

Greco - Roman Requiem

Historical Background*

In 1054 Pope Leo IX sent three legates to Constantinople to negotiate an alliance with Emperor Constantine IX Monomachus. Michael Cerularius, the Patriarch of Constantinople, obstructed Constantine's and Leo's efforts by refusing to meet with the legates. In the midst of these negotiations, however, Pope Leo died, and his chief legate Humbert of Silva Candida took advantage of the papal vacancy to retaliate against Cerularius.

On July 16, 1054, Humbert entered the church of Aghia Sophia and excommunicated Cerularius and his clergy. In response, Cerularius convened a Holy Synod and excommunicated all the papal legates. Emperor Constantine's efforts to effect reconciliation failed. There had been mutual excommunications before, but they had not resulted in permanent schisms. At the time there seemed possibilities of reconciliation, but the rift grew wider. In particular, the Greeks were bitterly antagonized by such events as the Latin capture of Constantinople in 1204. Western pleas for reunion (on Western terms), such as those at the Council of Lyon (1274) or the Council of Ferrara-Florence (1439), were rejected by the Byzantines. The schism has never been healed.

*Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

This composition represents an attempt to unite the Church symbolically through the medium of a solemn choral and orchestral statement, a Mass for the Dead, a Requiem integrating Greek and Latin elements. Its six sections consist of three standard Catholic Requiem Mass texts (Kyrie et Requiem, Dies Irae, Lacrymosa), two Orthodox Liturgy texts (Hosanna, The Lord's Prayer), and a setting of the poem *Lethe* by the Greek poet Lorentzos Mavilis (1860-1912). The rendition of the poem in English is by the composer.

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Orchestra

3 Flauti (3, Piccolo)	Timpani
2 Oboi	Gran Cassa
2 Corni Inglesi	Cinelli
3 Clarinetti in Bb	Tam Tam
4 Fagotti	
4 Corni in F	Violini I
3 Trombe in C	Violini II
3 Tromboni	Viole
2 Tube	Violoncelli
	Contrabassi

Coro

Soprani
Alti
Tenori I, Tenori II
Bassi I, Bassi II

Solisti

1 Soprano
1 Alto
1 Tenore
1 Basso

Greco – Roman Requiem Text

1. Kyrie et Requiem

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,
Et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.*

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
And may perpetual light shine on them.
Hear my prayer,
Unto thee shall all flesh come.
Thou, O God, art praised in Sion,
And unto Thee shall the vow
Be performed in Jerusalem.*

2. Dies Irae

*Dies irae, dies illa
Solvat saeculum in favilla,
Teste David cum Sibylla.
Mors stupebit et natura
Cum resurget creatura
Judicandi responsura.
Liber scriptus proferetur
In quo totum continetur,
Unde mundus judicetur.
Quantus tremor est futurus
Quando iudex est venturus
Cuncta stricte discussurus.*

*Day of wrath, that day
Will dissolve the earth in ashes
As David and the Sibyl bear witness.
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.
What dread there will be
When the judge shall come
To judge all things strictly.*

*Tuba mirum spargens sonum
Per sepulcra regionum
Coget omnes ante thronum.
Iudex 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.
When therefore the judge takes his seat
Whatever is hidden will reveal itself.
Nothing will remain unavenged.*

