


The  
Shenandoah  
Valley   
Choral Society

2004-2005 Season

*The Shenandoah Valley  
Choral Society*

**Presents**

*In Praise of Music  
Presentations in Music  
and Verse*

*John Rutter's "Requiem"*

*Poetry by Maria Prytula*

*Annie Barnes, Soprano*

*Curtis Nolley, Conductor*

*Amy Robertson, Piano Accompanist*

*Friday, April 22, 2005 8:00 P.M.*

*Bridgewater Church of the Brethren*

*Bridgewater, Virginia*

*Rutter Requiem*

The *Requiem* of **JOHN RUTTER (B. 1945)** is regarded as his greatest contribution to the world of serious choral music. The *Requiem* was written in 1985 and dedicated to the memory of his father, who had died the previous year. This gifted composer who has given us so much exceptional choral material shows his eminent skill and virtuosity once again in the creation of this monumental work, which is considered his most beautiful and exquisite composition.

It employs a non-traditional approach, including movements based on scriptural texts - Psalm 130 (Out of the Deep) and Psalm 23 (The Lord Is My Shepherd), and excerpts from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The seven sections of the work form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death. There are grand moments such as the pleading "Agnus Dei" which build to an anguished forte, and the "Sanctus" as an affirmation of divine glory. It has a ravishing, "Pie Jesu" for treble solo and the closing "Lux aeterna" is a hauntingly beautiful movement that expresses serenity, light, and the promise of eternal rest. However, it is often the simple and elegant passages such as the plaintive "Requiem aeternam" and "The Lord Is My Shepherd" that capture the mood and the listener. Although using conventional harmonies, Rutter is not averse to throwing in a stinging dissonance for dramatic effect. Chant-like unisons suddenly burst into 8-part chords and chromatics are used to intensify rather than change keys.

John Rutter's thoughts on his *Requiem*: "The *Requiem* was written in 1985 and dedicated to the memory of my father, who had died the previous year. In writing it, I was influenced and inspired by the example of Faure. I doubt whether any specific musical resemblances can be traced, but I am sure that Faure's *Requiem* crystallized my thoughts about the kind of *Requiem* I wanted to write: intimate rather than grandiose, contemplative and lyric rather than dramatic, and ultimately moving towards light rather than darkness - the "lux aeterna" of the closing text. The composition of the *Requiem* was interrupted by other commitments and by illness. The first complete performance took place in October 1985 (in Dallas, as it happened),

and no one, least of all the astonished composer, could have predicted the flood of performances which continued ever since. For me it stands as a clear sign of humanity's quest for solace and light amidst the darkness and troubles of our age. Art, Andre Gide said, must bear a message of hope – a message which is embedded in the age-old texts of the Requiem Mass, and also in the Burial Service, some of which I have interpolated into the structure of the work, using the incomparably resonant and glorious version from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer."

## REQUIEM

**John Rutter (B. 1945)**

**Annie Barnes, soprano**

### Requiem Aeternum

*Missa pro defunctis*

Requiem aeternum 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. Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

*Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God, we pray to Thee: and light perpetual shine on them for ever. Thou Lord, art worshipped in Sion; Thy praises shall ever be sung in all Jerusalem. O hear us; O Lord, hear thy faithful servants' prayer; to Thee shall all mortal flesh return. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*

### Out of the Deep

*Psalm 130*

Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice. O let Thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint. If Thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it? For there is mercy with Thee: therefore shalt Thou be feared. I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for Him: in His word is my trust. My soul fleeth unto the Lord; before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch. O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with Him is plenteous redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all His sins.

### Pie Jesu From "Dies Irae"

*Missa pro defunctis*

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem. Pie Jesu Domine, done eis sempiternam requiem.

*Blessed Jesus, Lord I pray in Thy mercy, grant them rest. Lord our God, we pray Thee, grant them everlasting rest.*

### Sanctus

*Missa pro defunctis*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and majesty. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord our God: Hosanna in the highest.*

### Agnus Dei

*Missa pro defunctis*

The burial service, 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world: in Thy mercy, grant them rest. Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow. In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour? I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.*

### The Lord Is My Shepherd

*Psalm 23*

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: Thou has anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Lux aeterna**

*Missa pro defunctis*

The burial service, 1662 Book of Common Prayer. I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours: even so saith the Spirit. Lux Aeterna luceat eis, Domine: cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es. Requiem aeternum dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*Light eternal shine upon them, Lord, we pray: with saints and angels ever dwelling, for Thy mercy's sake, may they rest in peace. Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God, we pray to Thee: and light perpetual shine on them for ever.*

**Orchestra**

**Organ – John Fast**

**Harp**

**Amy DeSotel**

**Cello**

**Ed Gant**

**Oboe**

**Adrienne Issi**

**Flute**

**Andrea Nolley**

**Percussion**

**Marlon Foster**

**Josh Smith**

**INTERMISSION**

*The Birth of Music\**

Maria Prytula

*Your Voices Tune*

George F. Handel

from *Alexander's Feast*

\*Turn the page to see the poetry in print.

