

Verdi, *Messa da Requiem*

Chorus latin for Boston Choral Society

I. Requiem and Kyrie

Réquiem ætérnam dóna éis, Dómine;
et lux perpétua lúceat eis;
Te decet hýmnus, Déus, in Sión,
et tibi redétur vótum in Jerúsalem
Exáudi oratióinem méam:
ad te ómnis cáro véniet.

Rest eternal give them, (O) Lord;
and light perpetual shine (on) them.
You befits (a) hymn, (O) God, in Zion
and to-you will-be-paid (a) vow in Jerusalem.
Hear prayer (of) mine :
to you all flesh will-come .

Kýrie eléison.
Chríste eléison.
Kýrie eléison.

Lord, have-mercy.
Christ, have-mercy.
Lord, have-mercy.

II. Sequence

Díes íræ, díes ílla,
sólvet sáclum in favílla,
téste Dávid cum Sibýlla.

Day (of) wrath, day that
will-dissolve (the) world in ashes,
witness David and (the) Sibyl.

Quántus trémor est futúrus,
quándo júdex est ventúrus,
cúncta strícte discussúrus!

How-great trembling is going-to-be,
when (the) Judge is going-to-come
all-things strictly going-to-look-into!

Túba mírum spárgens sónum,
per sepúlcrá regiónum,
cóget ómnes ánte thrónum.

trumpet wondrous scattering (a) sound
through (the) tombs of-lands,
will-summon all before (the) throne.

...

Rex treméndæ majestátis,
qui salvándos sálvas grátis:
sálva me, fons pietátis.

King (of) dreadful majesty.
who (the) saved saves freely,
save me, Fount of-Pity.

...

Lacrimósa díes ílla,
qua resúrget ex favílla,
judicándus hómo réus.

Tearful day that,
on-which shall-rise from (the) ashes
to-be-judged (the) man (who is) guilty.

Húic érgo párce, Déus.
Píe Jésu Dómine:
dóna éis réquiem.
Ámen.

Him therefore spare, (O) God.
Merciful Jesus Lord :
grant (to) them rest.

...

IV. Sanctus

Sánctus, sánctus, sánctus, Dóminus Déus Sábaoth.
Pléni sunt cœli et terra glória túa.
Hosánna in excélsis!
Benedíctus qui vénit in nómini Dómini.
Hosánna in excélsis!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Full are heaven and earth of-glory thine.
Hosanna in highest!
Blessed (is he) who comes in (the) name of-Lord.
Hosanna in highest!

V. Agnus Dei

Ágnus Déi, qui tóllis peccáta múndi,
dóna éis réquiem.

Ágnus Déi, qui tóllis peccáta múndi,
dóna éis réquiem sempitérnam.

Lamb of-God, (you) who take-away (the) sins of-world,
grant them rest.

Lamb of-God, (you) who take-away (the) sins of-world,
grant them rest everlasting.

...

VII. Libera me

Líbera me, Dómine, de mórte æténa
in díe ílla treménda;
quándo cóeli movéndi sunt et térra:
dum véneris judicáre sáculum per ígnem.

Deliver me, (O) Lord, from death eternal
on day that of-terror,
when (the) heavens to-be-moved are and (the) earth :
when you-come to-judge (the) world by fire.

Trémens fáctus sum égo, et tímeo
dum discússio vénerit,
átque ventúra íra,

Trembling made am I, and I-fear
until (the) judgement comes
Also coming wrath.

Díes íræ, díes ílla,
calamitátis et misériæ,
díes mágna et amára válde.

Day (of) wrath, day that
of-calamity and misery;
day great and bitter indeed.

Réquiem æténam dóna éis, Dómine;
et lux perpétua líceat eis;

Rest eternal give them, (O) Lord;
and light perpetual shine (on) them.

Pronunciation Guide

This latin sounds like Italian

VOWELS

There are only five vowels: I–E–A–O–U, pronounced ee–eh–ah–aw–oo, as in “bee bet bar ball boon”. æ and œ are the same as E (eh)

When two vowels come together, each keeps its own sound, separate and distinct (díes, Sábaoth)

The only diphthongs is Eu - lengthen the first vowel and shorten the second (Exáudi)

U preceded by Q or GN is sung quickly (glide)
(Réquiem, Ágnus)

CONSONANTS

C before E or I is CH as in church (líceat, cóeli)

C before A, O and U is K (cáro)

CH is K (Chríste)

CU is KOO, not as in “Queue” (sáculum)

G before A, O and U is hard as in “god” (érgo)

G before E or I is soft as in “gem”, if before
E or I (cóget)

GN is like NY, (Ágnus) “Ahn-yoos”

H is silent as in “honest” (hýmnum, Hosánna)

J is Y (júdex, Jerúsalem)

S is SS (sánctus)

S between two vowels is softened, but is
still NOT Z (misériæ)

TH is hard (thrónum, Sábaoth)

TI + vowel is TSEE + vowel (oratiónum)

TU is pronounced TOO, not as in “tube” (perpétua)

X is KS (Rex, lux)

XC before E and I is KSH (excélsis)

Not found in this text, but useful anyway:

SC before E or I is SH

SCH is SK

XC before O, A and U is KSK

Au is another diphthong

Sometimes, I is spelt Y, but is still pronounced EE