

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Pappano Conducts Berlioz's Requiem at the Proms

Saturday, August 15, 2026 · 19:30 · Royal Albert Hall

Antonio Pappano, conductor · Julien Henric, tenor · London Symphony Chorus, choir · BBC Symphony Chorus, choir

approximately 82 minutes

Hector Berlioz

1803–1869

82 minutes

Requiem (Grande messe des morts), Op. 5

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR

Listen for the architecture of contrast: the way Berlioz holds back his vast forces so that their unleashing overwhelms. The famous moment is the **Tuba mirum** (within the Dies irae): after a long build, the four brass bands at the corners of the hall blaze out in turn and the massed timpani thunder, depicting the trumpets summoning the dead to judgement. It is one of the most physically overwhelming sounds in all of music, and unforgettable in a space like the Albert Hall.

But listen just as much for the quiet music around it: the hushed, prayerful opening; the unaccompanied chorus of the **Quaerens me**; the strange, bare textures (Berlioz's famous trick of pairing flutes with low trombones in the Hostias). And listen for the **Sanctus**, where the lone tenor soloist enters, high and ethereal, answered by the women's voices, a moment of heavenly calm amid the grandeur. The work ends not in triumph but in peace, the chorus murmuring its final 'Amen' into stillness. It is a piece that uses the largest means to arrive at the most profound serenity: overwhelming, but ultimately consoling.



CONCERT PROGRAMS

<https://concertprograms.eu/concerts/lso-2026-08-15-pappano>

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