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Donald Armstrong Conductor

John Ferrell Conductor

Arthur Corra Conductor

George Foeller Conductor

Roger Faulmann Conductor

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Berlioz REQUIEM



Illinois State University

Music Department

College of Fine Arts

Concert Choir Donald Armstrong, Conductor

Community-University Oratorio Chorus John Ferrell, Conductor

> Symphony Orchestra Arthur Corra, Conductor

Brass and Percussion Groups from the Concert, Varsity and University Bands George Foeller, Roger Faulmann, and Ed Livingston, Conductors

Hector Berlioz

Requiem, Opus 5 Requiem and Kyrie (introitus) Dies irae (prosa) Quid sum miser Rex tremendae Quarens me Lacrymosa

> Offertory Hostias Sanctus Agnus Dei

William Reeder, Tenor soloist Arthur Corra, Conductor

> University Auditorium Sunday Evening May 5, 1974 8:00 p.m.

The title page tells most, but not quite all, of the story: "Grand Mass for the Dead, dedicated to Monsieur le Comte de Gasparin, Peer of France, and composed by Hector Berlioz, Opus 5. Performed for the first time at the Church of the Invalides, December 5, 1837, for the funeral service of General Damremont and the French officers and soldiers killed in the capture of Constantine."

De Gasparin had been Mnister of the Interior in the cabinet of King Louis Philippe. Among his last official acts, before resigning his post in 1836, had been the commissioning of this work from Berlioz. It is quite possible that politics had something to do with it, for the "July monarchy" of Louis Philippe was neither the most secure nor the most popular government to hold sway in France. It had been established by the revolution of July, 1830, and each year since then had held a public memorial service for those who died to bring it into existence. The political situation was particularly tense in 1836, and it is the revolutionary memorial observance of that year particularly lavish and noteworthy: hence his commission to Berlioz.

Governmental politics, however, were the merest kindergarten squabble compared to the politics of French musical life at that period; the **Requiem** of Berlioz was not performed on the occasion for which it was written. But the funeral of General Damremont was an even more important affair, since the capture of Constantine had provided Louis Philippe with a much-needed military victory and established French rule in Algeria on a long-term basis.

In composing the **Requiem** Berlioz made a conscious effort to employ in church music the same principles of freedom and expressive truth shich he sought to establish in his concert works and which inspired the whole French Romantic movement. He did not hesitate to manipulate the text, changing the order of phrases and sections or even omitting some of them altogether if the expressive purposes and dramatic structure of his music demanded it. In the **Rex tremendae**, for instance, the chorus, appalled by the prospect of divine judgment, cannot complete the sentence "voca me cum benedictis;" the voice parts break off after "voca me" and fall silent before the vision of the "bottomless pit" mentioned in the next line of text (which actually belongs to a later part of the text of the Mass for the Dead). In the **Offertorium** the effect of a timeless, perpetual supplication of souls in Purgatory is intensified by the disconnected fragments of text to which the chorus sings its unvarying chant: "Domine...Jesu...Christe...rex gloriae...libra eus...de poenis...inferni...."

Berlioz did not consider himself a wild revolutionary who was destroying tradition but rather a man of his time who was revivifying it and extending it. The **Requie**m belongs to the artistic traditions of the period immediately following the French Revolution where musical ceremonies on a vast scale evoked lofty notions of national dignity. The huge forces employed in this and other similarly grand-scale works represent the entire nation assembled in a symbolic act of worship.

This work, as many others by Berlioz, has acquired a notoriety for fabulous extravagance in instrumentation. As is usually the case with Berlioz, the legend is both more and less marvelous than the fact. Berlioz was deeply concerned with acoustics; he believed that music was almost always performed in buildings too big for it. He once said, "One hears but does not vibrate." The scoring of the **Requiem**, a chorus of several hundred, a greatly enlarged orchestra including 8 bassoons and 12 horns reinforced at certain points by four brass choirs (ranging in size from 8 to 12 players), eight sets of timpani, four bass drums, and other percussion instruments—was an attempt to make the listener "vibrate," an attempt to produce in the chapel of the Invalides a body of sound proportionate to the scale of the building as well as to the character of a solemn national occasion.

The universal grandeur of this music is only partly related to the brass choirs and massed timpani and percussion. It is inherent in the overall style of the work: the long, arched melodies, the bleak sounding, mournful woodwinds, the classically ordered visions of cataclysm, and the quiet, small voice of humility. Berlioz's apocalyptic armory is used sparingly: the four brass choirs are used only three times—in the second part of the second movement and in the fourth and sixth. The effect of these grandiose moments is due to the contrast they make with the predominantly austere, harsh texture of the work. The composer carefully alternates big, dramatic movements with quiet, intimate ones. Each of the three movements which uses the brass groups is followed by a movement of a devotional character; and the dynamic level at the end of the dramatic movements is reduced so as to prepare for the withdrawn, contemplative music of the next. Berlioz uses small and particularly interesting instrumental ensembles in the third, eighth, and ninth movements and no instruments at all in the fifth.

