

Shenandoah Valley Choral Society

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Presents

"A Music Garden"

(nature painted in music)
Amy Robertson, Piano Accompanist
and

Requiem

by Maurice Duruflé

David Lang: Organ Accompanist
Brenda Witmer: Soprano Soloist
Carl Donakowski: Cello
Anthony Van Pelt: Violin
Curtis Holley, Director

Friday April 21, 2006 Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Bridgewater, Virginia

Program Motes

Requiem

In 1947 the French publishing company Durand commissioned Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986) to compose a Requiem Mass. Since he had already begun to write an organ suite based on Gregorian chant themes, Duruflé decided to use this work as a basis for the commission. The result was the composer's first choral work: a Requiem with an application of medieval melody, contemporary harmonization, and comforting treatment of the subject matter.

Duruflé wrote very few original melodies for this piece, but instead used Gregorian chant in a twentieth-century harmonic setting. The Requiem Mass has often been set to music, but Duruflé was the first to incorporate the Gregorian chants, traditionally associated with the religious ceremonies of the Mass for the Dead, into the core of the entire composition's musical framework.

Tonight's performance uses Duruflé's 1947 organ version of the score (there are also versions for full orchestra and for organ and strings). This is not just an orchestral reduction, but a fully realized, highly virtuosic organ piece drawing on Duruflé's extensive experience as an organist. He studied in the 1920s with the organ master Louis Vierne and worked for most of his life as the organist at St. Etienne-du Mont in Paris. Meticulously written, Duruflé's contemporary setting of the *Requiem* text fuses Gregorian chant with 20th century concepts and weaves an embracing, almost cosmic tapestry of human emotion — from peaks of ecstatic joy to more reflective moments. It's a gentle, hopeful requiem that speaks eloquently to today's universal yearnings.

Program and Translation

Requiem - Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

I. Introït

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;

Rest eternal grant them, Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them.

To you praise is meet, God, in Zion, and to you vows are made in Jerusalem. Listen to my prayer; unto you all flesh shall come.

II. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

ad te omnis caro veniet.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

III. 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 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. Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, Free the souls of all the faithful dead from punishment in the inferno, and from the deep lake.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth, lest the abyss swallow them up, lest they fall into darkness.

But may the standardbearer St. Michael present them in holy light, as once you promised to Abraham and his seed.

Sacrifices and prayers to you, Lord, we offer with praise. Receive them for the souls of those whom today we commemorate.

Make them, Lord, to pass from death to life, as once you promised to Abraham and his seed.

IV. Sanctus

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

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Pie Jesu Domine.

dona eis requiem.

requiem sempiternam.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, holy, holy

with your glory.

Lord God of Sabaoth.

Filled are heavens and earth

V. Pie Jesu

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest, rest everlasting.

VI. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem, requiem sempiternam. Lamb of God, who removes the sins of the world, grant them rest, rest everlasting.

VII. Lux æterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. May eternal light shine on them, Lord, with thy saints everlasting, because you are merciful.

Rest eternal grant them, Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them.

VIII. Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Tremens factus sum ego, et timeo, dum discussio venerit, atque venture ira. quando coeli movendi sunt et terra. Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death on that dreadful day, when heavens and earth shall move, when you come to judge the world through fire.

I am made to tremble, and to fear, at the destruction that shall come, and also at your coming wrath. when heavens and earth shall move. Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. That day, day of wrath, calamity and misery, great and exceedingly bitter day, when you come to judge the world through fire.

Rest eternal grant them, Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them.

IX. In Paradisum

In Paradisum deducant te Angeli; in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres, et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.

May the Angels lead you into Paradise; at your coming may the martyrs receive you, and conduct you into the holy city, Jerusalem.

Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem. May the chorus of Angels receive you, and with Lazarus, once a pauper, eternally may you have rest.

David Lang, organ Brenda Witmer, soprano Carl Donakowski, cello

Intermission

O, My Luve's Like a Red, Red Rose

David Dikau

Walking On the Green Grass

American Folk Song arr. Michael Hennagan

Make Our Garden Grow (from Candide)

Leonard Bernstein

Never Alone

Anthony Van Pelt, violin

A Rose Touched by the Sun's Warm Rays The Lily of the Valley Jean Berger Traditional Spiritual arr. Wendell Whalum Adagio and Allegro from Sonata No. 2 in D Major

Carl Donakowski, cello

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme

English Folk Song arr. John Coates, Jr.

Flower of Beauty

John Clements

J. S. Bach

O My Luve's Like a Red, Red Rose

Rene' Clausen Anthony Van Pelt, violin Carl Donakowski, cello



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