requiem* has long been shrouded in mystery. In July 1791, Mozart undertook the commission for an Austrian nobleman, little knowing that he was to write the requiem for himself. He died on Dec 5 of the same year, at the early age of 35.

Inevitably, the secrecy surrounding the anonymous commission, the circumstances of Mozart's death, the un-

finished state of the work and its completion by his copyist, the composer Sussmayr, have precipitated two centuries of romantic speculation and scholarly controversy.

The completed work follows the traditional Latin liturgy and was first performed on Jan 2, 1793 at a benefit concert for Mozart's widow Constanza. Since then, it has been performed at many prestigious occasions.

In 2002, on the first anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks, a worldwide "Rolling *Requiem*" project was launched in memory of the 3,000 victims, consisting of a continuous series of performances of the *Requiem*, circling the Earth, crossing all time zones, each beginning at 8:47am local time, marking the time the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

Admission for the March 16 show is free, and tickets for the March 18 performance cost 300 baht (100 baht for children).

Call the Siam Society on 02-661-6470 or Mahidol University College of Music on 02-800-2525 ext 154/5.