Requiem and Kyrie (Introitus)

The long, sombre sweep of the opening phrases sets the character and scale of the work. Most of the material of this movement is derived from the ascending G Minor scale (with C-sharp). The prayer for perpetual light is repeated, as if without hope, though the sudden radiant chord of the dominant gives a glimpse of peace. "Kyrie eleison" begins softly and rises to a loud climax, after which the movement ends in a mood of bleak resignation.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion, Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet. Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison. 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. Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Dies irae (prosa)

The vision of Judgment Day begins as if far away; the opening theme and its contrapuntal associates evoke an atmosphere of distant disolution and ritual lamentation. Suddenly, a rushing chromatic passage for the strings wrenches the tonality a half-step higher. The opening music is resumed, slightly quicker, more urgent and march-like. Again the chromatic interruption sends the tonality reeling upward, this time a major third. The tenors add a new, agitated counterpoint: the terror is no longer distant, but here and now.

Dies irae, dies illa Solvet saeclum in favilla, Teste David cum Sibylla. Quantus tremor est futurus Quando judex est venturus Cuncta stricte discussurus 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.

There is a third chromatic interruption which serves to introduce a new tonality another half-step higher. Trumpets, trombones, and tubas blow mighty fanfares from the four corners of the earth. Over three- and four-part harmonies played by the timpani, the basses of the chorus sing "Tuba mirum." "Mors stupebit" brings an abrupt change: thin texture, quiet dynamics, and biting dissonances. The opening fanfares are repeated, but now on the dominant, as the basses sing "Liber scriptus." At "Judex ergo" the entire chorus enters, singing in canon. There is a sudden break in the dynamics and the chorus sings in an awed whisper the words "to answer to the Judge," with bleak, sinking tremolos in the violas and cellos.

Tuba mirum spargens sonum Per sepulcra regionum Coget omnes ante thronum. Mors stupebit et natura Cum resurget creatura Judicanti responsura. Liber scriptus proferetur In quo totum continetur, Unde mundus judicetur. Judex ergo cum sedebit Quidquid latet apparebit, Nil inultum remanebit. 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.

Rex tremendae

Like the previous two movements, the **Rex tremendae** contrasts the weakness and vulnerability of sinful man with the awful grandeur of God. Resounding chords alternating between the wind instruments and the chorus, soaring phrases confident of salvation, confused cries interrupted by quiet pleadings, an empty-sounding, cavernous perfect fifth at the vision of the black abyss create an atmosphere of struggling, blaspheming humanity.

Rex tremendae majestatis, Qui salvandos saivas gratis, Salva me, fons pietatis. Recordare, Jesu pie, Quod sum causa tuae viae, Ne me perdas illa die. Confutatis maledictis (Jesu) Flammis acribus addictis, Voca me. . . Et de produndo lacu. Libera me de ore leonis, Ne cadam in obscurum, Ne absorbeat me Tartarus. King of awful majesty. Who freely savest the redeemed, Save me, O fount of goodness. Remember, blessed Jesu, That I am the cause of Thy pilgrimage. Do not forsake me on that day. When the accursed have been confounded (Jesu) And given over to the bitter flames, Call me. . And from the bottomless pit. Deliver me from the lion's mouth. Lest I fall into darkness And the black abyss swallow me up.

Quarens me

The chorus, unaccompanied, sings a quiet and gently radiant prayer. It begins in three-voice imitation; the middle section is for six parts; the third section is varied repetition of the first.

Quaerens me sedisti lassus. Redemisti crucem passus, Rantus labor non sit cassus. Juste judex ultionis Donum fac remissionis Ante diem rationis. Ingemisco tanquam reus, Supplicanti parce, Deus. Preces meae non sunt dignae, Sed tu bonus fac benigne, Ne perenni cremer igne, Qui Mariam absolvisti Et latronem exaudisti. Mihi quoque spem dedisti. Inter oves locum praesta Et ab haedis me sequestra, Statuens in parte dextra.

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. Spare a suppliant, O God. My prayers are not worthy, But Thou in Thy merciful goodness grant That I burn not in everlasting fire. Thou who didst absolve Mary Magdalen And hearken to the thief. To me also hast given hope. Place me among Thy sheep And separate me from the goats. Setting me on Thy right hand.

Hostias

In this short, dramatic movement, the chorus' plea to God to grant its prayer on behalf of the commemorated dead is sung unaccompanied, interspersed with chords which span an immense distance, three flutes playing triads and eight trombones playing unison pedal tones. The chorus consists only of tenors and basses.

Hostias et preces tibi laudis offerimus. Suscipe pro animabus illis quarum hodie memoriam facimus. We offer unto Thee, this sacrifice of prayer and praise. Receive it for those souls whom today we commemorate.

Sanctus

In the **Sanctus**, Berlioz uses a solo voice for the first and only time in this work. The solo tenor's long phrases in a high tessitura, surrounded by four solo violins and violas divided into four parts, all answered by women's voices, evoke the angelic host. The effect of stillness is intensified by the long-held notes of the solo flute.

