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A NATIVE OF ZUG IN ENGLAND

The Zug composer Carl Ruetti, born in 1949, maintains close connections with English choirs. His reputation in England has meanwhile grown to such an extent, that he was commissioned by the renowned Bach Choir to write a Requiem. A CD-recording has now come out, made by The Bach Choir and the Southern Sinfonia in St John's, Smith Square, a London church.

A requirement was that the orchestra should consist only of strings, harp and organ, more or less the same orchestration of the Faure Requiem. Ruetti also used Faure as a model in another way: his work does not include the Dies Irae, and like the Frenchman he added "In Paradisum" as the final movement.

Top class amateur choir

The Bach Choir, deployed as a double choir, justifies its reputation as one of the best amateur choirs and impresses with its full-toned piani and strong attack. Sometimes one could wish that the one-hour work would challenge the choir to produce more widely stretched phrasing and dramatic climaxes. As with the Faure, calm, intensity and comfort remain the outstanding characteristics of this Requiem setting.

Fritz Schaub

English translation by Rachel Green