



John Rutter's *Requiem*, completed in 1985, does not adhere strictly to the conventional Catholic liturgy, but combines texts from the Requiem Mass and the *Book of Common Prayer*. This is by no means unusual; Fauré, Brahms and Duruflé all followed their own individual preferences when selecting appropriate verses to set.

The first movement comprises the Requiem Aeternam and Kyrie Eleison. This is followed by a setting of Psalm 130, 'Out of the deep have I called unto thee O Lord' which begins darkly with an unaccompanied cello solo in C minor, later giving way to a more positive C major at the words 'for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption'. As with the Requiems of both Fauré and Duruflé, the Pie Jesu focuses on the soprano soloist, though in this case with the addition of a subdued choral commentary. The Sanctus and Benedictus are both followed by an exhilarating Hosanna. In the Agnus Dei the Latin text alternates with verses from the Burial Sentences, taken from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. At this point Rutter inserts his superb setting of the 23rd Psalm, notable for its plaintive oboe solo, delicate orchestration and sensitivity to the text. This exquisite and moving piece, though composed some seven years earlier for Mel Olson's First United Methodist Church Choir in Omaha, was surely destined for this context, encapsulating as it does the work's message of reassurance. The last movement opens with another verse from the Burial Service, sung by the soprano soloist, which leads seamlessly into the Lux Aeterna, finally returning to the opening Requiem Aeterna theme for the peaceful conclusion.

The *Requiem* was first performed in its entirety on 13 October 1985 at the United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, conducted by the composer. Since then it has become a firm favourite with choirs and audiences the world over. Though it necessarily has its dark moments, Rutter's *Requiem* is unmistakably optimistic in its message of hope and comfort, expressed through the beauty of the chosen texts and Rutter's uplifting music. It is not entirely surprising that after the tragic events of 9/11 it was this setting of the *Requiem* that was the preferred choice of music at the many memorial services which followed across the USA.

John Bawden

REQUIEM

John Rutter

October 30, 2019
Highland Presbyterian Church
Winston-Salem, N.C.

PROGRAM

REQUIEM

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

1. REQUIEM AETERNAM

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: *Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,*
et lux perpetua luceat eis. *and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion: *A hymn befits thee, O God in Zion:*
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem. *and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled in Jerusalem.*

Exaudi orationem meam, *Hear my prayer,*
ad te omnis caro veniet. *for unto thee all flesh shall come.*

Kyrie eleison. *Lord have mercy.*
Christe eleison. *Christ have mercy.*
Kyrie eleison. *Lord have mercy.*

2. OUT OF THE DEEP

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; and 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.

Psalm 130

3. PIE JESU

Miriam Davie, soprano

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem. *Blessed Jesu, grant them rest.*
Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis sempiternam requiem. *Blessed Jesu, grant them everlasting rest.*

From "Dies Irae," *Missa pro defunctis*

4. SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, *Holy, Holy, Holy,*
Dominus Deus Sabaoth. *Lord God of Hosts.*

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. *Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory,*
Hosanna in excelsis. *Hosanna in the highest.*
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*
Hosanna in excelsis. *Hosanna in the highest.*

Missa pro defunctis

5. AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,*
Dona eis requiem. *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.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,*
Dona eis requiem. *In Thy mercy, grant them rest.*

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succor?

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,*
Dona eis requiem sempiternam. *In Thy mercy, grant them rest everlasting.*

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.

Latin text from *Missa pro defunctis*;
English texts from the Burial Service,
1662 Book of Common Prayer

6. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

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 hast 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.

Psalm 23

7. LUX AETERNA

Mary Mendenhall, soprano

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,
For they rest from their labors; even so saith the Spirit.

Lux aeterna luceat eis Domine: *Light eternal shine upon them, Lord, we pray:*
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, *With saints and angels ever dwelling,*
quia pius es. *for thy mercy's sake, may they rest in peace.*
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: *Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God, we pray to thee:*
Et lux perpetua luceat eis. *And light perpetual shine on them for ever.*

English text from the Burial Service (slightly altered)
Latin text, *Missa pro defunctis*

English translations by John Rutter

*This performance marks our observance of All Saints' Day
and is dedicated to the memory of those who have gone before us.*

Presented by the Highland Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
Creighton Holder, Director of Music
Guest Orchestra

The cover art is taken from Vincent van Gogh's *Irises*, 1889
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