

Libretto in English: Verdi's *Requiem*

I. Requiem and Kyrie

Chorus:

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord;
and may perpetual light shine upon them.
A hymn in Zion befits you, O God,
and a debt will be paid to you in
Jerusalem. Hear my prayer:
all earthly flesh will come to you.

Quartet and Chorus:

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

II. Sequence

Chorus:

The day of wrath, that day will
dissolve the world in ashes,
as David and the Sibyl prophesied.
How great will be the terror,
when the Judge comes
who will smash everything completely!
The trumpet, scattering a marvelous sound
through the tombs of every land,
will gather all before the throne.

Bass:

Death and Nature shall stand amazed,
when all Creation rises again to answer to the
Judge.

Mezzo-soprano and Chorus:

A written book will be brought forth,
which contains everything
for which the world will be judged.
Therefore when the Judge takes His seat,
whatever is hidden will
be revealed: nothing shall remain unavenged.
The day of wrath, that day will
dissolve the world in ashes,
as David and the Sibyl prophesied.

Soprano, Mezzo-soprano and Tenor:

What can a wretch like me say?
Whom shall I ask to intercede for me,
when even the just ones are unsafe?

Solo Quartet and Chorus:

King of dreadful majesty,
who freely saves the redeemed ones,

save me, O font of pity.

Soprano and Mezzo-soprano:

Recall, merciful Jesus,
that I was the reason for your journey:
do not destroy me on that day.
In seeking me, you sat down wearily;
enduring the Cross, you redeemed me:
do not let these pains to have been in vain.

Just Judge of punishment:

give me the gift of redemption
before the day of reckoning.

Tenor:

I groan as a guilty one,
and my face blushes with guilt;
spare the suppliant, O God.
You, who absolved Mary Magdalen,
and heard the prayer of the thief,
have given me hope, as well.
My prayers are not worthy,
but show mercy, O benevolent one,
lest I burn forever in fire.
Give me a place among the sheep,
and separate me from the goats,
placing me on your right hand.

Bass and Chorus:

When the damned are silenced,
and given to the fierce flames,
call me with the blessed ones.
I pray, suppliant and kneeling,
with a heart contrite as ashes:
take my ending into your care.

Chorus:

The day of wrath, that day will
dissolve the world in ashes,
as David and the Sibyl prophesied.

Solo Quartet and Chorus:

That day is one of weeping,
on which shall rise from the ashes
the guilty man, to be judged.
Therefore, spare this one, O God.
Merciful Lord Jesus: grant them peace.
Amen

III. Offertorio

Quartet:

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of Glory:

deliver the souls of all the faithful
dead from the pains of hell and from the
deep pit; deliver them from the mouth of the
lion; that hell may not swallow them, and
that they may not fall into darkness.
But may the holy standard-bearer Michael
show them the holy light;
which you once promised to Abraham and
his descendents.
We offer to you, O Lord,
sacrifices and prayers.
Receive them on behalf of those souls
whom we commemorate today.
Grant, O Lord, that they might pass from death
into that life which you once promised to
Abraham and his descendents.
Deliver the
souls of all the faithful dead from the
pains of hell;
Grant that they might pass from death into that
life.

IV. Sanctus

Double Chorus:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

V. Agnus Dei

Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, and Chorus:
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant them rest everlasting.

VI. Lux aeterna

Mezzo-soprano, Tenor and Bass:
Let eternal light shine upon them, O Lord,
with your saints forever; for you are merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may
perpetual light shine upon them with your
saints forever; for you are merciful.

VII. Libera me

Soprano and Chorus:
Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death
on that awful day, when the heavens and

the earth shall be moved: when you will
come to judge the world by fire.
I tremble, and I fear the judgment and the wrath
to come, when the heavens and the earth shall
be moved.
The day of wrath, that day of calamity and
misery; a great and bitter day, indeed.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.
Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death on that
awful day.
Deliver me, O Lord, when the heavens and
the earth shall be moved;
when you will come to judge the world by
fire.
Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death
on that awful day.
Deliver me.