A smooth, sustained fugue on **Hosanna** follows, accompanied by strings. The return of the mysteriously radiant **Sanctus** is enhanced by the sound of the bass drum and three pairs of cymbals struck softly. The **Hosanna** is repeated, this time accompanied by full orchestra.

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Desus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Holy, holy, holy, God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

The Agnus Dei opens with a series of chords played softly by the wind instruments and immediately echoed, as if from beyond the grave, by the violas divided into four parts. This alternates with music derived from the opening of the Hostias with male voices being answered by flutes and trambones spread far apart. The second half of the opening movement is restated next to the same text, "Te decet hymnus" as at the beginning. To the text "quia plus es" there is a brief reminiscence of the concluding phrase of the **Rex tremendae**. In the coda, the choruses' "Amens" are punctuated by slowly-beating funeral drums and gigantic string arpeggios.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona ets requiem sempiternam. To decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem. Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet. Requiem aeternam dona defunctis, Domine, et lux perpetua lucceat eis, cum sanctis tuis in aeternam, Domine, quia pius es. Amen. Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them everlasting rest. 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 the dead eternal rest. O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them, with Thy saints for ever, Lord, because Thou art merciful. Amen.

Lacrymosa

The Lacrymosa suggests the whole human race driven, lamenting, toward the judgment. The long, winding theme in 9/8 meter is accompanied by a convulsive, syncopated rhythmic ostinato which gives a feeling of uncontrollable but inexorable motion. The theme is repeated twice, each time with fuller accompaniment. A second, lyric subject is accompanied by the main theme. After a brief, peaceful section on "Pie Jesu, dona eis requiem," the first part of the movement is recapitulated, but made more terrible by the addition of brass and timpani.

Lacrymosa dies illa Qua resurget ex favilla Judicandus homo reus. Pie Jesu. Domine Dona eis requiem aeternam. Mournful that day When from the dust shall rise Guilty man to be judged. Merciful Jesu, Lord Grant them eternal rest.

Offertorium

In the introspective **Offertorium** the chorus sings only three pitches—A, B-Flat, A—for the almost entire movement while the strings play fugal material. The repetitious, fragmentary, chant-like melody of the chorus suggests the unchanging prayer of the souls in Purgatory.

Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex gloria, libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu. Et signifer sanctus Michael repraesentat eas in lucem sanctam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini eius, Domine, Jesu Christe, Amen. Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit. And let St. Michael, Thy standard bearer, lead them into the holy light which once Thou didst promise to Abraham and his seed, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Quid sum miser

The tumult of the **Tuba mirum** ended in a hushed whisper which is continued in the piteous, fragmentary desolation of the **Quid sum miser**. The instrumental body is limited to English horns and bassoons answered by cellos and basses. Only the tenors of the chorus are used, until the final three bars, and Berlioz instructs them to sing "with humility and fear." This brief fragmentary movement suggests the stunned aftermath of the Last Judgment. Berlioz uses the modal theme and one of the contrapuntal associates from the **Dies irae**.

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus, Quem patronum rogaturus, Cum vix justus sit securus? Recordare, Jesu pie, Quod sum causa tuae viae, Ne me perdas illa die. Oro supplex et acclinis, Cor contritum quasi cinis, Gere curam mei finis. What then shall I say, wretch that I am, What advocate entreat to speak for me, When even the righteous may hardly be secure? Remember, blessed Jesu, That I am the cause of Thy pilgrimage, Do not forsake me on that day. I pray in supplication on my knees. My heart contrite as the dust, Take care of my end.

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Arnold Levy

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Patricia L'Heureux Linda Mack Deborah Metskas Rosalind Onvun Steven Rakow David Reece Julie Rickleff **David Saunders Gayle Sounders** Bruce Senesoc Marjorie Smith Michael Snyder Beth Stralow Rick Tomic Kathy Tribbey Peggy Trumble Donald Tussing Barbara Wakeman John Walters Sheila Webb

Carlyle Weber Christine Westphal Jim Yarbrough

Community/University Oratorio Choir Personnel

Anita Abel Mary Beth Accardi Kathleen Albert Brant Alexander Sarah Allan Linda Allison Carol Almen Svlvia Anderson Ruth Artman Kathi Ascher Janet Ashlev Roy Astensen Karen Austin Debra Bailey Debby Baker Susan Baumann Ruth Bear Amy Behrens Shannon Benton Mark Bertschi Linda Beskin Judith Besserer Robert Boggert Rick Bonnon Jane Bordero Jean Boward Debra Brent Mary Kay Brockman Amy Brubaker Connie Burch Ella Buth Colleen Cart William Colson Melanie Connor Mary Cralley Patricia Crozier Annette Cruikshank Greg Dant Daniel Daw Sharon Dean Diane DeSmet Tony Dillon Kimberley Dinham Cynthia Disco Robin Ann Doglio Rebecca Dukes Rhea Edge Jonette Eicken Roxanne Elliot Lois Emmerling Florence Ensminger Diane Evans Cindy Ferrell Angle Flore

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