

# Walton Voices in Berlin



About 30 members of the Walton Voices choir travelled to Berlin in November 2018 to participate in "A Concert for Peace" arranged to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

A choir of 1500 singers was assembled with people coming from 30 countries across the world. They were joined by the renowned World Orchestra for Peace and international soloists to perform in the impressive Mercedes-Benz Arena.

Centrepiece of the concert was Sir Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man" with the composer himself conducting. This emotional work, first performed in 2000, was dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo crisis and has now been performed over 2000 times.

This special performance incorporated some changes with parts sung in Japanese, Welsh and German. Fortunately we only had to learn some German! Being part of this concert, joining with other choirs in such a seminal event, was both humbling and exhilarating. All those who sang will never forget the occasion and the sense of uniting to celebrate the end of war and the start of peace.

As you can see from our photos we had some fun between rehearsals and it was great to relax at the local hostelrys in the evening. Perhaps one of the most memorable parts of the trip was the after party where some members of Walton Voices joined forces with a Dutch choir and an Irish choir and spent some time singing songs together until early hours of the morning! The whole experience was amazing and a great bonding opportunity for members of the choir. The trip will be remembered for a long time and we hope to organise another tour again in the future!





The whole concert was broadcast on the Welsh channel S4C on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and is available for a month on BBC iplayer.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p06q4vsr/cyngerdd-heddwch-berlin>