

W. A. Mozart

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REQUIEM

5th May 2024 | 19:00 | Salvator's protestant church | Salvátorská 1, Praha 1

conductor | Jan Steyer

soloists | Barbora Holečková – soprano, Marie Vojáčková – alt
Karel Jan Procházka – tenor, Josef Kovačič – bass

orchestra | Bohemian Chamber Soloists

choirs | Kallion Kantaattikuoro (Finland) – conductor Tommi Niskala, Bålsta Chamber Choir (Sweden) – conductor Gunnar Klum, Sankt Pauli Church Choir (Sweden) – conductor Mikael Holmlund, Miklos Zrinyi Choir (Hungary) – conductor Gyula Holló

Christian custom commands the bereaved to give the last farewell to the deceased both by burying his or her remains and by praying for the soul of the deceased at the funeral Mass. This may be celebrated by the priest not only as part of the funeral rite on the day of the last farewell, but also on another day, even before the funeral itself.

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Since the text of the Latin prayer begins with "*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine*", the Latin word for the funeral Mass is *Requiem*. The text of the prayer was originally sung as Gregorian chant, but from the late 15th century onwards it was also performed as a polyphonic work. The seriousness of the text and the respect for the dead did not allow composers to make too many compositional or instrumental innovations when composing the Requiem. Despite this, perhaps all of the most prominent composers have created their own versions of the Requiem.

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Mozart began composing the *Requiem in D minor, K. 626* in the autumn of 1791, commissioned by the somewhat eccentric Count Franz von Walsegg-Stuppach, who wanted to pass the work off as his own in order to honour the memory of his late wife. In December of the same year, however, Mozart dies of an infectious disease and the Requiem remains unfinished: only the opening *Introitus* is complete, whereas the following *Kyrie* and the *Sequentia* block are only sketched in the vocal parts, bass line and harmonic plan; the *Lacrimosa* contains mere eight opening bars; the *Offertorium* block is in a similarly rough outline. However, the advance paid for the work has long since been spent, and so Constanze, Mozart's widow, must ensure the completion of the work. First she enlists the help of Viennese composer Josef von Eybler. Soon he finds the task too difficult for him and returns the work, albeit with a few additions. In the end, Franz Xaver Süssmayr, who had assisted Mozart in the composition before his death, took over the completion of the *Requiem*. The finished work is handed in in the spring of 1792 and performed for its original purpose on 14 December 1793 in the Wiener Neustadt church.

Introitus

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, •
et lux perpetua luceat eis. • Te decet
hymnus, Deus, in Sion, • et tibi reddetur
votum in Jerusalem. • Exaudi orationem
meam, • ad te omnis caro veniet.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, •
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Sequentia

Dies Irae

Dies irae, dies illa
Solvat saeculum in favilla,
Teste David cum Sibylla.

Quantus tremor est futurus
Quando iudex est venturus
Cuncta stricte discussurus.

Tuba Mirum

Tuba mirum spargens sonum
Per sepulcra regionum
Coget omnes ante thronum.

Mors slopebit et natura
Cum resurget creatura
Judicanti responsura.

Liber scriptus proferetur
In quo totum continetur,
Unde mundus iudicetur.

Judex ergo cum sedebit
Quidquid latet apparebit,
Nil inultum remanebit.

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus,
Quem patronum togaturus,
Cum vix justus sit securus?

Introitus

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, • and may
perpetual light shine on them. • Thou, O God, art
praised in Sion, • and unto Thee shall the vow • be
performed in Jerusalem. • Hear my prayer, unto
Thee shall all flesh come. • Grant them eternal rest,
O Lord, • and may perpetual light shine on them.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Sequentia

Dies Irae

Day of wrath, that day
Will dissolve the earth in ashes
As David and the Sibyl bear witness.

What dread there will be
When the Judge shall come
To judge all things strictly.

Tuba Mirum

A trumpet, spreading a wondrous sound
Through the graves of all lands,
Will drive mankind before the throne.

Death and Nature shall be astonished
When all creation rises again
To answer to the Judge.

A book, written in, will be brought forth
In which is contained everything that is,
Out of which the world shall be judged.

