

Requiem – John Rutter

John Rutter (b. 1945), composed his *Requiem* (1985, revised 2004) following the death of his father (1984). Like the *Requiems* of Fauré and Duruflé, with which he compares his own, Rutter's *Requiem* offers comfort and consolation to the bereaved. Rutter has said the following about his *Requiem*:

I wanted to remember him in music in some way, and preferably in a way that he might have enjoyed and appreciated. It was particularly important in this case to write something that could be appreciated by people everywhere. I suppose some will find the sense of comfort and consolation in it facile, but it was what I meant at the time I wrote it, in the shadow of a bereavement of my own.

He completed the *Requiem* in 1985 and inscribed the score *In memoriam LFR*.

Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* is known to have had a great deal musical influence on Rutter, as Rutter sang this work with Britten himself conducting the celebrated premiere recording in 1963. Faure's *Requiem* seems to have influenced Rutter, as in 1983 Rutter published a new critical edition of Faure's *Requiem*. Like Britten and Faure', Duruflé' and Brahms, Rutter did not strictly follow the Latin *Mass for the Dead*. He selected movements from that (*Requiem aeternam*, *Kyrie eleison*, *Pie Jesu*, *Sanctus*, *Agnus Dei*, and *Lux aeterna*).

The first movement comprises the *Requiem Aeternam* and *Kyrie eleison*. The 2nd movement is a setting of Psalm 130 (*Out of the deep I have called unto thee*), contains a prominent cello solo written in C minor. Movements three and five (*Pie Jesus* and *Agnus Dei*) are prayers directed specifically to Christ, using Latin texts from the *Anglican Burial Service*.

Sanctus, movement four is the center piece of the work, expresses the transition from an Earthly existence to a Heavenly Resurrection, described by the composer as "celebratory and affirmative." In movements five (*Agnus Dei*) and seven (*Lux Aeterna*), verses alternate between Latin and English texts. The sixth movement is a setting of the 23rd Psalm (*The Lord is my Shepherd*), commissioned for Mel Olson and the Chancel Choir of First Methodist Church, Omaha, Nebraska in 1976. Both Psalm texts are from the 1662 Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*.

The last movement (*I heard a voice from Heaven*) opens with another verse from the traditional Latin Mass setting sung by the soprano soloist, which leads seamlessly into the *Lux Aeterna* (*Light eternal shine upon them*), finally returning to the opening *Requiem Aeterna* theme for the peaceful, poignant conclusion.

The *Requiem* was first performed in its entirety on October 13, 1985 at Lovers' Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, Allen Pote-Director of Music, by the Sanctuary Choir and orchestra. Within six months of its publication, the orchestral parts had been rented out more than 500 times in US alone.

1. Requiem aeternam

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:

Reh-kwee-ehm eh-tehr-nahm daw-nah eh-ees daw-mee-neh
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,

et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Eht looks pehr-peh-too-ah loo-cheh-aht eh-ees
and may light eternal shine upon them.

Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion,

Teh Deh-cheht eem-noos, Deh-oos een See-awn
It is fitting that a hymn should be raised unto Thee in Sion

et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem:

Eht tee-bee rehd-deh-toor vaw-toom een Yeh-roo-sah-lehm
and a vow paid to Thee in Jerusalem:

exaudi orationem meam,

Ecks-A-oo-dee aw-ra-tsee-awn-ehm meh-ahm
give ear to my prayer, O Lord,

ad te omnis caro veniet.

ahd teh awm-nees cah-raw veh-nee-eh
unto Thee all flesh shall come at last.

Kyrie, eleison!

Ky-ree-eh eh-leh-ee-ssawn,
Lord, have mercy!

Christe, eleison!

Chrees-teh eh-leh-ee-ssawn
Christ, have mercy!

Kyrie, eleison!

Ky-ree-eh eh-leh-ee-ssawn.
Lord, have mercy!

2. 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.

3. Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem,

Pee-eh Yeh-soo, Daw-mee-neh, daw-nah eh-ees reh-kwee-ehm
Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them rest,

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem,

Pee-eh Yeh-soo, Daw-mee-neh, daw-nah eh-ees reh-kwee-ehm
Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them rest,

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem.

Pee-eh Yeh-soo, Daw-mee-neh daw-nah eh-ees reh-kwee-ehm, sehm-pee-tehr-nahm reh-kweeehm
Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

4. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth

Sahnc-tooss, Sahnc-tooss, Sahnc-tooss Daw-mee-nooss Dehooss Sah-bah-awtt
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua

Pleh-nee soont cheh-lee eht tehr-rah glaw-ree-ah too-ah
heaven and earth are full of Thy glory

Hosanna in excelsis.

Aw-sahn-nah een ehck-shehl-sseess.
Hosanna in the highest.

5. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis pecatta mundi:

Ahn-yooss Deh-ee, kwee taw-leess pehc-cah-tah moon-dee
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

dona eis requiem.

daw-nah eh-eess reh-kwee-ehm
grant them rest.

*Man that us 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 pecatta mundi:

Ahn-yooss Deh-ee, kwee taw-leess pehc-cah-tah moon-dee
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

dona eis requiem.

daw-nah eh-eess reh-kwee-ehm
grant them rest.

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

Agnus Dei, qui tollis pecatta mundi:

Ahn-yooss Deh-ee, kwee taw-leess pehc-cah-tah moon-dee
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

dona eis requiem.

daw-nah eh-eess reh-kwee-ehm
grant them rest.

*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.*

5. 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 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.

6. Lux aeterna

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:

Looks eh-ter-nah loo-cheh-aht eh-ees, Daw-mee-neh
Let eternal light shine upon them, O Lord:

Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

Coom sahn-c-tees too-ees een eh-tehr-noom, kwee-ah pee-oos ehss
with Thy saints for ever, for art merciful.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine,

Reh-kwee-ehm eh-tehr-nahm daw-nah eh-ees Daw-mee-neh,
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,

et lux perpetua luceat eis.

eht looks pehr-peh-too-ah loo-cheh-aht eh-eess
and may light perpetual shine on them,