*Music, Spread Your Voice Around* George F. Handel  
from *Solomon*

*O Music* Lowell Mason/arr. Crocker  
Ben Rodes, trumpet

*Music*  
*The Peace Which Music Knows\** Maria Prytula

*Sing, Sing* Irish Tune/arr. Alice Parker  
Amy DeSotel, harp

*Music, When Soft Music Die* Eric Nelson

*If Music Be the Food of Love* David Dickau

*"Last Songs"* (inspired by Richard Strauss)  
*Credo\** Maria Prytula

*O Clap Your Hands* John Rutter  
John Fast, organ

*Sing Me to Heaven* Daniel E. Gawthrop

*Consecrate the Place and Day* Lloyd Pfautsch

\*Turn the page to see the poetry in print.



**Thomas House  
Restaurant**

*222 Main Street, Dayton*

**879-2181**

## *The Birth of Music*

Who was the first  
In tune with the infinite sphere  
Who hummed and drummed  
In tune with the rhythm of the heart  
Listening to the music of the wind and trees  
Playing a harmony which warmed and kindled hope

Did he hear his mate sing at her work  
Pausing to imitate the clear notes of the birds  
Did they join together even though it was late  
And the sun was about to set  
Because this new labor was such a tonic  
In the night of gloom  
And suddenly erased the sense of doom  
And daily fears

They danced to the chorus of the frogs  
And then one night  
Because it was so dark and late  
His mate could not string the berries  
On the reed to dry  
She lifted the reed to her lips and blew  
And found exciting notes  
When her breath transformed the hollow reed

The children heard and gathered  
With excitement they beat their sticks  
On stone and bone  
And were delighted to see  
How everyone's mood had changed  
They forgot sleep  
Then from some unknown source  
Mysterious and deep

They sensed that there must be more  
Than the cave and the sod on which they stood  
The mood would alter with the rhythm

They never spoke in the same way  
From day to day  
They imitated birds, a frog  
The unseen creatures in the fog  
They found sturdier reeds  
Explored the endless possibilities of sound

They stretched dried skins on a hollow log  
Inventing drums which echoed through the hills  
Unbound by song their spirits soared  
They serenaded the stars and the sun  
They danced all night by the light of the moon

They saw new visions and new dreams  
The variations on powerful themes  
They multiplied from generation to generation  
They learned to memorize and then to write notes  
To celebrate and to mourn  
To lift stones and to destroy walls  
To speak to the dead and the unborn  
To calm the grieving  
And to relight the light of hope

To understand the subtleties of living  
To heal  
To love  
To reach the stars  
Today in song  
We celebrate the birth of music

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## *Music*

Music  
Spills from the molten center  
A key to kingdoms unexplored

Music  
A universal balm for wounds

Music  
The simple language  
Which reaches every ear without interpreters

Music  
Melts boundaries

Music  
The complex harmonies play on  
Until all human history  
Is only a flimsy hopscotch  
Sketched in chalk

When all the harmonies and melodies unite  
And all is one

## *The Peace Which Music Knows*

Lost in the labyrinth of endless words  
In music I find my direction  
After a chaotic day  
In music I find order  
After the bruising of the news  
In music I bathe and heal  
Alone and lonely

I turn to music and find perfect love  
I can go through all harrowing disasters  
Because in the compositions of the masters  
I can learn all the lessons  
And find the peace  
Which only music knows.

## *Listening to "Last Songs"*

*by Richard Strauss*

For Heinrich

Entwined in the night  
By firelight

The soprano voice  
Draws water from the holy spring

Which falls as tears, from your dark eyes  
And spills upon my heart

The flood breaks earthly shackles  
The water washes my eyes

I see the blue fires  
At the root of time

My ears anointed, I hear.

In the night, by firelight  
In your arms

The ancient lyric and reprise

## *Credo*

I've read in gospels and revelations  
Seeking truths' foundations

In Gitas, Upanishads and Mystic's lore  
I've tried to vision the heavens they explore

Some see a perfect heavenly town  
Some a royal court and glistening crown  
Some fleshly gardens of delight  
Some unencumbered flight  
Among the stars and constellations

The scientists ponder still other realms  
There is Einstein with his equations of energy and light  
Then there are those who see nothing or the abyss of night

But I envision heaven as a mighty chorus  
All souls united in triumphal variations  
Of perfect sound

I believe the foundation of the universe is song  
Each soul a perfectly pitched note  
Their harmony, the music of the spheres