When therefore the Judge takes His seat
Whatever is hidden will reveal itself.
Nothing will remain unavenged.

What then shall I say, wretch that I am,
What advocate entreat to speak for me,
When even the righteous may hardly be secure?

Rex tremendae

Rex tremendae majestatis,
Qui salvandos salvas gratis,
Salve me, fons pietatis.

Recordare

Recordare, Jesu pie,
Quod sum causa tuae viae,
Ne me perdas ilia die.

Quaerens me sedisti lassus,
Redemisti crucem passus,
Tamus labor non sit cassus.

Juste judex ultionis
Donum fac remissionis
Ante diem rationis.

Ingemisco tamquam reus,
Culpa rubet vultus meus,
Supplicanti parce, Deus.

Qui Mariam absolvisti
Et latronem exaudisti,
Mihi quoque spem dedisti.

Preces meae non sum dignae,
Sed tu bonus fac benigne,
Ne perenni cremet igne.

Inter oves locurn praesta,
Et ab haedis me sequestra,
Statuens in parte dextra.

Confutatis

Confutatis maledictis
Flammis acribus addictis,
Voca me cum benedictis.

Oro supplex et acclinis,
Cor contritum quasi cinis,
Gere curam mei finis.

Lacrimosa

Lacrimosa dies ilia
Qua resurget ex favilla
Judicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce, Deus,
Pie Jesu Domine,
Dona eis requiem.

Rex tremendae

King of awful majesty,
Who freely savest the redeemed,
Save me, O fount of goodness.

Recordare

Remember, blessed Jesu,
That I am the cause of Thy pilgrimage,
Do not forsake me on that day.

Seeking me Thou didst sit down weary,
Thou didst redeem me, suffering death on the cross.
Let not such toil be in vain.

Just and avenging Judge,
Grant remission
Before the day of reckoning.

I groan like a guilty man.
Guilt reddens my face.
Spare a suppliant, O God.

Thou who didst absolve Mary Magdalene
And didst hearken to the thief,
To me also hast Thou given hope.

My prayers are not worthy,
But Thou in Thy merciful goodness grant
That I burn not in everlasting fire.

Place me among Thy sheep
And separate me from the goats,
Setting me on Thy right hand.

Confutatis

When the accursed have been confounded
And given over to the bitter flames,
Call me with the blessed.

I pray in supplication on my knees.
My heart contrite as the dust,
Safeguard my fate.

Lacrimosa

Mournful that day
When from the dust shall rise
Guilty man to be judged.
Therefore spare him, O God.
Merciful Jesu,
Lord Grant them rest.

Offertorium

Domine Jesu Christe

Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, • libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum • de poenis inferni, et de profundo lacu: • libera eas de ore leonis, • ne absorbeat eas tartarus, • ne cadant in obscurum. • Sed signifer sanctus Michael • repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam, • quam olim Abrahae promisisti • et semini ejus.

Hostias

Hostias et preces, tibi, Domine, • laudis offerimus: • tu suscipe pro animabus illis, • quarum hodie memoriam facimus: • fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam, • quam olim Abrahae promisisti • et semini ejus.

Sanctus

Sanctus. Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth! • Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. • Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. • Hosanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Communio

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, • cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, • quia pius es. • Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, • et lux perpetua luceat eis, • cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, • quia pius es.

Offertorium

Domine Jesu Christe

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, • deliver the souls of all the faithful • departed from the pains of hell and from the • bottomless pit. • Deliver them from the lion's mouth. • Neither let them fall into darkness • nor the black abyss swallow them up. • And let St. Michael, Thy standard-bearer, • lead them into the holy light • which once Thou didst promise • to Abraham and his seed.

Hostias

We offer unto Thee this sacrifice • of prayer and praise. • Receive it for those souls • whom today we commemorate. • Allow them, O Lord, to cross • from death into the life • which once Thou didst promise to Abraham • and his seed.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, • Lord God of Sabaoth. • Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. • Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord. • Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them everlasting rest.

Communio

Thou art merciful. • Grant the dead eternal rest, O Lord, • and may perpetual light shine on them, • with Thy saints for ever, • because Thou art merciful.